

Survival Priorities

Seeking The Most Important First!

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So, how long have you gone without food?

- **Why?** By circumstance, chance, or decision?
 - Preparation or recovery from surgery?
 - Sickness?
 - Flood, tornado, hurricane, power outage, snow storm?
 - For prayer, discipline, to focus on the spiritual?
- **A day?**
 - All **Israel** fasted that day until evening (to God's support and to prepare for battle) — **Judges 20:26**
- **Three days**, night and day, without food or drink?
 - All the **Jews**, before Ester went to the king — **Ester 4:16**
- **Seven days?**
 - The **valiant men**, mourning Saul's death — **1 Samuel 31:13**
- **Forty days and forty nights?**
 - **Moses** did not eat or drink 40 days to receive the tablets (**Deut 9:9**) and again for the sin of the Jews (**Deut 9:18**)
 - **Jesus**, as part of his temptation, "he was hungry" — **Matthew 4:2**

Sometimes we act like **food** is our most important need!

- We sometimes exclaim...
 - “I’m sta-a-r-r-ving, what is for dinner?”
 - “I could eat a horse...!”
- Do you have more than one serving?
- Do you enjoy desert?
- Are you used to three meals a day?
- We can be short-sighted like Esau...
 - **Gen 25:29-34** Once when Jacob was cooking stew, Esau came in from the field, and he was exhausted. And Esau said to Jacob, “Let me eat some of that red stew, for I am exhausted!” (Therefore, his name was called Edom. [red]) Jacob said, “Sell me your birthright now.” Esau said, “**I am about to die**; of what use is a birthright to me?” Jacob said, “Swear to me now.” So he swore to him and sold his birthright to Jacob. Then Jacob gave Esau **bread and lentil stew**, and he ate and drank and rose and went his way. Thus Esau despised his birthright.

So why are we even discussing these topics?

- Is it good for your family to **be prepared** for natural disasters or other emergencies?
- Is it helpful to know something about **outdoor survival**, to be able to care for yourself and others?
- Is **fasting** a practice in both the old and new testaments?
- Is it a blessing to be able to not worry where your **next meal** is coming from?
- **Yes, but...**

The real “emergency” to be prepared for is: **death (or the Lord coming)**!

- A “bug-out bag” will not help you!
- Survival training will not mitigate the risk!
- A stockpile of food, water, and other supplies will be of no value judgement day!

- So, what priorities did Jesus teach?

Matthew 6:33

Seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.

What are “all these things”?

Matthew 6:25-26

- Survival

“Therefore I tell you, do not be anxious about your **life**,

- what you will **eat** or • **Food**
- what you will **drink**, • **Water**
- nor about your **body**, • **Injury/Health**
- what you will **put on**. • **Clothing, Shelter**

Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of the air: they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. **Are you not of more value than they?**

So how do we apply the lesson?

- **Matthew 4:4** But he answered, “It is written, “Man shall not live by **bread** alone, but by **every word** that comes from the mouth of God.””
[Deut 8:3]

The **Word** *before* **food!**

- **John 4:34** Jesus said to them, “My **food** is to **do** the will of him who sent me and to accomplish his **work**.”

- [In Jesus’ explanation of the parable of the soils]

- **Mark 4:20** But those that were sown on the **good soil** are the ones who **hear** the **word** and **accept** it and **bear fruit**, thirtyfold and sixtyfold and a hundredfold.”

The **Word** *before* this **world!**

- Vs.

- **Mark 4:18-19** And others are the ones sown among thorns. They are those who **hear** the **word**, **but** the **cares of the world** and the **deceitfulness of riches** and the **desires** for other things enter in and choke the word, and it proves unfruitful.

So, how long have you gone without spiritual food, prayer, or study?

- Less than a day (like eating)?
- A day (24 hours)?
- Three days (72 hours)?
- Seven days? A **week**?
- Or forty days and forty nights?
- **Longer?**
- **Acts 17:11** Now these Jews [in Berea] were more noble than those in Thessalonica; they received the word with all eagerness, examining the Scriptures **daily** to see if these things were so.

Where is the kingdom on your list of survival priorities?

- You only **die once** physically.
- But you **live for an eternity!**
- Do you **feed** on God's Word
... as regularly as you crave
physical **food?**
- Are you frequenting God's **all-you-can-eat buffet?**
- **Challenge:**
 - **Col 3:16-17** Let the word of Christ **dwell in you richly**, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.