

THANK THE LORD FOR THE BREAD OF LIFE

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Lessons: John 6:5-14,22-25, Conjugal Love 411.

Everyone in the world has something that he wants very much. In fact, there are many things that people would like to have that they do not have. Perhaps you want something very much. You may even be saving pennies so that one day you will be able to buy it. Now what if someone suddenly gave you just what you wanted? That would make you very happy, wouldn't it?

But there are many more things that you would like that you cannot buy. There are many things that you cannot get for yourselves. Think of how grateful you would be if someone were to give you those things, which you cannot obtain for yourselves!

You are probably anxious to grow up. But the only thing that you can do is to take care of yourselves, and wait for the Lord to make you grow. No one else can make you grow. No one can make anything grow in this world. The farmer plants seeds in the ground and takes care of them, but he does not make them grow. And if the Lord did not make them grow, there would be nothing that the farmer could do to raise his crops, and he would soon starve. This is why the farmer thanks the Lord at the end of the summer for doing for him what he could not do for himself. And to show his thanks he brings some of the fruits of the ground, and offers them to the Lord. For the Lord made them, and they are really the Lord's.

At harvest time you thank the Lord for the food that He gives to the world. But you can thank the Lord for many other things that He does for you. You can thank Him for making you grow, and for making you happy.

The farmer plants the seeds in the ground, takes good care of them, and then watches them grow. First of all a tiny stalk pokes through the ground. And then the stalk grows until it has leaves. Finally a precious grain appears on the plant. In this grain there is food. When the grain is ripe the farmer takes it to the mill, and there it is made into flour. The flour is then made into bread for people to eat.

When you go to school, your teacher tells you things. She tells you about the Lord, and about how the Lord has created the world and everything in it. She tells you about heaven and the angels, and many more things. These ideas are like little seeds that the teacher is planting in your mind. When you think

about the ideas, you are like the farmer who takes care of the seed after it has been planted in the ground.

As you think about them, and try to understand them, you find that the ideas grow in your mind. They become strong and beautiful. You learn more things, and with each new thing you learn the ideas that the teacher first gave you become easier to understand.

But the most wonderful thing is that as the ideas grow, your love to the Lord grows. The more you know about the Lord and the more you understand what your teacher tells you about the Lord, the more you love all of the people whom the Lord has created. This love is like the grain that grows on the plant. This grain is the real reason why the seed was planted. And when the grain is ripe then you should thank the Lord for the wonderful thing that He has done. You should thank Him because you know that He has given you something that is more precious than any of the things, which you thought you wanted most.

And so, when you bring to the Lord the fruit that He has given, think of the marvelous gifts that He gives to the growing mind. And thank Him not only for the natural food that He gives, but also for the heavenly food - which is a love of Him and of the neighbor. This love you could not possibly obtain for yourselves. And yet love to the Lord is the most precious gift that you could have. And it is this love that will give you real happiness in this life, and in the life to come. *Amen.*

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“Infants in heaven are educated in this manner: from her that brings them up they learn to speak; their first speech is only the sound of affection, in which, however, there is the beginning of thought, by which the human in sound is distinguished from the sound of an animal. This speech becomes by degrees more distinct, as ideas from affection enter the thought. All their affections, which also have growth, proceed from innocence. At first, such things flow into them as appear before the eyes and are delightful; and because these are of spiritual origin, the things which are of heaven flow down into them at the same time, by means of which things the interiors of their mind are opened. After this, the infants, as they are perfected in intelligence, so they increase in size and are regarded even as to this as more adult. The reason is because intelligence and wisdom is spiritual food itself; therefore the things which nourish their minds, then nourish also their bodies. But infants in heaven do not grow up further than to the first age, and there stop, and remain in it for ever; and when they are in that age, they are given in marriage, which is provided by the Lord, and is celebrated in the heaven where the young man is, who presently follows the wife into her heaven, or into her house, if they are in the same society.” (*Conjugal Love* 411)