

Theme: Jesus is the Bread of Life, Who came down from heaven and was broken for us so that whoever feeds upon Him through believing in Him would have eternal life.

I. Intro - Steve Jobs & the Customer

- A. "Customers don't know what they want"
- B. Built the largest company in the world
- C. This drove him to create products no one knew they wanted
- D. Forbes - don't follow Job's in this idea! Won't work for you!
- E. Maybe we should not in business - but it is certainly spiritually true
- F. Jesus often did this with the crowds - including in John 6

II. The Desire of the Multitude

- A. Background - Feeding of the Multitude (John 6:1-15)
 - 1. Huge crowd had been miraculously fed by Jesus
 - 2. The multitude knew it was a miracle and said Jesus must be the Prophet (v14)
 - 3. The multitude wanted to make Jesus King (v15)
 - 4. The desire of the multitude is wrong - not God's plan
 - 5. Jesus sends away disciples & gets away by Himself
 - 6. Disciples caught in a storm on lake - Jesus comes to them and saves them - "I AM - don't be afraid"
- B. The multitude seeks after Jesus for the wrong reason

- 1. Wrong desires - give us some more bread!
Jesus answered, "I tell you the truth, you are looking for me, not because you saw miraculous signs but because you ate the loaves and had your fill. ²⁷ Do not work for food that spoils, but for food that endures to eternal life, which the Son of Man will give you. On him God the Father has placed his seal of approval." John 6:26-27
 - a. Jesus sees through to their real desires
 - b. Jesus does not give in to these desires
 - c. He tells them what they need - food for eternal life!
 - d. Work for that food - not just temporal bread
- 2. A wrong understanding of Scripture, life, and God
So they asked him, "What miraculous sign then will you give that we may see it and believe you? What will you do? ³¹ Our forefathers ate the manna in the desert; as it is written: 'He gave them bread from heaven to eat.'"
John 6:30-31
 - a. They come back with a request and a Scripture
 - b. But they don't understand Scripture, life or God
 - c. Jesus will then go into a teaching to correct this
- 3. We are like the multitude - desiring the wrong things
 - a. Common to humanity from the Garden onward
 - b. We labor for the temporal rather than the eternal
 - c. We will seek God - on our own terms
 - d. We will follow God - as long as He fulfills our desires

III. What We Need: The Bread of Life

A. Jesus is the Bread of Life that we need

1. Jesus calls Himself the Bread three times

Then Jesus declared, "I am the bread of life... ⁴⁸ I am the bread of life.... ⁵¹ I am the living bread that came down from heaven." John 6:35, 48, 51

- a. Jesus - I AM the Bread of Life
- b. The bread of heaven is not manna, but Me!
- c. I AM what you need for life!

2. Jesus is the True Bread from Heaven

Jesus said to them, "I tell you the truth, it is not Moses who has given you the bread from heaven, but it is my Father who 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." John 6:32–33

- a. Jesus is the True Bread come from heaven
- b. Many Jews believed Messiah would bring manna as Moses had done - but in even greater degree
- c. But manna was only a foreshadow of Jesus
- d. Moses had told them manna was not the real bread
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 8:3
- e. Jesus is saying something even deeper than Moses - I am the True Bread, the True Word that comes from the Lord. You must feed on me!

3. The multitude does not like this and grumbles

At this the Jews began to grumble about him because he said, "I am the bread that came down from heaven." John 6:41

- a. The same response Israel had to manna
- b. This is outlined in the Scripture they quote to Jesus (see John 6:31; Nehemiah 9:15; Ps 78:24-25; Ps 105:40)
- c. Like Israel we grumble about what God gives, because we do not know what we really need.

