

John 6:45-59
March 15, 1987
Rome Georgia
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Subject: Jesus as the true bread from Heaven.

Theme: We must appropriate Christ into our lives in order to receive the benefit of His life and death.

Proposition: Have you partaken of Christ? Do you know for a certainty that you have believed.

If I asked you if you had breakfast this morning, you could say for a certainty what the case may be. This is because you have either eaten or not. Have you come to the Savior and received from God the truth concerning the salvation that is in Him. It is simple. Either you have eaten (believed) or you have not!

I. MISUNDERSTANDING OCCURS WHEN WE TRY TO FIT SPIRITUAL TRUTH INTO OUR PHYSICAL REALM 41-43

II. UNDERSTANDING OCCURS WHEN WE ACCEPT THE WORD OF GOD AS TRUTH AND OPERATE ON A SPIRITUAL PLAIN OF FAITH. 44-45 63.

DB. March 7, 1978. I once read an article about certain ancient superscriptions associated with bread. There were all sorts of superstitions and suppositions about the therapeutic value of bread. A couple of the more interesting of the ideas were:

"Some people thought that if a fresh **loaf were tied to the head of a mentally deranged person, his sanity would be restored.

(Picture if you will for just a moment the following scenario. You are walking down the street and run into an old friend who you have not seen for years. You immediately notice that instead of his old familiar ball cap, he has a loaf of bread tied to his head. Naturally you assume that either he is making some type of fashion statement or else he must be looney tunes. Imagine your chagrin to learn that neither of your initial impressions were correct. In fact, although your friend admits to a bout with mental illness, he assures you that he is in fact now perfectly normal as is attested to by the loaf of bread he has on his head!)

**Others were convinced that the smell of baking bread would bring relief from a common cold...."
(**sniff two loaves and call me in the morning** , bread scented nasal spray.)

v. 51 Of all the claims for the **therapeutic qualities of bread** which have been made down through the years, some true and some not so true, the most interesting and enduring of all is found in **John 6:51** where Jesus says,

"I AM THE LIVING BREAD THAT CAME DOWN FROM HEAVEN; IF ANY MAN EAT OF THIS BREAD, HE SHALL LIVE FOREVER....":

"Jesus did not say that He was the **"Filet Mignon"** or the **"Caviar"** or the **"Arugula"** of life, for these are delicacies enjoyed only by a select number. Christ called Himself **"BREAD" - the universal food of all mankind**. It is found on the table of rich and poor, king and peasant. Whether it is made of wheat, corn, rye, oats or rice, it is bread - **ALWAYS AVAILABLE, SATISFYING AND NOURISHING...."** The **manna that fell from heaven, fell within reach of those it was intended for**. Just so, Jesus presented Himself as the Savior who is always in reach of all those who hunger for a walk with God.

"C.H. Spurgeon has aptly said, "I bless God that He gave us not a **classical gospel**, a **mathematical gospel**, a **metaphysical gospel**, or one confined to **scholars or men of genius**, but rather a **poor man's gospel**; for that is the kind that we can live and die upon. **It is to us not the luxury of refinement, but the staple bread of life.** We desire no fine words when the heart is heavy or when we are facing eternity. The Savior manifested in the flesh is our food; Christ bleeding on the cross a substitute for sinners is our soul's drink. This is the gospel suitable for babes, yet strong men want no more." *DB Oct. 1, 1972.*

V. 45 Joh 6:45 **It is written in the prophets, And they shall be all taught of God. Every man therefore that hath heard, and hath learned of the Father, cometh unto me.**

The teaching of the Father leads people to the Son. **Those who have heard God and have learned from Him - COME TO THE SON.** To whom does this make reference? Primarily to Israel, for they are those whom God has given revelation concerning a relationship with Himself. **Those in Israel who were true followers of God, became true followers of Christ.!!!**

How did God teach Israel of Himself and His Son?

Many of the experiences of the nation Israel were allowed to happen so that they could **learn a spiritual lesson.** We saw in **John 3:14** how the **BRONZE SERPENT** incident was used to teach spiritual truth to the nation of Israel.

