

## Hangry: Putting Down Roots

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**Turn to Matthew 17 (Page 670)**

Several chapters before this

In Matthew 4

Jesus is driven out into the wilderness

Out into the desert

Where He faces hunger and thirst and longing

And He faces massive tempting by Satan

Three of those tests

Are listed for us

I assume there were many more

But three are listed

The first – Satan says

Why don't you get something to eat

You're God after all

I know you said you were gonna fast

But it's not that big a deal

Just turn this rock into bread

**Matthew 4:4 (MSG) - Jesus answered by quoting Deuteronomy: "It takes more than bread to stay alive. It takes a steady stream of words from God's mouth."**

My question: Is that true?

So, Amy & I did some traveling over Sabbatical

We went to Israel

But we also spent some time in New England

New England was a lot of fun

Not nearly as spiritual

But a lot of fun

And one of the biggest focuses of our time

Was food

Breakfast was usually provided at the hotel

But almost immediately

We'd be asking each other

What about lunch?

What about dinner?

What do the reviews say?

Are there fish tacos?

Because fish tacos on the coast

And fish tacos in Tennessee

Are not the same thing

Now, even though we had just eaten

Our hotel breakfast

We knew lunch was coming

We knew dinner would come

And we wanted something

Special

Unique

Tasty

So, we thought about it all the time

In Jesus' day

A day with no refrigerator

No electric range or gas oven

No insta anything or drive thru windows

Food was a major focus of every day

Satan was right

Jesus could snap His fingers

And have bread

But everyone else

Everyone else had to prep... and knead... and prove... and bake

I've been watching the baking shows

It took some time

And meat had to first be caught

Or plucked

It took some time

So, food was a major thought

Of every family

Every day

And yet Jesus said

“It takes more than bread to stay alive. It takes a steady stream of words from God’s mouth.”

What if we believed that

What if we said to ourselves

Not only what am I going to eat – physically – at lunch today

But what spiritual nourishment am I going to get at lunch

Because I can’t go all day without the Word of God

What if I asked myself, not just what my family is going to eat (physically) tonight

But what is my family gonna “eat” tonight (spiritually)

Because as a parent

It’s my responsibility to make sure they have both bits of food

My girls will tell you

That I don’t do this like I should

I'm wrong

Because Jesus appeared to feel angsty

If He didn't eat spiritually

In the same way that we get angsty

If we don't eat food

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Hang on to that

I had you turn to Matthew 17

*Read Matthew 17:1*

Matthew mentions this was six days later

Six days later than what?

It was six days after Peter made a confession of faith

In the very pagan city of Caesarea Philippi

And Jesus said on that rock

On the truth of what you said

I will build my church

And the gates of hell

Won't stand against it

Matthew, Mark, and Luke all refer to this

As a major event

So, Matthew is marking the time here

To show how big of a deal that was

*Read Matthew 17:1-3*

This is huge

Jesus takes Peter, James, and John

Off by themselves to a high mountain

Away from the crowds

Away from the villages

Away, even, from His other followers

And He transfigures

metemorphōthē (μετεμορφώθη)

Does that sound familiar?

metemorphōthē

Jesus – morphs

Into something else

He gives them a physical glimpse

Of His divinity

He's not just a man

Like Peter, James & John

He's also God

In the flesh

Notice the many miracles in this passage:

**He was transfigured**

Metamorphosis

Completely different

Showed His divinity

### **His face shone like the sun**

Many scholars think this was at night

Since the disciples were sleeping

And they didn't come down the mountain till the next day

So, His face shining

Would have been almost blinding

### **His clothes became white as light**

Again, nighttime makes this more significant

### **Moses & Elijah appeared with Him**

Moses representing the Law

Elijah representing the Prophets

And both of these guys had been dead

For hundreds of years

The symbolism is that Jesus is not only on par with Moses and Elijah

That would have been a big step for Peter, James, and John

But that Jesus is greater

Then both the Law & the prophets

He's God Himself

*Matthew 17:4*

I always read that like

It's good that the three of us

Can hang with the three of you

But JP Lange points out

Peter is probably saying something else

At the end of Matthew 16

After Peter makes that great confession

Jesus says He is going to Jerusalem

Where He'll suffer and die

And Peter corrects Him

You should never do that

And now

A few days later

Peter is saying

*You know, Jesus, it's good that we're here*

*Here*

Up on this mountain

Far from Jerusalem

Far from all that suffering stuff

Let me build us some cabanas

James and John can rustle us up some snacks

And we can just stay on this mountain

Forever



Isn't that the temptation

Work hard to get a life with no struggle

And then work hard to keep it

It's good that we're here

In this no-struggle place

Look at verse 5:

*Matthew 17:5 – While he was still speaking*

This is God's way of nicely telling Peter to hush

God is interrupting Peter

You misunderstand

Just stop it

*Matthew 17:5-8 (ADD "Bright Cloud" and "Voice" as read)*

Can you imagine how this

Changed Peter, James & John

Forever

I mean, really, stop and think about it

Can you imagine how it would change you?

