

BFF424 By Everything that Comes from the Mouth of God

Scott Moore: Welcome to the "Building Faith Families" podcast with Steve Demme. I'm your host, Scott Moore. Thanks for joining us today. Good morning, Steve. How are you today?

Steve: I am up and at 'em. How about you?

Scott: About the same.

Steve: I'm on a new exercise regime. My mind is finally focused, and I'm not traveling anywhere so I am trying to get into a whole rhythm. This month, I've got all my classes mapped out at Orangetheory Fitness. Have you ever heard of that?

Scott: No.

Steve: I don't know how to describe it. It's not a CrossFit, but it's similar in that every class is different. It's a one-hour class, and we have a coach, and we move between rowing machines and treadmills and stations.

Anyway, it keeps my mind occupied. Just put it that way. I get a workout there that I would never get by myself at Planet Fitness or in my basement.

Scott: Good for you.

Steve: Yeah. I like the social aspect. Whenever I go to class, nobody leaves the class unless they give me a high five or a fist bump. People enjoy it. I like to see their faces light up.

Scott: Awesome.

Steve: This year I'm adding stretching. There's a stretching company that just moved two doors down from Orangetheory Fitness and they stretch you. Do you stretch?

Scott: Not formally, but I have developed my own stretching routines that I'll do.

Steve: Good.

Scott: Most of it is like home attempts at doing my own chiropractic treatments.

Steve: There you go.

Scott: It's very helpful.

Steve: Let's pray and then we'll jump in.

Father, thank You for Your word and Your movings and Your aliveness in our generation. Thank You that You are the divine networker, and You've been pulling people in and out and all the way. You've been leading us since the beginning. I pray that You'll lead us again this morning as we contemplate Your word. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Scott: Amen.

Steve: I'm going to read two long passages. The first one is found in Matthew 4. Jesus was led up by the spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. This was right after His baptism.

"After fasting 40 days and 40 nights, He was hungry. Hold that thought. The tempter came to Him and said, 'If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread.' He answered, 'It is written -- Man shall not live by bread alone, but by everything or every word that comes from the Mouth of God.'

We've talked about this before, and I have made the case that, in some ways, the tempter was attacking His identity, "If You are the Son of God," since God had just told Him at His baptism, "You are My beloved Son." The devil, in true form, true character, was tempting Jesus to doubt the very things that God had just told Him. I want to look at it a little differently now and notice that He was hungry and there was bread involved, and the Word of God was involved. When He says, "It is written," He is quoting from Deuteronomy 8, the first three verses. Now, generally, I have just jumped to the third verse, which says, he humbled you and let you hunger and fed you with manna, etc., because that's like a direct quote on Matthew 4:4.

I felt led this morning to look at the beginning of that particular chapter, which was fascinating what I saw. Deuteronomy 8:1-3. "The whole commandment that I command you today, you shall be careful to do, that you may live and multiply and go in and possess the land that Jehovah swore to give to your fathers."

"You shall remember the whole way that Jehovah your God has led you these 40 years in the wilderness, that He might humble you, testing you to know what was in your heart, whether you would keep His commandments or not."

"And He humbled you and let you hunger and fed you with manna, which you did not know nor did your fathers know, that He might make you know that man does not live by bread alone, but man lives by every word that comes from the Mouth of Jehovah." Fascinating.

The parallels between not just the fourth verse and the third verse, but those first four and the first three in Deuteronomy, they're about the same length. Just more verses. As I was looking through this, I went through the first four in the Greek, then I went through the next three in the Hebrew.

I noticed a couple things. The first one is, in Deuteronomy 8:1, it says, the whole commandment that I command you today. It means everything. The word means the whole package, everything that I've said. You could translate it the "whole". You could translate it "all". You could translate it "everything". It's the whole package.

The same thing appears in the second verse, "You shall remember the whole way that Jehovah your God has led you these 40 years." As I read those words, my mind went to people like Nehemiah. Nehemiah has some deep long prayers, where he's praying for their nation. Nehemiah, the Levites, Ezra, and the book named after him, they know the whole way that God led them those 40 years.

They have not forgotten their history. They remember the whole commandment that was commanded to them that they would be careful to do, so that they could go in and possess the land.