In our current narrative, Jesus is using the **Manna** that the Jews were familiar with to introduce them to the **TRUE BREAD FROM HEAVEN.** In other words, those things which Israel had experienced, became the object lessons by which God was able to teach His children. For those who would listen, they could learn.

When God was instructing His nation through Moses, He gave him the plans for a **Tabernacle, or dwelling place for God to be built in the midst of the people of God.** As we have previously discussed, each of the items in this tabernacle are **symbolic of some aspect of the relationship that God would sustain with His people through His Son, Jesus Christ.**

God told Israel to put **bread** in the holy place of the Tabernacle - His "HOUSE OF SYMBOLS." There in that first room **12 loaves** were to be displayed on a golden table called "the **TABLE OF THE PRESENCE.**" The loaves were in turn called, the "**SHOWBREAD**" or "**THE BREAD OF THE PRESENCE**" and "the **continual bread.**" (Cf. NIV Exodus 25:30 BKC.) The **loaves were symbolic of the presence of God with His people in the tabernacle in that they were to be placed "Before ME." ergo, "before God" Ex. 25:30.**

The bread had to be **prepared** according to God's directions, (**Lev. 24:5-9**) and **eaten** by the priests in the holy place. **In the NT those who come to Christ are made priests who are fit to stand in the very presence of God, having partaken of the TRUE BREAD FROM HEAVEN. I Peter 2:9 and Rev. 1:6.**

49 The Jews had made the statement in 31 that their fathers did **EAT** the manna in the wilderness. Jesus then presented Himself as the **TRUE BREAD FROM HEAVEN.** This **TRUE BREAD** needed to be responded to by being received by the people. **Just as the Jew had to pick up the manna, so too Jesus had to be welcomed into their lives.** They had to come to Him, and those who did come, were received by Him. These ideas of **COMING, RECEIVING, BELIEVING,** may not have been clear in the minds of the people. They were still focusing on the **MANNA WHICH WAS MERELY A TYPE OF THE TRUE BREAD.** They were thinking in terms of **EATING THE BREAD.** So Jesus returns to this aspect of the conversation to demonstrate what he means by "**SEEING AND BELIEVING ON HIM.**"

49-51

When we EAT bread, we are performing an act of complete assimilation. The bread is received into our body by a **volitional act on our part**. The bread then is able to accomplish that which it was designed for, the **nourishment of our bodies** and the sustaining of life. **This may be understood by all men for the eating of bread is done by all men.** (many years ago, *crab-leg eating had to be demonstrated in the Red Lobster commercials because this is not an experience common to all of mankind.* They did not have to show people how to eat the bread that comes with that meal.)

The Jew was also aware of the fact, that even though God provided the "Manna From Heaven" for their fathers in the wilderness, **it was still necessary for the people to gather it up each day and to EAT IT or else **the manna would be ineffectual for them**. If you did not eat the manna, you died of hunger when food was available.

You could **know "ABOUT" the manna, **SEE the Manna**, and **refuse to eat the Manna**, and you would die.

You could gather the manna, **hold it in your hand, discern it's properties, and **STILL DIE OF STARVATION IF YOU FAILED TO EAT THE BREAD.**

This is the very real danger that these people in Capernaum faced. They desired to have the bread that cured hunger for evermore, **33-34**, but Jesus said **36**. "Ye have seen me and believe not!" You have the manna in your midst, you see it, it is within reach, it is delightful to the soul and satisfies every need of man, but you are not utilizing the bread for its intended purpose!

YOU NEED TO SEE THE BREAD, TAKE IT UNTO YOURSELVES, AND EAT THE TRUE HEAVENLY BREAD, V. **50**. READ **50**.

The bread in the wilderness satisfied and nourished, but it was a TEMPORARY provision with TEMPORARY results and all who ate that bread eventually died! BUT JESUS SAYS IN **50-51**, **EAT THIS BREAD AND YOU WILL NOT DIE. YOU WILL HAVE LIFE ETERNAL. READ 50-51.**

Joh 6:50 This is the bread which cometh down from heaven, that a man may eat thereof, and not die.

