

**Gratitude: Manna: 20-23, Exodus 16:31 cp.w Numbers 21:5**

The Jews had no idea what manna was, thus when it appeared they looked at it and exclaimed, “*Man hu!—What is it?*”

According to Asaph, it was the food of angels:

**Psalm 78:24** - God rained down manna upon them to eat and gave them food from heaven.

**Psalm 78:25** - Man did eat the bread of angels.

The consumption of the manna was itself a test because after having tasted it, those with gratitude evaluated its taste far differently than those without gratitude:

- a. Those with a high reading on their gratitude gauges described it as follows in:

**Exodus 16:31** - The house of Israel named it manna, and it was like coriander seed, white; and its taste was like wafers with honey.

- b. Those with a low reading on their gratitude gauges described it in a much less appealing manner in:

**Numbers 21:5** - The people spoke against God and Moses, “Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and we loathe this miserable food.”

Certain principles emerge from these two viewpoints:

When a believer has no gratitude towards God, he is unable to evaluate life and circumstances from the standpoint of grace orientation. Absence of gratitude means that the believer has no true happiness.

Remember our definition of happiness:

*Happiness is an inner resource developed from maximum doctrine circulating in the stream of consciousness resulting in such sophisticated orientation and adjustment to the plan of God that all aspects of life are evaluated in the light of eternal rather than temporal implications.*

Consequently, the believer who is truly happy is unaffected by any exigency encountered in the *Jornada*.

True happiness is built upon a foundation of genuine humility and is sustained by an ever-rising gratitude gauge. A gratitude gauge on zero indicates no true happiness and no genuine humility.

These are the ingredients for a stream of consciousness which contains minimal doctrine which results in a dried-up soul. Dried up souls are enslaved to the tyranny of the first husband.

Although the recipients of many miracles during their trek through the *Jornada*, the Exodus generation divorced itself from reality. Caught up in the vicious cycle of the three arrogant skills, these Jews had no gratitude for God's grace provisions and thus fell under His discipline.