God says, I am going to give you this land, but then He tells these Israelites, your side of it, your responsibility, is you have to be careful to do the whole commandment that I am commanding you today so you can live and multiply, and you shall remember the whole way that God has led you these 40 years in the wilderness.

I don't want to overemphasize it to the point of desensitizing ourselves to it. This is our responsibility. God says, I'll give you the land, and then He says, but you have to do the whole commandment and remember the whole way that I led you.

Now, we're going back down to the third verse. He humbled you and let you hunger and fed you with manna. That's part of their history. That He might make you know that man does not live by bread alone, but man lives by – and this Word here in Hebrew is the exact same word that's used in the two previous verses.

We translate it in English "by every word" but it really means that man lives by everything, the whole package, all that comes from the Mouth of Jehovah. It's not just every word. It's everything.

I was fascinated by that, because three times that Hebrew word is used in each of these verses, and it doesn't say word. We supply the word – "word". We, the English translators, have added that. It should read, Man lives by the whole commandment, the whole way that God has led us.

Think what else came from the Mouth of Jehovah. I'm going to back up just a little bit. Genesis 1:3, God said, "Let there be light." God spoke. This is something that came from the Mouth of God. This is part of the whole package that came from the Mouth of God. God spoke the creation into being.

Before, probably, you hit the record button, you and I were talking about your son at college, and he just listened to Ken Ham do a creation seminar at his college.

Probably the biggest thing that I got in my years of listening to Ken Ham is he's not really all about creation. He's about believing that God's Word is inspired from the very first verse, which is why it's called Answers in Genesis.

Whole chunks of Christians would like to believe parts of the Old Testament, but they don't want to believe everything that comes from the Mouth of Jehovah. Every thought, every word,..the whole package. Is this making sense?

Scott: Yeah.

Steve: I think we restrict ourselves when we just say the word. It's everything which comes from God's mouth. Because God is God. He doesn't use words lightly.

Scott: Well, somewhere in there, he breathed into Him as well.

Steve: Yes. That also came from the Mouth of God. The breath of life came from the Mouth of God. There it is Genesis 2:7. "Then the Lord God formed the man of dust from the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living creature." There you go. Good point.

God breathed, and life came. This is really good. Now let's go back and read Matthew 4. Jesus was led by the spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. After fasting 40 days and 40 nights, He was hungry. The tempter came and said to Him, "If You are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread."

You might say, it's almost legitimate because the devil knows the bible, but he's going to twist it a little bit to make it be deceptive. He's basically saying, "Hey, You're hungry. You need bread?" "Turn these stones into bread."

Jesus knew what was really happening, and He said, "Look. Man shall not live by bread alone, but by..." Here's where we have to instead of saying every word, say everything, the whole package, every piece, all, every that comes from the Mouth of God.

The word word in Greek there is not logos. It's rhema. Rhematos, which is more of a spoken utterance than it is the logos. In the beginning was the logos. That's John 1. That's a little different. It's more of an idea, a statement, a speech, but rhematos is the living word. It's the spoken utterance. And man shall not live by bread alone, but by everything, the whole package that comes from the Mouth of God.

I was talking to a friend about this the other day, and we thought...Remember when Jesus spit and used it to heal? Remember that?

Scott: Yes.

Steve: That also came from the Mouth of God. It's more than just printing. That's what I'm trying to say. It's breath of life. It's the creation. He wants us to know all of it, which you and I are big advocates of.

We're talking to each other. We're talking to the choir because He doesn't want us to just live by our favorite verses, but the whole thing, everything that proceeds from the Mouth of the Father. I was inspired to look at 2 Timothy 3:16, which most of us have memorized at some point in our Christian life. Did you ever memorize 2 Timothy 3:16?

Scott: Yeah. It's in there somewhere. My brain's trying to figure out which verse it is.

Steve: OK. Well, let me start. I'm going to start with the 14th verse, and then we'll read through this whole passage.

Scott: All scripture is God-breathed and useful. Yeah. Go ahead.

Steve: Yeah. OK. But the 14th, you know, oftentimes, we pick verses out.

Scott: Yeah. The context is helpful.

