


I Love Camp Food


He answered, "It is written: 'Man must not live on bread alone but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.'" ~ Matthew 4:4


Discover the Context

Matthew 4:1-11

 How do you view your devotional time?

- ▶ As a snack—something you add on after the day is over, like something sweet.
- ▶ As an appetizer—a starter to take the edge off, like something light.
- ▶ The main course—providing you with all you need.

 Guard your schedule so you have adequate time to read the Bible. In fact, don't even let this devotional book satisfy your appetite. Make sure you are reading the Scripture references and getting straight into the word. If time is short, go right for the meat of the word.

 As you read the *Dig Deeper* verses from Psalm 119, make a list in the back of this book of all the benefits the psalmist gives of knowing God's law. Compare lists with another staff member during your break.

I love camp food. I always have. I remember many years ago attending a week of camp as an eleven year-old boy and being blown away by the special toast at breakfast. It was a wonderful creation of brown sugar, butter, and cinnamon spread on a thick slice of bread and baked in the oven. I could have eaten it at every meal.

It is good to know that the Food Service Director had a bigger picture in mind than just my sweet tooth. Each day our meals were a combination of fruit, vegetable, protein, bread, and other necessary items for a balanced diet. Though I could have been satisfied with the Cinnamon-Sugar-Butter-Toast, I needed more.

Matthew 4 tells the account of Jesus fasting in the wilderness for 40 days. In the midst of his hunger he was approached by the tempter, the devil, who challenged Jesus' deity and told him to turn stones into bread. Jesus understood that there was a larger issue than just satisfying his personal hunger. It was first and foremost about his inner soul being satisfied with the Father and trusting in his word. That was Jesus' priority. It should be ours as well.

Here are two things I would challenge you to consider as you faithfully serve.

1. Are you taking the time to feed your soul with the word of God? Your physical requirements are important, but they can be set aside for a time so your soul requirements can be fed. Jesus told the tempter that the words that proceed from the mouth of God are absolutely necessary for life.

2. Are you putting the needs of campers above your own? In service to others, are you willing to even skip a meal if called to do so? Are you willing to understand that God may have a purpose for you that can only be done by setting aside personal rights and privileges? Living according to every word that comes from the mouth of God means following his purposes, not your own desires. (RDJ)