

## SERIES : 5 Star CHURCH

### Message 2 : NO BREAD in BETHLEHEM

**SCRIPTURE:: Ruth 1:1-7**

**Rth 1:1** IN THE days when the judges ruled, there was a **famine in the land**. And a certain man of Bethlehem of Judah went to sojourn in the country of Moab, he, his wife, and his two sons.

**Rth 1:2** The man's name was Elimelech and his wife's name was Naomi and his two sons were named Mahlon [*invalid*] and Chilion [*pining*]; they were Ephrathites from **Bethlehem of Judah**. They went to the country of Moab and continued there.

**Rth 1:3** But Elimelech, who Naomi's husband, died, and she was left with her two sons.

**Rth 1:4** And they took wives of the women of Moab; the name of the one was Orpah and the name of the other Ruth. They dwelt there about ten years;

**Rth 1:5** And Mahlon and Chilion died also, both of them, so the woman was bereft of her two sons and her husband.

**Rth 1:6** Then she arose with her daughters-in-law to return from the country of Moab, for she had heard in Moab how the Lord had visited His people in giving them food.

**Rth 1:7** So she left the place where she was, her two daughters-in-law with her, and they started on the way back to Judah.

#### INTRODUCTION

God made us with a will to survive; - We Will seek food wherever we can find it; IF I DO NOT FIND IT HERE ; I will seek somewhere else – Like ELIMELECH had to move to MOAB because their was FAMINE in Bethlehem Judah

WHAT IS So DIFFERENT and FUNNY about the scripture that we read:

The PARADOX is WHERE DO THEY FIND THEMSELVES namely in

BETHLEHEM —in HEBREW is “bêyth lechem” - **house of bread**;

THEY FIND THEMSELVES in THE HOUSE OF BREAD( INSIDE THE BAKERY) ...

BUT THERE IS **NO BREAD IN THE BAKERY** ....

REGION = JUDA –which in Hebrew = “PRAISE ” – derived from “yâdâh” = to revere or worship (with extended hands); to praise ; to (give) thank

WE ARE SUPPOSED TO BE “PEOPLE OF PRAISE” – BUT THERE IS NO REASON TO PRAISE GOD – BECAUSE THERE IS NO BREAD IN THE BAKERY.

#### 1. CHURCH MUST BE A PLACE OF BREAD

We read in **Mat 12:3-4** He said to them, Have you not even read what David did when he was hungry, and those who accompanied him--[*Lev. 24:9; I Sam. 21:1-6.*] How he **went into the house of God and ate the loaves of the showbread--** which was not lawful for him to eat, nor for the men who accompanied him, but for the priests only?

DAVID KNEW WHERE TO FIND BREAD....IN THE HOUSE OF GOD

**Jesus himself says in John 6:48** *I am the Bread of Life [that gives life--the Living Bread].*

**and further in John 6:51** *I [Myself] am this Living Bread that came down from heaven. **If anyone eats of this Bread, he will live forever**; and also the Bread that I shall give for the life of the world is My flesh (body).*

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BREAD = Represented by JESUS'S LIFE: JESUS GAVE IT- SO THAT THE WORLD MAY LIVE

**1Co 10:16** .... The **bread which we break**, does it not mean [*that in eating it*] we participate in and share a fellowship (a communion) in the body of Christ?

**1Co 10:17** For we [*no matter how*] numerous we are, **are one body, because we all partake of the one Bread** [*the One Whom the communion bread represents*].

### 1.1 BREAD FOR MY BROTHER

WE AS THE CHURCH MUST BE THE SUPPLIERS OF BREAD - IF YOUR BROTHER or SISTER is SEEKING BREAD – JESUS GAVE US “HIS BODY” – THE CONGREGATION to “FEED” THEM –

Read **Mar 6:35-42** ....PEOPLE BECAME HUNGRY ; JESUS's WORDS TO HIS DISCIPLES: **Mar 6:38** And He said to them, **How many loaves do you have? Go and see.** And when they [*had looked and*] knew, they said, Five [*loaves*] and two fish.

...IF MY BROTHER and SISTER are in NEED OF BREAD ....THE QUESTION IS .... –HOW MUCH BREAD DO YOU HAVE ???.....

ON ANOTHER OCCATION JESUS SPOKE TO HIS DISCIPLES - **Mar 8:15-16** And Jesus [*repeatedly and expressly*] charged and admonished them, saying, **Look out; keep on your guard and beware of the leaven** of the Pharisees and the leaven of Herod and the Herodians. .... And they discussed it and reasoned with one another, **It is because we have no bread.**

JESUS COULD HAVE SAID “ YOU SHOULD BE ASHAMED OF YOURSELF ; YOU SHOULD NOT BE WITHOUT BREAD”.... BUT THAT IS NOT WHAT I AM TALKING ABOUT ....be aware of the INFLUENCE, HYPOCRACY, RELIGION, PRIDE etc,

PEOPLE WHO FIND THEMSELVES IN THE WILDERNESS or DESERT = IS HUNGRY AND THIRSTY

**2Sa 17:27** When David came to Mahanaim, **Shobi** son of Nahash of Rabbah of the Ammonites, and **Machir** son of Ammiel of Lo-debar, and Barzillai the Gileadite of Rogelim

**2Sa 17:28** Brought beds, basins, earthen vessels, wheat, barley, meal, parched grain, beans, lentils, parched [*pulse--seeds of peas and beans*], AND Honey, curds, sheep, and cheese of cows for **David and the people with him to eat; for they said, The people are hungry, weary, and thirsty in the wilderness.**