B. Jesus is the Bread of eternal life

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... ⁴⁸ I am the bread of [life](#)... ⁵¹ I am the living bread that came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, [he will live forever](#). This bread is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world." John 6:35, 48, 51

1. Jesus is the Bread of life
2. Jesus as this is eternal, not temporal bread, so this is eternal life, not temporal life that is in view
3. This is explicit in v51 - live forever
4. Also clear in several other verses in the passage
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 anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever. This bread is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world." John 6:49–51
 - a. The temporal bread - even manna - does not give eternal life

- b. But those who feed upon Jesus have eternal life
- c. Those who feed upon Christ will be nourished with eternal life now, and will be raised up on the last day (see John 6:39-40)

C. To receive eternal life we must feed upon Jesus

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 anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever. This bread is my flesh,** which I will give for the life of the world.” John 6:49–51

1. Jesus says we will not die - if we eat Him
2. He makes this statement even more forcefully

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. ⁵⁷ Just as the living Father sent me and I live because of the Father, so the one who feeds on me will live because of me. ⁵⁸ This is the bread that came down from heaven. Your forefathers ate manna and died, but he who feeds on this bread will live forever.” John 6:53–58

 - a. What on earth does Jesus mean by this?
 - b. How do we eat Jesus’ flesh & drink His blood?
3. We feed upon Jesus through believing in Him
 - a. Jesus speak of coming and believing in v35-37

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. ³⁶ But as I told you, you have seen me and still you do not believe. ³⁷ All that the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never drive away. John 6:35–37

1. Note we eat and drink by coming and believing
 2. He speaks of hunger and thirst because the OT texts they cited (Nehemiah 9:15; Psalm 105:40-41) speak of food and drink
 3. “Believe” or “come (to Jesus)” - 14x in this passage!
 4. Note they are judged for not believing (v36)
 5. Those given by the Father come! (v37)
- b. Jesus equates believing/coming with eating/drinking
- For my Father’s will is that **everyone who looks to the Son and believes in him shall have eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day.**”... ⁴⁷ I tell you the truth, **he who believes has everlasting life...** ⁵⁴**Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day.** John 6:40, 47, 54
1. Same thing spoken in parallel in these verses
 2. Each verse speaks of an action and the result
 3. The results are spoken of in the same terms : eternal life and raised on the last day
 4. The causes are also the same: believing=eat & drink
- c. The work God requires is believing
- Then they asked him, “What must we do to do the works God requires?” ²⁹ Jesus answered, “The work of God is this: to believe in the one he has sent.” John 6:28–29
1. Jesus - there is only one thing God requires - belief

2. Faith is how we access all of God's gifts - including "eating and drinking" Christ

4. The Church has often misunderstood this passage

- a. Jesus is not talking directly about the Eucharist - it did not even exist yet!
- b. He is calling this multitude to turn away from their concern for daily bread to look to their true need - feeding on Him through faith
- c. The Eucharist is a great symbol of us feeding on Christ, but it is no benefit unless we come in faith. Nothing is received apart from faith!

IV. Applying the Word of Jesus the Great I AM

A. Do we see what we truly need is Jesus?

- 1. We are so much like the crowd that day - we don't even know what we need!
- 2. So many today want the church to talk about everything but the Gospel - but this is folly
- 3. Even when we are after things that are important - like food - apart from Christ they lose their meaning
- 4. Only Christ can meet our truest, deepest needs
- 5. And the Good News is this bread and wine is free!
- 6. Come and eat and drink the free gift of Christ today!

B. Feeding upon Christ this week

- 1. We encourage people to fast during this season
- 2. But if we just skip meals we gain little to nothing
- 3. Fast from food to feast upon Christ!!

4. Fast from other activities to spend extra time feasting upon Christ!

5. Behold Him in Scripture and by the Spirit!

6. Meditate upon His glory and His beauty!

7. Look away from sin and look to Him in all of His saving sufficiency!

8. Let this be a week (and season) of feasting on Christ!

C. Feasting on the Bread of Life

- 1. We conclude by coming to the Table
- 2. We do not literally eat Christ's flesh and blood here
- 3. But if we come by faith, through the Holy Spirit we do feast upon Christ in all His glory and saving work
- 4. Confess where we have preferred temporal feasting
- 5. Ask the Spirit to draw you to Christ - and then feast upon His grace!

Jesus Is the Bread of Life

John 6:35

February 14, 2016

Communion

Numbers 6:24-26

Teaching keywords: Deity of Christ; name of God; faith; Lord's Supper; Lent

The Lord bless you and keep you; ²⁵ the Lord make his face shine upon you and be gracious to you; ²⁶ the Lord turn his face toward you and give you peace. Numbers 6:24-26

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." John 6:35