

Jesus...The Bread of Life John 6:1-69

A Lord's Supper Sermon

Good morning church family! Today we celebrate the Lord's Supper, one of the two ordinances the Lord instituted to help us remember His substitutionary death for us on Calvary's cross. To help us remember we are going to look a few verses from John 6. As your turning there let me give you the context in which we find our verses this morning.

The chapter begins with John's account of the feeding of the 5,000. Jesus was on the mountain with His disciples when this large crowd began to make their way to Him. Seeing them, Jesus asked Philip where they could buy enough bread to feed them. However, John pulls back the curtain and tells us Jesus was testing Philip, that is his faith. Jesus already knew how He was going to feed them.

Philip says, "Two hundred denarii worth of bread is not sufficient for them, that every one of them may have a little." Philip fails the test...but he wasn't the only one. Andrew finds a little boy with two fish and five loaves of bread, but even he says, "what are they among so many?"

We know the rest of the story; Jesus feeds the 5,000 on the two fish and five loaves. I love what John records for us, the people "ate as much as they wanted and were filled" and twelve baskets of leftovers were collected. Twelve baskets, twelve disciples...do you think they got the lesson?

The crowd's response was not one of faith but of impulse. They wanted to take Jesus by force and make Him king. See they were looking for a political Messiah, one who would deliver the nation from the Romans and return Israel to her former glory under King David. Jesus responds by leaving the crowd.

The next scene in the chapter is the disciples on the sea struggling with the wind to get to the other side. Then Jesus shows up walking on the water and the disciples think they're seeing a ghost. Jesus calls out to them, "It is I, do not be afraid."

According to Matthew's gospel this is when Peter walked on the water until he paid more attention to the boisterous waves than he did Jesus, and he began to sink. A lesson for all of us who are struggling in faith...keep our eyes on Him.

When Jesus gets in the boat they are immediately at Capernaum. Amazing! Awesome!

When the crowd realized that Jesus and His disciples were gone, they crossed to find them. Here is where I want us to begin looking at JESUS...THE BREAD OF LIFE.

Three truths I want you to write down...

1. Jesus the True Bread from Heaven, 25-35

John 6:25–35 (NKJV) — 25 And when they found Him on the other side of the sea, they said to Him, “Rabbi, when did You come here?” 26 Jesus answered them and said, “Most assuredly, I say to you, you seek Me, not because you saw the signs, but because you ate of the loaves and were filled. 27 Do not labor for the food which perishes, but for the food which endures to everlasting life, which the Son of Man will give you, because God the Father has set His seal on Him.” 28 Then they said to Him, “What shall we do, that we may work the works of God?” 29 Jesus answered and said to them, “This is the work of God, that you believe in Him whom He sent.” 30 Therefore they said to Him, “What sign will You perform then, that we may see it and believe You? What work will You do? 31 Our fathers ate the manna in the desert; as it is written, ‘He gave them bread from heaven to eat.’ ” 32 Then Jesus said to them, “Most assuredly, I say to you, Moses did not give you the bread from heaven, but My Father gives you the true bread from heaven. 33 For the bread of God is He who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world.” 34 Then they said to Him, “Lord, give us this bread always.” 35 And Jesus said to them, “I am the bread of life. He who comes to Me shall never hunger, and he who believes in Me shall never thirst.

The crowd only wanted physical food from Jesus not spiritual. Jesus warned them not to labor for those things that perish but seek the food that leads to eternal life.

Their response showed their lack of faith...“what shall we do, that we may work the works of God.” We want everlasting life, so what do we have to do to get it...people are still asking that question today.

Jesus said they only needed “believe in Him Whom He sent.” In other words, place your faith and trust in Jesus. To which they wanted a sign...didn't they already get a sign...He miraculously fed them just yesterday.

They wanted a mana experience. Jesus reminded them...

- Moses didn't give the people manna the Father did
- The Father was giving them true bread from heaven now...Jesus
- Manna only satisfied hunger and sustained physical life for Israel
- Jesus, the Bread from Heaven would be for the whole world

Jesus offers Himself to them as the Bread of Life. Listen to what he says...

“He who comes to Me shall never hunger, and he who believes in Me shall never thirst.”

The soul who hungers and thirsts for life will find it in Jesus alone.

Matthew 5:6 (NKJV) — 6 Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, For they shall be filled.

Are you hungry and thirsty this morning?

I wonder Christian if you find yourself hungry and thirsty this morning...what are you eating and drinking?

This may be a good indicator that our life is out of kilter with Jesus...only He will continue to satisfy your soul.

Secondly let's see...

2. Appropriating the Bread of Life, 48-59

John 6:48–59 (NKJV) — 48 I am the bread of life. 49 Your fathers ate the manna in the wilderness, and are dead. 50 This is the bread which comes

down from heaven, that one may eat of it and not die. 51 I am the living bread which came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever; and the bread that I shall give is My flesh, which I shall give for the life of the world.” 52 The Jews therefore quarreled among themselves, saying, “How can this Man give us His flesh to eat?” 53 Then Jesus said to them, “Most assuredly, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink His blood, you have no life in you. 54 Whoever eats My flesh and drinks My blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day. 55 For My flesh is food indeed, and My blood is drink indeed. 56 He who eats My flesh and drinks My blood abides in Me, and I in him. 57 As the living Father sent Me, and I live because of the Father, so he who feeds on Me will live because of Me. 58 This is the bread which came down from heaven—not as your fathers ate the manna, and are dead. He who eats this bread will live forever.” 59 These things He said in the synagogue as He taught in Capernaum.

