

THE BREAD OF LIFE

John 6

I. FEEDING THE 5000 COULD NOT IMPART ETERNAL LIFE. Vs. 27

A. The absolute perfect representative of mankind will give His food of a higher life — the life also being His gift.

John 10:10 "The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.

John 11:25 Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes in Me will live even if he dies,

John 14:6 Jesus *said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me.

B. The seal. Sealing is the mark of approval, of authority. A legal document must bear the seal of the State to give it force. The Father had commissioned, authorized, and stamped his seal upon the work of the Son. His miracles were a *divine seal*.

Acts 2:22 "Men of Israel, listen to these words: Jesus the Nazarene, a man attested to you by God with miracles and wonders and signs which God performed through Him in your midst, just as you yourselves know--

II. THE MIRACLE, ITSELF, COULD NOT IMPART ETERNAL LIFE.

A. **Mark 6:52** for they had not gained any insight from the incident of the loaves, but their heart was hardened. **See Mark 8:17-20**

III. THE MANNA COULD NOT IMPART ETERNAL LIFE. Vss. 31, 49

A. Vs. 49. The Manna had not been bread of life, for those who ate it had died, their carcasses had fallen in the wilderness. Not so in regard to this, the true Bread from heaven. To share in that Food was to have everlasting life, a life which the sin and death of unbelief and judgment would not cut short, as it had that of them who had eaten the Manna and died in the wilderness. It was another and a better Bread which came from heaven in Christ, and another, better, and deathless life which was connected with it: 'the Bread that I will give is My Flesh, for the life of the world.' (Edersheim)

B. **Exodus 38:26** ... each one who passed over to those who were numbered, from twenty years old and upward, for 603,550 men. NASB

Hebrews 3:17 And with whom was He angry for forty years? Was it not with those who sinned, whose bodies fell in the wilderness? NASB

IV. MOSES COULD NOT IMPART ETERNAL LIFE. Vs. 32

A. The Rabbinic view was: "Great is the Law, for it gives life to those who practice it both in this world and the world to come."

Galatians 3:21 Is the Law then contrary to the promises of God? May it never be! For if a law had been given which was able to impart life, then righteousness would indeed have been based on law.

2 Corinthians 3:6 who also made us adequate as servants of a new covenant, not of the letter but of the Spirit; for the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life.

Romans 7:9-11 I was once alive apart from the Law; but when the commandment came, sin became alive and I died; (10) and this commandment, which was to result in life, proved to result in death

for me; (11) for sin, taking an opportunity through the commandment, deceived me and through it killed me.

Galatians 2:21 "I do not nullify the grace of God, for if righteousness comes through the Law, then Christ died needlessly."

Galatians 2:16 nevertheless knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the Law but through faith in Christ Jesus, even we have believed in Christ Jesus, so that we may be justified by faith in Christ and not by the works of the Law; since by the works of the Law no flesh will be justified.

- B. The miraculous supply in the wilderness began during the eighth encampment of Israel. It was considered, by the Jews, as the great miracle of all times by God. It suddenly ended the day after Passover once the Israelites ate of the corn of the land. See Jos. 5:10-12. The lesson to be learned was:

Deuteronomy 8:3 "He humbled you and let you be hungry, and fed you with manna which you did not know, nor did your fathers know, that He might make you understand that man does not live by bread alone, but man lives by everything that proceeds out of the mouth of the LORD.

Most of the nation, at the time of Christ's life, were expecting the Messiah to call Manna down from heaven around Passover time.

- C. It was known as "Bread from Heaven," "Corn from Heaven," "Angel's food," "God's Manna." "Distilled from the upper light." and "The dew from above."

John 6:59 These things He said in the synagogue as He taught in Capernaum.

- D. It is a remarkable circumstance, that among the ruins of the Synagogue of Capernaum the lintel has been discovered, and that it bears the device of a pot of manna, ornamented with a flowing pattern of vine leaves and clusters of grapes. (Edersheim)
- E. And here, over their Synagogue, was the pot of manna - symbol of what God had done, earnest of what the Messiah would do: that pot of manna, which was now among the things hidden, but which Elijah, when he came, would restore again! (Edersheim)

V. **THE SACRAMENT [transubstantiation] COULD NOT IMPART ETERNAL LIFE. Vss. 52-58**

- A. Are we to say that the one thing to do in order to receive life is to receive the Lord's Supper?
- B. Vs. 53. Fellowship with the Person of Jesus in that state of humbleness and martyrdom... Consisted only in abiding in Him and He in them; or, as they would understand it, in inner communion with Him, and in sharing His condition and views...

