

Luke 11:3

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Give us day by day our daily bread.

Analysis

Give us day by day our daily bread (τὸν ἄρτον ἡμῶν τὸν ἐπιούσιον δίδου ἡμῖν τὸ καθ' ἡμέραν, ton arton hēmōn ton epiousion didou hēmin to kath' hēmeran)—The petition for arton epiousion (daily bread) centers on present dependence, not hoarding for the future. The rare Greek adjective epiousion may mean 'necessary for existence' or 'for the coming day,' emphasizing trust in God's timely provision.

Luke's phrase **day by day** (τὸ καθ' ἡμέραν) intensifies the emphasis on daily dependence found in Matthew's 'this day.' This echoes Israel's manna in the wilderness (Exodus 16)—each day's provision sufficient, no storing permitted except Sabbath eve. The prayer trains believers to reject anxiety about tomorrow (Luke 12:22-34) and trust the Father's knowledge of our needs. Arton (bread) encompasses all physical necessities, not luxury.

Historical Context

Bread was the staple food of ancient Palestine, representing sustenance itself. The daily wage of a laborer (one denarius) typically purchased enough bread for a family's daily needs. Jesus's original audience, largely poor peasants and fishermen, understood precarious daily provision intimately.

Related Passages

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Study Questions

1. In what areas of life are you hoarding resources rather than trusting God's daily provision?
2. How does praying for 'daily bread' challenge consumer culture's emphasis on accumulation and security?
3. What spiritual 'bread' (God's Word, communion with Christ) are you seeking daily alongside physical provision?

Interlinear Text

τὸν ἄρτον ἡμῶν τὸν ἐπιούσιον δίδου ἡμῖν τὸ καθ'
G3588 bread G740 our G2257 G3588 daily G1967 Give G1325 us G2254 G3588 day G2596
ἡμέραν·
by day G2250

Additional Cross-References

Matthew 6:11 (Parallel theme): Give us this day our daily bread.

Matthew 6:34 (Parallel theme): Take therefore no thought for the morrow: for the morrow shall take thought for the things of itself. Sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof.

Proverbs 30:8 (Parallel theme): Remove far from me vanity and lies: give me neither poverty nor riches; feed me with food convenient for me:

Isaiah 33:16 (Parallel theme): He shall dwell on high: his place of defence shall be the munitions of rocks: bread shall be given him; his waters shall be sure.