

Tuesday 22nd September 2020

Numbers 11:4 *“The rabble with them began to crave food, and again the Israelites started wailing and said, ‘If only we had meat to eat!’”*

Matthew 25:35, 36 *“For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.”*

Luke 6:35 *“But love your enemies, do good to them, and lend to them without expecting to get anything back. Then your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High, because he is kind to the ungrateful and wicked.”*

We pay lip service to ‘the needy’ and ‘the poor’ and yet our personal lists of wants gets longer and longer. The needs for many of us are well met but yet we are never satisfied. We ‘want’ exotic foods, expensive wines and the latest gadgets.

In Numbers the rabble, a motely bunch of hangers on and fellow travellers but not Israelites, complain bitterly to Moses about the lack of meat, fish and good things to eat. God’s gift of manna in the wilderness satisfied their needs but not their wants. They forgot about their need for God.

Matthew and Luke remind us that we should be addressing the needs of the disadvantaged; the homeless; the sick and those in prison even if they are ungrateful and dislike us. We should lend to them and not expect any return for that is the way of God and the way to God. Ultimately we shall be rewarded.