John 6:53 And Jesus said to them, I assure you, most solemnly I tell you, you cannot have any life in you unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink His blood [**unless you appropriate His life and the saving merit of His blood**]. AMP

- C. Vs. 54. We are to view His flesh and blood separately. The flesh is the virtue of Christ's humanity in living for us while the blood is the virtue Christ's humanity in dying for us. We must consume both.
- D. Vs. 55. Participation in Christ's "flesh" and "blood" yields possession and the highest manifestation of life. They must first be taken, then assimilated (incorporated) into our lives, fully consumed.
- E. Vs. 56. To dwell or abide is to live or be in constant living communion with Jesus.

John 6:56 He who feeds on My flesh and drinks My blood dwells continually in Me, and I [in like manner dwell continually] in him. AMP

John 14:23 Jesus answered, If a person [really] loves Me, he will keep My word [obey My teaching]; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our home (abode, special dwelling place) with him. AMP

John 15:4-5 Dwell in Me, and I will dwell in you. [Live in Me, and I will live in you.] Just as no branch can bear fruit of itself without abiding in (being vitally united to) the vine, neither can you bear fruit unless you abide in Me. (5) I am the Vine; you are the branches. Whoever lives in Me and

I in him bears much (abundant) fruit. However, apart from Me [cut off from vital union with Me] you can do nothing. AMP

1 John 3:24 All who keep His commandments [who obey His orders and follow His plan, live and continue to live, to stay and] abide in Him, and He in them. [They let Christ be a home to them and they are the home of Christ.] And by this we know and understand and have the proof that He [really] lives and makes His home in us: by the [Holy] Spirit Whom He has given us. AMP

John 17:21 that they may all be one; even as You, Father, are in Me and I in You, that they also may be in Us, so that the world may believe that You sent Me. NASB

F. Vs. 57. The tense is continuous.

John 6:57 Just as the living Father sent Me and I live by (through, because of) the Father, even so whoever continues to feed on Me [whoever takes Me for his food and is nourished by Me] shall [in his turn] live through and because of Me. AMP

Galatians 3:26-27 For in Christ Jesus you are all sons of God through faith. (27) For as many [of you] as were baptized into Christ [into a spiritual union and communion with Christ, the Anointed One, the Messiah] have put on (clothed yourselves with) Christ. AMP [initially]

Galatians 2:20 I have been crucified with Christ [in Him I have shared His crucifixion]; it is no longer I who live, but Christ (the Messiah) lives in me; and the life I now live in the body I live by faith in (by adherence to and reliance on and complete trust in) the Son of God, Who loved me and gave Himself up for me. NASB [continuously]

G. Vs. It is no longer possible to follow Jesus unreflectively — without committing oneself.

John 6:60 When His disciples heard this, many of them said, This is a hard and difficult and strange saying (an offensive and unbearable message). Who can stand to hear it? [Who can be expected to listen to such teaching?] AMP

VI. THE SOURCE OF ETERNAL LIFE IS A SPIRITUAL MATTER:

A. Faith in who Jesus is and what He said is the source of eternal life. Vss. 27-29, 40, 47

John 6:29 Jesus replied, This is the work (service) that God asks of you: that you believe in the One Whom He has sent [that you cleave to, trust, rely on, and have faith in His Messenger]. AMP

1 John 3:23 This is His commandment, that we believe in the name of His Son Jesus Christ, and love one another, just as He commanded us.

John 6:40 For this is My Father's will and His purpose, that everyone who sees (and beholds, looks intently -- DC) the Son and believes in and cleaves to and trusts in and relies on Him should have eternal life, and I will raise him up [from the dead] at the last day. AMP

B. “The Bread of God” is the source of eternal life. Vs. 33

1. He was, indeed, the Bread of God as well as the Lamb of God which takes away the sin of the world. Christ was the Bread of God in His Incarnation and was the Lamb of God in His Death. Here again are these two most significant facts of the gospel — the Virgin Birth and the Sacrificial Lamb.

2. Vs. 35. The “I am” occurs, not infrequently in the forth Gospel: 8:12, The Light of the World; 10:7, 9, The Door; 10:11, 14, The Good Shepherd; 11:25, The Resurrection and The Life, 14:6, The Way, the Truth, the Life; 15:1, 5, The True Vine.

a. The Bread is Living because Christ lives — thus very capable of communicating.

John 6:68 Simon Peter answered Him, "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have words of eternal life.

1 John 1:1 What was from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we have looked at and touched with our hands, concerning the Word of Life.

