

JESUS IS THE BREAD OF LIFE

John 6 v 5 - 14, 35, 47 - 51, 53 - 56, 63

Jesus Feeds the Five Thousand

5 When Jesus looked up and saw a great crowd coming toward Him, 6 He said to Philip, "Where shall we buy bread for these people to eat?" 6 He asked this only to test him, for He already had in mind what He was going to do.

7 Philip answered Him, "Eight months' wages would not buy enough bread for each one to have a bite!"

8 Another of His disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, spoke up, 9 "Here is a boy with five small barley loaves and two small fish but how far will they go among so many?"

10 Jesus said, "Have the people sit down." There was plenty of grass in that place and the men sat down, about five thousand of them.

11 Jesus then took the loaves, gave

thanks and distributed to those who were seated as much as they wanted. He did the same with the fish.

12 When they had all had enough to eat, He said to His disciples, "Gather the pieces that are left over. Let nothing be wasted." 13 So they gathered them and filled twelve baskets with the pieces of the five barley loaves left over by those who had eaten.

14 After the people saw the miraculous sign that Jesus did, they began to say, "Surely this is the Prophet who is to come into the world."

35 Then Jesus declared, "I am the bread of life. He who comes to Me will never go hungry and he who believes in Me will never be thirsty."

47 "I tell you the truth, he who believes has everlasting life. 48 I am the bread of life. 49 Your forefathers ate the manna in the desert, yet they

died. 50 But here is the bread that comes down from heaven which a man may eat and not die. 51 I am the living bread that came down from heaven. If a man eats of this bread, he will live forever. This bread is my flesh which I will give for the life of the world."

53 Jesus said to them, "I tell you the truth, 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 real food and My blood is real drink. 56 Whoever eats My flesh and drinks My blood remains in Me and I in him."

63 "The Spirit gives life; the flesh counts for nothing. The words I have spoken to you are spirit and they are life."



Something to Do

Memorize these verses; John 6 v 35 and John 6 v 63

What This Story Teaches Us

1. Jesus cares about our needs. He already has plans to provide for all of our needs but He wants to test our faith in Him. He wants us to look to Him and depend on Him for every need that we have.

2. Even Jesus gave thanks for the little that He had. God says to us, "give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus". (1 Thessalonians 5 v 18)

3. Jesus can solve every problem and meet every need in abundance. "Now to Him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to His power that is at work within us." (Ephesians 3 v 20)

4. God does not like waste. He wants us to use everything that He gives to us, "let nothing be wasted."

He wants us to use our time wisely: "Making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil. Therefore do not be foolish but understand what the Lord's will is." (Ephesians 5 v 16 + 17)

He wants us to use our abilities and talents wisely: "His master replied, 'Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!.' (Matthew 25 v 21)

Jesus also wants us to use our

money wisely: "Do not store up for yourselves treasure on earth where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moth and rust do not destroy and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also." (Matthew 6 v 19 - 21)

5. As the disciples received the food from Jesus, they distributed it to the hungry crowd. When we receive spiritual food from Jesus each day, we also have something to share with those around us who need the "bread of life."

Two Kinds of Bread

The great crowd of people were glad to have food to eat when they were so hungry. They wanted Jesus to be their king so they would never have to worry about working for food again! But Jesus reminded them of what had happened to their ancestors long before. The children of Israel were on their way from Egypt to the land God had promised them. This great crowd of people became hungry in the wilderness. So God "rained" bread from heaven to feed them each day! What a wonderful miracle this was (Exodus 16 v 4 - 35)! The people did not know exactly what this new kind of food was so they called it manna which means, What is this?

Later God taught the people why He had done this. Moses told the people, "Remember how the Lord your God led you all the way in the desert these forty years to humble you and to test you in order to know what was in your heart whether or not you would keep His commands. He humbled you, causing you to hunger and then feeding you with manna which neither you nor your fathers had known to teach you that man does not live on bread alone but on every word that comes from the mouth of the Lord." (Deuteronomy 8 v 2 + 3).

Even though God provided manna from heaven in such a marvellous way for many years, the manna was just bread for physical bodies. The people who ate it, still grew old and

later died. So now when Jesus fed the multitude that day, the bread they ate was just for their physical bodies. Though they ate it and were filled, they would still grow old and die later.

But Jesus had great news! Now Jesus was offering a new kind of "bread", which if people ate of it, would cause them not to die. Yes, their physical bodies would die but they themselves would never die and Christ would raise their bodies at the last day when He comes again. Jesus told the people that He, Himself, was a different kind of bread that could be eaten! He was living bread for their souls! He had come down from heaven just like the manna had come down from heaven. He had come to give His life for the world. Whoever "eats" - or receives into their souls - the life of Jesus will never die.

How can we "eat" this Bread of Life, which is Jesus? How can we "drink" His blood? We can accept Christ's sacrifice of His body on the cross for our own salvation. We can accept Jesus as the Lamb of God whose blood covers our sins. We can receive His life-giving Spirit into our hearts. We can also receive His life-giving words by studying them

and obeying them. We need to keep taking in His life every day, just as we need to eat food every day for our physical bodies.

In a spiritual sense you can "eat" the flesh of Jesus and "drink" His blood each day:

1. Each day walk in the light of God's Word. If you sin, admit your sin to God and the blood of Jesus will cleanse you so that you can continue having good fellowship with Him. (1 John 1 v 7, 9)

2. Each day ask Jesus to fill you with His Holy Spirit. In everything you do, depend on the power of His Spirit within you. Receive instructions from Him each day from the Bible. God's Word is life to us. Spend some time alone with God each day when you can talk to Him aloud. Then, during the day, keep thinking about Him. Talk to Him in your mind about everything. You will find yourself becoming more and more like Jesus.

God has a wonderful promise for you if you do these things: "Then those who feared the Lord talked with each other and the Lord listened and heard. A scroll of remembrance was written in His presence concerning those who feared the Lord and honoured His name. "They will be mine," says the Lord Almighty, "in the day when I make up My treasured possession. I will spare them just as in compassion a man spares his son who serves him." (Malachi 3 v 16 + 17)



God's Word is Food for Your Soul

Long ago Job said, "I have not departed from the commands of His lips; I have treasured the words of His mouth more than my daily bread." (Job 23 v 12)

Jeremiah declared, "When Your words came, I ate them; they were my joy and my

heart's delight, for I bear Your name, O Lord God Almighty." (Jeremiah 15 v 16)

The psalmist said, "How sweet are Your promises to my taste, sweeter than honey to my mouth!." (Psalm 119 v 103)

Peter urged, "Like newborn

babies crave pure spiritual milk so that by it you may grow up in your salvation, now that you have tasted that the Lord is good." (1 Peter 2 v 2 + 3)

Let us "eat" God's Word every day!