

Faith Sets The Table

By Anthony Russo

One September evening in 1891 the little North American office-house of the China Inland Mission was especially full. Besides the staff, nearly ten men and women from all across North America were lodging there. Soon these guests would be making the long steamer voyage to join the Mission's famous founder, Dr. Hudson Taylor, as missionaries to China. This day the agency's pantry was empty, except for a little tea and rice. With no food on-hand for dinner and no money to buy any, ***"Give us this day our daily bread"*** was the prayer of the hour.

When the director's wife was informed of the dire situation she knew just what to do. Mrs. Frost informed the staff to put a large pot of water on to boil and set the table for dinner. Together they waited on the Lord. Their wait was not long.

Minutes later the housemaid answered the doorbell. She returned to the kitchen with both hands full. A friend of the agency sent a messenger to deliver five

partridges with instructions that they would not keep another day and needed to be prepared immediately!

On every page of Scripture we see God richly providing for the needs of his people. When



the Israelites were hurried out of Egypt the Bible says: ***"nor had they prepared provisions for themselves."*** Exodus 12:39 God could have told Israel to make provisions for the nearly one million people, plus animals, He was about to lead into the wilderness, but He didn't. He

had a better plan. He was going to show them that He would always be their Chief Provision.

In the New Testament our unchanging God is no different. ***"Your heavenly Father knows that you have need of all these things"*** is Jesus' comforting reminder to us of God's tender care. (See Matthew 6:32) From His first miracle of turning to water to wine, to His greatest provision of dying on a cross to pay for our sins and rising from the dead, Jesus showed that God always provides. That's why Paul could later assure the church at Philippi ***"my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus."*** Philippians 4:19

God was Mrs. Frost's "heavenly Father." She, like Paul, knew Him as "my God." When we know and walk with the Lord, we too can be sure that He will always provide. Faith sets the table!

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