3. Vs. 36. Jesus Himself was the sign from God that the Jews could not read.

Luke 2:34 And Simeon blessed them and said to Mary His mother, "Behold, this Child is appointed for the fall and rise of many in Israel, and for a sign to be opposed--

4. Vs. 37. How are we given to the Father, one and all? By His love (Rom. 5:5) and by the cross (John 3:16).
5. Vs. 38. These words are used to express Christ's decent to the earth.
John 3:13 "No one has ascended into heaven, but He who descended from heaven: the Son of Man. See also Eph. 4:8-10
6. Vs. 39. The will of the Father for the church is that we are saved throughout history and finally resurrected to eternal life and that none perish.
7. Vs. 40. Beholds and believes denotes continued action and they are present participles. Beholding is to contemplate Jesus continuously. We have a very real and present promise of everlasting life in the here-and-now, but so much better and much more fulfilled in the by-and-by.
8. Vs. 41. The Jews murmured half in doubt and half in dissatisfaction.
9. Vs. 42. How can the spring and support of life be in Christ, who is truly man?
10. Vs. 44. How is one drawn by God? The question of the ages. The cross certainly does the job.
John 12:32 "And I, if I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all men to Myself."
We can only be drawn to a true knowledge of God through the revealed word.
Hebrews 7:25 Therefore He is able also to save forever those who draw near to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them.
James 4:8 Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you double-minded.
2 Thessalonians 2:14 It was for this He called you through our gospel, that you may gain the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.
11. Vs. 45. How will we be taught of God, mystically? No! But by hearing and learning.
Romans 10:17 So faith comes from hearing, and hearing by the word of Christ.
John 7:17 "If anyone is willing to do His will, he will know of the teaching, whether it is of God or whether I speak from Myself.
12. Vs. 46. We see God, in part, by seeing Jesus in our minds eye. We hear God through the Son.
John 1:18 No man has ever seen God at any time; the only unique Son, or the only begotten God, Who is in the bosom [in the intimate presence] of the Father, He has declared Him [He has revealed Him and brought Him out where He can be seen; He has interpreted Him and He has made Him known]. AMP
13. Vs. 47. Jesus is always the object of our faith.

C. Jesus as the "Bread of Life." is the source of eternal life. Vs. 48

1. The personality of the Christ.

D. The Bread which Christ gives for the life of the world is His flesh. Vs. 51

1. Notice the contrast between Moses and Christ, in the "I will give."
2. Notice the contrast between the "I am" and the "I will give."
 - a. The "I am" indicates that Jesus is truly God and truly man in the form of the incarnation. The disciples *were* participating with the incarnation presently.
 - b. The "I will give My flesh" indicates that there is still something left to do — His crucifixion. To give His flesh is to give His perfect humanity. They will participate in His death.
Romans 8:3 For what the Law could not do, weak as it was through the flesh, God did: sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and as an offering for sin, He condemned sin in the flesh.
 - c. The life of the world in the highest sense, springs from the Incarnation and the Resurrection. By His Incarnation and the Resurrection the ruin and death which sin brought in are overcome

Romans 8:4 so that the requirement of the Law might be fulfilled in us, who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.

1 Corinthians 10:16 Is not the cup of blessing which we bless a sharing in the blood of Christ? Is not the bread which we break a sharing in the body of Christ?

E. The Word gives life and is the source of eternal life. Vs. 63

1. We appropriate the flesh and blood of Jesus (Life) when we partake of His humanity and divinity by abiding in all the words of Jesus and His apostles.

F. The Spirit gives life and is the source of eternal life. Vs. 63

1 Corinthians 15:45 So also it is written, "The first MAN, Adam, BECAME A LIVING SOUL." The last Adam became a life-giving spirit.

Colossians 3:4 When Christ, who is our life, is revealed, then you also will be revealed with Him in glory.

G. Vss. 66-69. Almost all deserted our Lord but the twelve. Peter is impetuous, ready sometimes to jump to conclusions, and capable of incredible ineptitude; but he is also capable of reaching astonishing heights.

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- B. The lesson to be learned was: **Deuteronomy 8:3** ...man does not live by bread alone, but...
- C. **John 6:59** These things He said in the synagogue as He taught in Capernaum.
- D. It is a remarkable circumstance, that among the ruins of the Synagogue of Capernaum the lintel has been discovered, and that it bears the device of a pot of manna... (Edersheim)

