

Give us this day our daily bread

On screen: 'Congregation Prayer Training Academy'

P1 (wearing L sign)

P2: (Carrying a clipboard – looking officious) Ok, Stephen today I want you to have a go at praying the Lord's Prayer.

P1: Ok, here we go. "Our Father in heaven ... (etc). then: "Give me this day the bread I need for the rest of my life."

P2: Hang on. That's not how the prayer goes. What you pray is: 'Give us today our bread for today'.

P1: But that's not very efficient.

What? Not efficient?

Well, just think about it. If we pray only for our bread for today, we will have to repeat that prayer day after day after day. That's doesn't sound very efficient. I don't want to have to keep repeating that prayer every day, and I'm sure God doesn't want to be bothered by me every day praying for my daily bread.

Have you forgotten who gave us the Lord's Prayer?

No, I haven't forgotten.... Who?

Our Lord Jesus Christ gave us the Lord's Prayer. It is our Lord who invites us to pray daily. God loves to hear from us daily.

Oh! ... I still think it's inefficient.

Are you sure this is just about you not wanting to bother God?

Yeah. Of course.

So this is not about you trying to find security in money and possessions is it? This is not about you wanting to avoid having to daily rely on God is it?

Well Ok, maybe that's true as well. But y'know my savings are decreasing every day. Pretty soon I won't have money to live on.

Did God give you the bread you needed for last Thursday?

I suppose.

What about yesterday?

Yeah.

And have you got your daily bread for today?

Yes.

Has God ever not given you your daily bread?

No. But y'know the world's economy is not in a good way. The population of the world continues to go up and up, and people do go hungry, even die in famines. That's even happening in the world today.

Even with our world the way it is, we are still to trust that God will provide what we need each day. If we do have to go through a time of hunger, God will give us strength to get through this. It is for us to keep trusting him day by day. He will never let us down.

Ok. I hear you. I'll re do my prayer. 'Jesus, I would like to recall my last prayer. Instead of that prayer I want to ask you: 'Would you just give me today my bread for the next 4 years.'

Hang on. What?

Look, I don't have much super, but in 4 years time I'll be able to get the aged pension. So I should be right then.

Perhaps you would prefer to pray to the government?

What, don't be silly!

Lord, have mercy!

Oh, alright. Let me pray again! 'Lord Jesus, give me this day my bread for today.' Satisfied?

More to the point ... are you satisfied?

.... Y'know what, I am satisfied. I've been a fool. God will daily provide for me. I do trust him. He provides for me today. He will provide for me tomorrow.

Edgar, I do hope all the students in our prayer school are not as tough as this one.