

Summary of the sermon – Novembre 10, 2013, 9h30

**Reading of the Holy Scriptures: Proverbs, chapter 30
Heidelberg Catechism – Lord's Day 50**

125. Q. What is the fourth petition?

A. *Give us today our daily bread.*

That is:

Provide us with all our bodily needs so that we may acknowledge that You are the only fountain of all good, and that our care and labour, and also Your gifts, cannot do us any good without Your blessing.

Grant, therefore, that we may withdraw our trust from all creatures and place it only in You.

Theme of the sermon:

Daily bread only agrees with you through God's blessing.

1. Much good may it do you!

We say that after dinner. But what does it mean? You wish that your dinner guests enjoyed the meal. To God's children it's joined with the blessing of the Lord. Common things like food and drink and daily work have always to do with God, our Father.

Look at Paul's words in 1 Timothy 4,4 and 5.

Praying for our daily bread isn't strange for the disciples of Jesus Christ. Our Lord himself gives us that lesson.

2. A look in the kitchen

We take a little look in the kitchen of the interpreters of the Bible. We see two difficulties: a.

What means 'our *daily* bread'? b. Who is '*Agur son of Jakeh from Massa*'? (Proverbs 30,1)

We don't know who he was. Well that he was a God-fearing and wise man. He trusted in God and His Word.

See Proverbs 30, verses 2, 3 and 6.

3. Jesus and Agur

What has the Lord Jesus to do with Agur? And the fourth petition with Proverbs 30?

Jesus Christ, God's Son, is our wisdom personally. (1 Corinthians 1,30) He knows the books of wisdom like Proverbs and Ecclesiastes.

Had Jesus Agur's words in mind when He formulated the fourth petition? Can be. There is similarity between '*Give us our daily bread*' and '*... give me neither poverty nor wealth, provide me only with the food I need.*'

Agur asks God two things: that God fraud and lying put away from him and that God only gives him what he needs for life. Both things can also be combined.

4. Is wealth a disaster?

Wealth can be a disaster for people, also for believers, a spiritual disaster. There is a danger that one will renounce the Lord God. That's foolish in God's eyes.

We read Luke, chapter 12, verses 16-21: The parable of the foolish rich man. Pious children of God are not immune to greediness. Look at Asaph, the author of Psalm 73. True richness is for him that he can be near to God. Greediness is a bad power. See Proverbs 30,15 and 16. Paul warns the Christians in 1 Timothy 6,9 and 10: *“The love of money is the root of all evil things.”*

5. Poverty is a disaster

Certainly, poverty is a disaster. Monks had a poverty-ideal. But that's not pointed out by the Bible to all Christians. *“There is no question of relieving others at the cost of hardship to yourselves; it is a question of equality.”* (1 Corinthians 8,13)

In the prayer of Agur there's also talk of equality. It's a prayer for enough.

The Bible points out that God doesn't want poverty to his people, even to no one. Hence many commandments in the law of Moses and the words of Jesus. In that way God shows his love to people at the lower part of society. Also poor people can fall in the trap of greediness.

6. Social side

Agur's prayer and Jesus' fourth petition obviously have a social side. 'Give us today our daily bread...' That's about all disciples of Jesus and all people, poor and rich. One prays for another. We are united in the name of God and the Lord Jesus.

No one can serve two lords. Seek the kingdom of God.

It's good to pray for your daily bread and whole our mean of support. God created it all. It's good to enjoy all God's gifts.

Jesus is not only Lord of the middleclass society. Also of the poor and the rich.

The fourth petition is a prayer for children that fully trust in God, their Father. They know: Daily bread only agrees with you through God's blessing. In the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord.

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