GOD USES DIFFERENT SOURCES even THE UNSAVED to CARE FOR HIS CHILDREN ; BUT SHOULDN'T HAVE TO IF WE AS HIS CHURCH is “FULL OF BREAD” SO GOD CAN USE US to CARE FOR OUR BROTHERS and SISTERS:

1. **Physically**
2. **Emotionally and**
3. **Spiritually**

WE ALL LAND UP IN THE DESERT or WILDERNESS = 2 REASONS FOR US TO BE THERE ;

1. OWN CHOICES - My bad choices = My fault
2. CIRCUMSTANCES - Not My fault ; it can EITHER be an ATTACK fro the Devil OR A TEST allowed by God.  
YOUR SINS = will put you 40 YEARS in the WILDERNESS ; GOD'S TEST– will put you there for ONLY 40 DAYS

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**Deu 8:2** And you shall [*earnestly*] remember all the way which the Lord your God led you these forty years in the wilderness, to humble you and to prove you, **to know what was in your [*mind and*] heart**, whether you would keep His commandments or not.

**DAVID PRAYS IN Psa 26:2** Examine me, O Lord, and prove me; **test my heart and my mind.**

**Isa 30:20-23** Just as the Master kept you alive during the hard times, he'll keep your teacher alive and present among you. Your teacher will be right there, local and on the job, ... urging you on whenever you wander left or right: "This is the right road. Walk down this road." .... You'll scrap your expensive and fashionable god-images. You'll throw them in the trash as so much garbage, saying, "Good riddance!" .. **God will provide rain for the seeds you sow. The grain that grows will be abundant. Your cattle will range far and wide.**

### **1.2 BREAD FOR YOUR ENEMIES**

**Pro 25:21** If your enemy is hungry, give him bread to eat; and if he is thirsty, give him water to drink; [*Matt. 5:44; Rom. 12:20.*]

**Rom 12:20** But if your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him drink; for by so doing you will heap burning coals upon his head. [*Prov. 25:21, 22.*]

## **2. THE CHURCH –A PLACE OF PRAISE AND WORSHIP**

**Just like BETHLEHEM was in JUDA so we will find the BREAD being SUPPLIED during PRAISE and WORSHIP**

**PRAISE and WORSHIP = The WOMB OF THE PROPHETIC ;**

WHEN WE -PRAISE = We SING ABOUT HIM – WHAT HE HAS DONE

WORSHIP – We SING TO HIM – WHO HE IS

REASON WHY I HAVE NO BREAD IN THE BAKERY – I DO NOT PRAISE HIM ENOUGH

**CHORUS:** I WILL GIVE YOU ALL MY WORSHIP; I WILL GIVE YOU ALL MY PRAISE

## **3. TIME FOR PEOPLE TO RETURN TO “BETH-LEHEM”**

**Rth 1:5** And Mahlon and Chilion died also, both of them, so the woman was bereft of her two sons and her husband.

**Rth 1:6** Then she arose with her daughters-in-law to return from the country of Moab, for she **had heard in Moab how the Lord had visited His people in giving them food.**

SHE HEARD A RUMOUR – OR A RHEMA WORD

Rom 10:17 – FAITH COMES BY HEARING ; HEARING BY THE WORD -

**GOD’S PROMISE IN Amo 8:11** Behold, the days are coming, says the Lord God, when I will send a famine in the land, not a famine of bread, nor a thirst for water, but [*a famine*] **for hearing the words of the Lord.**

THEY MUST HEAR A SOUND .... OF GOD’S PROVISION

..OF GOD’S BLESSING

...OF PRAISE AND WORSHIP

YOUR TESTIMONY – MAKES PEOPLE RETURN.

**Mat 25:34** Then the King will say to those at His right hand, Come, you blessed of My

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Father [*you favored of God and appointed to eternal salvation*], inherit (receive as your own) the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world.

**Mat 25:35** For I was hungry and you gave Me food, I was thirsty and you gave Me something to drink, I was a stranger and you brought Me together with yourselves and welcomed and entertained and lodged Me,

**Mat 25:36** I was naked and you clothed Me, I was sick and you visited Me with help and ministering care, I was in prison and you came to see Me. [*Isa. 58:7.*]

**Mat 25:37** Then the just and upright will answer Him, Lord, when did we see You hungry and gave You food, or thirsty and gave You something to drink?

**Mat 25:38** And when did we see You a stranger and welcomed and entertained You, or naked and clothed You?

**Mat 25:39** And when did we see You sick or in prison and came to visit You?

**Mat 25:40** And the King will reply to them, Truly I tell you, in so far as you did it for one of the least [*in the estimation of men*] of these My brethren, you did it for Me. [*Prov. 19:17.*]

**Mat 25:45** And He will reply to them, Solemnly I declare to you, in so far as you failed to do it for the least [*in the estimation of men*] of these, you failed to do it for Me. [*Prov. 14:31; 17:5.*]

**Mat 25:46** Then they will go away into eternal punishment, but those who are just and upright and in right standing with God into eternal life. [*Dan. 12:2.*]

### **EPILOGUE:'**

**ARE YOU HUNGRY ?**

**Deu 8:3** And He humbled you and allowed you to hunger and fed you with manna, which you did not know nor did your fathers know, that He might make you recognize and personally know that man does not live by bread only, but man lives by every word that proceeds out of the mouth of the Lord.

**DO YOU NEED A REASON TO PRAISE HIM ?**

**HOW MUCH MORE THE PEOPLE OUT THERE?**