

Lord's blessing necessarily upon the food any more than He would give it any way if the people are people who truly love the Lord. But the fact of remembering the Lord in connection with the meal, of taking a bit of time to remind ourselves regularly about the Lord and His goodness to us is a very valuable thing in keeping us from drifting away. And it's so easy to drift away. But of course the trouble with the blue border, the trouble with matters like this is that we soon get used to them. We soon get so used to them they just seem to be regular things that should be done this way and that's it. And they have no more meaning to us. And therefore it is very important that we change such matters from time to time. It is much more important that we think of new methods of reminding ourselves of the Lord and of His goodness and of His purposes for us than that we carrying on any one particular sacrament, any one particular sign, any one particular emblem or anything of that kind. The important thing is that we use means of bringing back to our attention repeatedly and frequently the fact of the Lord's goodness and of our obligations to Him. And so I believe that as ministers we should think these things through and not let ourselves get an attitude of giving too great importance to any detail, or any form or any ceremony of any particular thing, but to think of the purpose of all such matters, of all signs and significations and everything like that. The purpose to remind us. We have later on in this book of Num. we will come to where they put up the brazen serpent and the people would look to it and be healed. And it was a marvelous reminder of God's blessing, of God's mercy, of the way that God would make a provision for sin. And Jesus said it pointed directed to what He would do. But in the days of <sup>Hezekiah</sup> ~~Hezekiah~~ the people were worshipping it and Hezekiah was commande of the Lord to tear it down and destroy it. When any sign becomes an end in itself we should get rid of it and substitute ~~some~~ something else, but we should try constantly to have signs and indications and habits and things that will remind us of the Lord and of His purposes for us. Let's pray

O God our Father we thank you for these accounts of the wilderness journey and for the many factors in them which are interesting as stories but which have a meaning far beyond the immediate thing which is described there. Our God there are principles here that are vital for our lives. Help us we pray to grasp these principles and understand them and them