*To see all these miracles!*

Peter writes about it:

**2 Peter 1:16-18 (NLT) - For we were not making up clever stories when we told you about the powerful coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. We saw His majestic splendor with our own eyes when He received honor and glory from God the Father. The voice from the majestic glory of God said to Him, "This is my dearly loved Son, who brings me great joy." We ourselves heard that voice from Heaven when we were with Him on the holy mountain.**

They literally heard the voice of God

And they were forever gripped by it

He continues

And as he continues

*He makes the case that this book*

Deserves a similar hearing

**2 Peter 1:19 (NLT) - Because of that experience, we have even greater confidence in the message proclaimed by the prophets. You must pay close attention to what they wrote, for their words are like a lamp shining in a dark place—until the Day dawns, and Christ the Morning Star shines in your hearts.**

Peter is saying

Because he audibly heard the voice of God

Because he saw Moses

And saw Elijah

And Jesus in His transfigured body

He has "even greater confidence"

*In this book*

**2 Peter 1:20-21 (NLT) - Above all, you must realize that no prophecy in Scripture ever came from the prophet's own understanding, or from human initiative. No, those prophets were moved by the Holy Spirit, and they spoke from God.**

The NIV translation says

“(They) spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.”

Peter's like, you may not realize it

Because you've not seen

What I've seen

You've not experienced

What I've experienced

But my trust

*In these words*

Went up

As I came down that mountain

I think it's interesting

What God didn't say

**“This is my Son, whom I love; with Him I am well pleased. \_\_\_\_\_”**

He is the Messiah

Repeat – He's going to die for your sins

Repeat – Don't be afraid when the Romans arrest Him

He doesn't say any of that

God doesn't say any of that

"This is my Son, whom I love; with Him I am well pleased. Listen to Him."

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Peter says

I have greater trust in these words

Because of what happened on that mountain

And God says

Having seen the deified Christ

You should walk away (Peter, James, and John)

Listening *even more carefully* to everything He says

There is a connection

All the way thru the Bible

When people encounter God

They cling ever tighter to His Word

**Psalm 33:6-9 (NIV) - By the word of the Lord the heavens were made, their starry host by the breath of His mouth. He gathers the waters of the sea into jars; He puts the deep into storehouses. Let all the earth fear the Lord; let all the people of the world revere Him. For He spoke, and it came to be; He commanded, and it stood firm.**

The Psalmist is looking at the stars and sea

And it leads to reverent fear

And it leads to respect for His Word

**Hebrews 4:12-13 (MSG) - God means what He says. What He says goes. His powerful Word is sharp as a surgeon's scalpel, cutting through everything, whether doubt or defense, laying us open to listen and obey. Nothing and no one can resist God's Word. We can't get away from it—no matter what.**

As respect for God goes up

Let me say that a different way

As we understand God more accurately

Because if you understand Him

You'll respect Him

As we understand God more accurately

We revere His Word

And obey It

Not only does respect for God

And reverence for His Word

Go up together

But reverence for His Word

And a rewarding life

Go up together

**Psalms 1:1-3 - Blessed is the one... whose delight is in the Law of the Lord, and who meditates on His Law day and night. That person is like a tree planted by**

**streams of water, which yields its fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither—whatever they do prospers.**

Notice the real subtle

Play on words here

A tree doesn't drink water

Like we do

Just pouring it into

A hole in the trunk or something

A tree just puts down roots

Into damp ground

*And it soaks it up*

*And soaks it up*

*And soaks it up*

And David says

The one who meditates on the Words of God

Not just reads the Words of God

But meditates on them

*And soaks them up*

*And soaks them up*

*And soaks them up*

That person will be blessed

The title of today's message

Is a familiar one

To those who have

Been at WellSpring a while

“Putting Down Roots”

Last week

I said there were many of us

Who are spiritually fasting

Accidentally

Today

I would suggest that there are many of us

Whose roots are dry

Whose leaves are withered

Whose limbs are barren

*Flip this around a second*

It says those who meditate regularly

Day & night

Have fruit in season

Unwithered leaves

A life that's prospering

Isn't it safe to assume then

That if I'm not soaking up the Word of God

Regularly

I'm not going to have fruit in season

I'm not going to have bright, green leaves

I'm not going to prosper

I'm going to be hangry

Spiritually

**Isaiah 55:10 (NLT) – “The rain and snow come down from the heavens and stay on the ground to water the earth. They cause the grain to grow, producing seed for the farmer and bread for the hungry.”**

This system

Precipitation

This system is the lynch pin

For the whole ecosystem

So, God is not talking about a minor issue

He's making an analogy

We'll see that in a second

A comparison

If the whole earth

Went without precipitation



For a couple of weeks

Would anyone survive?

Probably

What if the whole earth

Went without precipitation

For a whole year

Would anyone survive?

Maybe

What about 5 years

No shot

I just want to be sure that you see that

As we complete God's analogy

This is not a trivial matter

This is existential

Without this

Life ceases

*"The rain and snow come down from the heavens and stay on the ground to water the earth. They cause the grain to grow, producing seed for the farmer and bread for the hungry.*

**Isaiah 55:11 (NLT) – It is the same with My Word. I send it out, and it always produces fruit. It will accomplish all I want it to, and it will prosper everywhere I send it.**

Spiritually speaking

    This is existential

Without this

    Life ceases... spiritually

People can go on living physically

    Without the words of God

But you'll never mistake the difference

    Life... ceases

Leaves... wither

    Roots... dry & cracked

    Limbs... barren

Physically living

    But spiritually dead

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Sometimes I just wish that God would

    Show up

As God

    And give me directions

Do you ever feel that way?

Like He could show up in Times Square

    Reveal Himself as God to the world

Life would be so much clearer

So much simpler

Not easier

But simpler

*I want you to think about Peter for a minute...*