V. THE SACRAMENT [transubstantiation] COULD NOT IMPART ETERNAL LIFE. Vss. 52-58

- A. Are we to say that the one thing to do in order to receive life is to receive the Lord's Supper?
- B. Vs. 53. Fellowship with the Person of Jesus in that state of humbleness and martyrdom...
- C. Vs. 54. We are to view His flesh and blood separately. The flesh is the virtue of Christ's humanity in living for us while the blood is the virtue Christ's humanity in dying for us. We must consume both.
- D. Vs. 55. Participation in Christ's "flesh" and "blood" yields possession and the highest manifestation of life. They must first be taken, then assimilated (incorporated) into our lives, fully consumed.
- E. Vs. 56. To dwell or abide is to live or be in constant living communion with Jesus.
John 6:56 He who feeds on My flesh and drinks My blood dwells continually in Me, and I [in like manner dwell continually] in him. AMP See **John 14:23**; **15:4-5**; **1 John 3:24**; **John 17:21**
- F. Vs. 57. The tense is continuous.
John 6:57 Just as the living Father sent Me and I live by (through, because of) the Father, even so whoever continues to feed on Me [whoever takes Me for his food and is nourished by Me] shall [in his turn] live through and because of Me. AMP
- G. Vs. 60. It is no longer possible to follow Jesus unreflectively — without committing oneself.
John 6:60 When His disciples heard this, many of them said, This is a hard and difficult and strange saying (an offensive and unbearable message). Who can stand to hear it? [Who can be expected to listen to such teaching?] AMP

THE BREAD OF LIFE — *John 6*

(THE SOURCE OF ETERNAL LIFE IS A SPIRITUAL MATTER)

A. Faith in who Jesus is and what He said is the source of eternal life. Vss. 27-29, 40, 47

John 6:29 Jesus replied, This is the work (service) that God asks of you: that you believe in the One Whom He has sent [that you cleave to, trust, rely on, and have faith in His Messenger]. AMP

B. “The Bread of God” is the source of eternal life. Vs. 33

1. He was, indeed, the Bread of God as well as the Lamb of God which takes away the sin of the world. Christ was the Bread of God in His Incarnation and was the Lamb of God in His Death.
2. Vs. 35. The Bread is Living because Christ lives — thus very capable of communicating.
John 6:68 ..."Lord, to whom shall we go? You have words of eternal life. **1 John 1:1**
3. Vs. 36. Jesus Himself was the sign from God that the Jews could not read.
Luke 2:34 ...this Child is appointed for the fall and rise of many in Israel, and for a sign...
4. Vs. 37. How are we given to the Father, one and all? By love (Rom. 5:5), by the cross (Jn 3:16).
5. Vs. 38. These words are used to express Christ's decent to the earth. **John 3:13**
6. Vs. 39. The will of the Father for the church is that we are saved throughout history and finally resurrected to eternal life and that none perish.
7. Vs. 40. Beholding is to contemplate Jesus continuously.
8. Vs. 41. The Jews murmured half in doubt and half in dissatisfaction.
9. Vs. 42. How can the spring and support of life be in Christ, who is truly man?
10. Vs. 44. How is one drawn by God? The question of the ages. The cross certainly does the job.
John 12:32 "And I, if I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all men to Myself."
We can only be drawn to a true knowledge of God through the revealed word.
11. Vs. 45. How will we be taught of God, mystically? No! But by hearing and learning.
Romans 10:17 So faith comes from hearing, and hearing by the word of Christ.
12. Vs. 46. We see God, in part, by seeing Jesus in our minds eye. We hear God through the Son.
John 1:18 No man has ever seen God at any time; the only unique Son, or the only begotten God, Who is in the bosom [in the intimate presence] of the Father, He has declared Him [He has revealed Him and brought Him out where He can be seen; He has interpreted Him and He has made Him known]. AMP
13. Vs. 47. Jesus is always the object of our faith.

C. Jesus as the “Bread of Life.” is the source of eternal life. Vs. 48

1. The personality of the Christ.

D. The Bread which Christ gives for the life of the world is His flesh. Vs. 51

- a. The “I am” indicates that Jesus is truly God and truly man in the form of the incarnation.
- b. The “I will give My flesh” indicates that there is still something left to do — His crucifixion.
- c. The life of the world in the highest sense, springs from the Incarnation and the Resurrection. By His Incarnation and the Resurrection the ruin and death which sin brought in are overcome
Romans 8:4 so that the requirement of the Law might be fulfilled in us, who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.

E. The Word gives life and is the source of eternal life. Vs. 63

1. We appropriate the flesh and blood of Jesus (Life) when we partake of His humanity and divinity by abiding in all the words of Jesus and His apostles.

F. The Spirit gives life and is the source of eternal life. Vs. 63

1 Corinthians 15:45 So also it is written, "The first MAN, Adam, BECAME A LIVING SOUL." The last Adam became a life-giving spirit. **See Colossians 3:4**