Joh 6:51 I am the living bread which came down from heaven: if any man eat of this bread, he shall live for ever: and the bread that I will give is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world.

52. "How can this man give us His flesh to eat?" They must have sized him up and wondered how this trick was going to work. He was about **5'10" and 170 lbs**. Divide this by the thousands who heard his voice and you have a dilemma similar to that the disciples had earlier in trying to figure how they could feed everyone even a morsel. How could they all eat Him (as if the Jew would ever consider eating flesh that contained the blood or even more abhorrently, drink blood. Both were taboo to the Jews.)

READ 51-57 *The flesh and the blood could only be separated by a violent act and by offering them separately He anticipates His death on the cross when His blood was shed for us.*

So the EATING, OR PARTAKING, OR BELIEVING is seen to be not just in the human body that was currently visible to the people but in a very real sense it demonstrates that our FAITH, BELIEF, RECEPTION of Christ, is the reception of that which was done for us on the cross of Calvary.

54 Parallel the results of eating with the results of "seeing" and "believing" of v. **40**

>>>v. **58 - 59** SUMMARY OF THE PRECEDING VERSES<<<<

Our passage began with the Jews murmuring or grumbling because they could not grasp the truth revealed to them. They were attempting to accomplish on a on a physical level that which in fact must be done on a spiritual level. As Jesus spoke to them, they got even more confused. **52.** By the time He finished speaking, many of those who had desired to follow him were also discouraged. v. **60.** **"this is a hard saying, who can hear it?"**

They were expecting a **KING** who would then and there establish a **POLITICAL** empire. As they began to see that what He offered was not what they wanted, they began to turn away from Him. Their enthusiasm began to wane. **They wanted a political Messiah and an immediate physical kingdom, and they wanted it on their terms and not His.**

61 "OFFEND" = **SKANDALIZE!** Skandalize, take offence Cf. **I Cor. 1:23** the crucified Messiah was a "Skandalon" stumbling block to the Jews. Same root word. Same Idea in view. It was the idea of a Messiah that would die that offended the Jews.. . It didn't fit THEIR plans.

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CONCLUSION:DB. Jan. 22, 70. "Rosiland Goforth tells of a well dressed, intelligent-looking man who on occasion attended a chapel in South China. One day the oriental arose and addressing the missionary said, "I have heard you speak three times and, you constantly have the same theme. Why don't you change it? You always speak of Jesus Christ." The man of God replied, "Sir, before I answer your question, may I ask, what did you have for dinner today?" "**Rice**" replied the Chinese. "What did you have yesterday?" "**The same thing.**" And what do you expect to eat in the future?" the Christian persisted. "**Rice** of course. It gives me strength. I could not do without it. Sir it is" - the Chinese gentleman hesitated as if looking for a strong word. Then he added, "**Sir it is my very life!**" The missionary quickly added. "What you have said of rice, Jesus is to our soul! **He is the rice or BREAD of life.**"

Is Jesus your very life? Is He all you really want from life? Or do you have Him and His fellowship way down on your list of priorities?

DB 1/16/80. The following prayer appeared in a church paper:

Our Father, we are surrounded by gadgets, automatic appliances, and all kinds of labor saving devices. We also have tranquilizers, psychiatry, psychology, motivational research, and the power of positive thinking to help us cope with life.

Still we are confused. **BREAK TO US THE BREAD OF LIFE.**

We have television, transistor radios, movies stereos, automobiles, and spectator sports. Still we are restless and dissatisfied. **BREAK TO US THE BREAD OF LIFE.**

Our Father we admit that life is many things, but it is not what it should be.

Forgive us for the wrong kind of hunger that sits before a table full of luxuries and growls for more while the rest of the world cries for crumbs.

Forgive us for supposing that a man's life consists in the abundance of things which he possesses." Many have chosen to eat the husks of this life rather than the Heavenly Bread of Life.!