Steve: The context is helpful. Paul is talking to Timothy. He says, "As for you, continue in what you have learned and have firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it and how from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus." All Scripture, the whole package, is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work. The word I translated as breathed out by God is theopneustos. Theo from theos is God, and pneo is breathed out. Other translations say inspired by God. King James says is given by inspiration of God.

It's breathed out by God. It's part of everything that proceeds from the Mouth of the Father. Faith in Romans 10:17 comes from hearing and hearing through the rhematos, not the logos, but the rhematos, the spoken word, the whole package, everything that comes from the Mouth of Christ. That's where faith comes from.

I've been inspired by this. I've been inspired to not just look at every, jot and tittle and everything that's printed on paper, but to not only read the whole commandment and remember the whole commandment, but to also listen for the living word, the rhematos, that which is spoken, that which comes from the Mouth of Jehovah.

Everything that comes from the Mouth of Jehovah brings life, whether it's spittle that helps a man be healed or whether it's the breath of life that God spoke into Adam and made him alive or whether it's the faith that comes when He speaks to us. All right, brother. What do you think of that?

Scott: Well, the applications are endless. My wife and I were talking last night after we talked to our son, and it spurred a conversation about...All this stuff because it's a long road. I got to this point, and I don't have time to talk about all of it.

Basically, it's so critical to have all of the Word of God informing your thoughts, your hopes, your dreams, everything. We see so many people that seem to be just falling away. Over the years it's happened where you think you're going along on the same path with friends that you knew in high school or whatever and you were all gung ho for the gospel.

Then gradually, you hear about folks who just drifted away or rebelled or just gave the whole thing up. It keeps happening, and you just got to keep going and keep going.

When you're hit with the hard stuff, when you're tempted, when Satan attacks you, when life just hits you like a Mack truck, if you don't have a solid theology, if you don't have the word deep in your heart -- and not just one verse, but lots of it -- your hope gets ripped away.

It's not quite the anchor that the soul needs. When your hope gets knocked, if you don't have the foundation of the word underneath it, you just drift away. Does that make sense?

Steve: Sure.

Scott: When your hope is dwindling or just shattered, if you've got the word there and you can hold on to it and grasp, like, even Jesus was put through this. Even things like the birth of Christ, when He was born, the Father had to come to Joseph and say -- or the spirit, whichever one of them was -- had to come to Joseph and say, get up in the middle of the night and take your family out to another country to escape.

The birth of the Son of God involved fleeing from infanticide. If nothing else, that ought to make us go, "Mm-hmm, there's a lot more going on in this life than we're normally attuned to." Maybe I shouldn't expect everything to be a cruise ship. Maybe I shouldn't expect it all to be comfortable and easy.

When you're in the midst of chaos and trauma and whatever, "Oh, yeah. Jesus went through horrible stuff too." There still is the hope that it is all going to work for the good of those who believe in Him. Even Paul wrote that they despaired of their very lives at one point.

Steve: Yes.

Scott: This happened. It's going to happen. You're going to hit despair at some point. If there's no solid rock underneath that, you're just going to drift away.

Steve: You said it. We have to know the word so we're not deceived. We have to know all the word because the devil was quoting scripture too.

Steve: I think we need to also learn to hear God, not just what He has written. That's the foundation, but we need to hear perhaps a voice in the night saying you need to get up and move to Egypt. Amen.

Well, I like the fact that it's all scripture. I have to confess that I've been doing more studies this last year, and I've been struggling to keep up with my daily Bible reading. I'm only like a day or two behind, but I'll try to catch up today.

It's still amazing to me how much I learned when I read all His commands and remember all the way that He led His people.

Father, thank You for Your words that You have given us, but thank You for everything that proceeds from Your mouth. Thank You that everything that proceeds from the Lord of life is life and is living and is profitable. And so quicken us today. I pray. There's going to be a time where we're going to get worn out. It talks about that.

I pray that You will quicken us by your Spirit, quicken us by Your Word, and let all Your commands, everything that proceeds from Your mouth, encourage us. Give us an appetite for everything that comes from Your mouth. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Scott: Amen. That's our show for this week, folks. Thanks for joining us for the Building Faith Families podcast with Steve Demme. If you have a question for the show, email Steve at spdemme@gmail.com. If you have a question for me, you can reach me at scott@unsocializedmedia.com. Thanks for joining us. Have a great week.