Jesus again reminds them that He is the bread that came down from heaven. And he who eats this bread Jesus said will not die but live forever.

Jesus tells them how to appropriate this bread...they have to eat...His flesh and drink His blood.

Think about it for a moment...

- Food and drink will do you no good if you don't partake of them...neither will the work of Christ if you receive Him by faith.
- Food and drink provide sustenance to the body...Jesus provides life to the soul.
- Food and drink satisfies the hunger and thirst of a person...Jesus satisfies the spiritual hunger and thirst of the soul.

Those who believe upon the Lord Jesus Christ and surrender their lives to Him will experience...

- Eternal Life (NOW!!!)
- Resurrection in the Future
- Union with Christ (Abide in Him...Him in Us)

Finally...

3. The Response to the Bread of Life, 60-69

John 6:60–69 (NKJV) — 60 Therefore many of His disciples, when they heard this, said, “This is a hard saying; who can understand it?” 61 When Jesus knew in Himself that His disciples complained about this, He said to them, “Does this offend you? 62 What then if you should see the Son of Man ascend where He was before? 63 It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing. The words that I speak to you are spirit, and they are life. 64 But there are some of you who do not believe.” For Jesus knew from the beginning who they were who did not believe, and who would betray Him. 65 And He said, “Therefore I have said to you that no one can come to Me unless it has been granted to him by My Father.” 66 From that time many of His disciples went back and walked with Him no more. 67 Then Jesus said to the twelve, “Do you also want to go away?” 68 But Simon Peter answered Him, “Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. 69 Also we have come to believe and know that You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.”

There are only two responses to Jesus...

Unbelief which is why those who followed Him left...even one of the twelve is going to reject Him in unbelief.

Work of the Father is drawing every man and woman to Jesus. Paul would say it this way....

Romans 3:10–12 (NKJV) — 10 As it is written: “There is none righteous, no, not one; 11 There is none who understands; There is none who seeks after God. 12 They have all turned aside; They have together become unprofitable; There is none who does good, no, not one.”

Faith...expressed by Peter...

John 6:68–69 (NKJV) — 68 But Simon Peter answered Him, “Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. 69 Also we have come to believe and know that You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.”

What is your response this morning?

CONCLUSION:

Preparation for the Lord's Supper....

1 Corinthians 11:27–32 (NKJV) — 27 Therefore whoever eats this bread or drinks this cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of the body and blood of the Lord. 28 But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of the bread and drink of the cup. 29 For he who eats and drinks in an unworthy manner eats and drinks judgment to himself, not discerning the Lord's body. 30 For this reason many are weak and sick among you, and many sleep. 31 For if we would judge ourselves, we would not be judged. 32 But when we are judged, we are chastened by the Lord, that we may not be condemned with the world.

Celebration of the Lord's Table

1 Who has believed our report? And to whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed? 2 For He shall grow up before Him as a tender plant, And as a root out of dry ground. He has no form or comeliness; And when we see Him, There is no beauty that we should desire Him. 3 He is despised and rejected by men, A Man of sorrows and acquainted with grief. And we hid, as it were, our faces from Him; He was despised, and we did not esteem Him. 4 Surely He has borne our griefs And carried our sorrows; Yet we esteemed Him stricken, Smitten by God, and afflicted. 5 But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; The chastisement for our peace was upon Him, And by His stripes we are healed. 6 All we like sheep have gone astray; We have turned, every one, to his own way; And the LORD has laid on Him the iniquity of us all. 7 He was oppressed and He was afflicted, Yet He opened not His mouth; He was led as a lamb to the slaughter, And as a sheep before its shearers is silent, So He opened not His mouth. 8 He was taken from prison and from judgment, And who will declare His generation? For He was cut off from the land of the living; For the transgressions of My people He was stricken. 9

And they made His grave with the wicked— But with the rich at His death, Because He had done no violence, Nor was any deceit in His mouth. ¹⁰ Yet it pleased the LORD to bruise Him; He has put Him to grief. When You make His soul an offering for sin, He shall see His seed, He shall prolong His days, And the pleasure of the LORD shall prosper in His hand. ¹¹ He shall see the labor of His soul, and be satisfied. By His knowledge My righteous Servant shall justify many, For He shall bear their iniquities. ¹² Therefore I will divide Him a portion with the great, And He shall divide the spoil with the strong, Because He poured out His soul unto death, And He was numbered with the transgressors, And He bore the sin of many, And made intercession for the transgressors.

(Hold up a piece of bread & break it while saying)

For I received from the Lord that which I also delivered to you; that the Lord Jesus on the same night in which He was betrayed took bread; and when He had given thanks, He broke it and said, “Take eat, this is My body which is broken for you, do this in remembrance of Me.

After all are served, read:

I am the bread of life. Your fathers ate the manna in the wilderness, and are dead. This is the bread which comes down from heaven that one may eat of it and not die. I am the living bread which came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever; and the bread that I shall give is My flesh, which I shall give for the life of the world”. (John 6:48-51)

Take and Eat

(Hold up the cup and say)

“In the same manner He also took the cup after supper saying, This cup is the new covenant in My blood. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.” (25)

After all are served, read:

“without the shedding of blood there is no remission (of sins).” Hebrews 9:22

“you were not redeemed with corruptible things, like silver and gold, from your aimless conduct received by tradition from your fathers, but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot”. 1 Peter 1:18-19

Take and Drink

CLOSING PRAYER