

## Feeding on Jesus to Escape Death and Gain Eternal Life

John 6:52-59 <sup>52</sup> The Jews then disputed among themselves, saying, "How can this man give us his flesh to eat?" <sup>53</sup> So Jesus said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have **no life in you**. <sup>54</sup> Whoever feeds on my flesh and drinks my blood **has eternal life, and I will raise him up** on the last day. <sup>55</sup> For my flesh is **true food**, and my blood is **true drink**. <sup>56</sup> Whoever feeds on my flesh and drinks my blood **abides in me, and I in him**. <sup>57</sup> As the living Father sent me, and I live because of the Father, so whoever feeds on me, **he also will live because of me**. <sup>58</sup> This is the bread that came down from heaven, not like the bread the fathers ate and died. Whoever feeds on this bread **will live forever**." <sup>59</sup> Jesus said these things in the synagogue, as he taught at Capernaum.

### ❖ Introduction

#### ➤ Summary of Sermon

- *Jesus is simply saying: You have no life in you unless you believe in and trust in the physical torture and death of the Son of God as the One and only source of eternal life and removal of sin.*
  - Reread and Expound a little....
- 1) There is Something at Stake
- 2) We Must Feed on Jesus to Escape Death and Gain Eternal Life
- 3) There is One and Only One Way to Win
- 4) Many Fail to Understand

#### ➤ Purpose of the Book of John...

- **John 20:31** <sup>31</sup> but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.
- **By believing you may have life in his name...**
  - This goes beyond just being saved from our sins and gaining a citizenship in heaven
  - For believers this means that you LIVE with LIFE
  - Within You God has placed a fountain of living water
- **And You can Live while on this earth, instead of wasting away your life on earthliness**
  - And you help others to live
  - To help others wake up out of their death sleep

#### ➤ For the Non-Believing Unsaved person here....

- You must complete this Act of Partaking of the Bread that is Jesus...

#### ➤ For the Believer here...

- You must continuously be feeding on the Bread that is Jesus

#### ➤ Remember He is Speaking Spiritually!

#### ➤ Remember the Lord's Supper

### ❖ Recap

- 1) Jesus Is All We Need
- 2) Jesus Knows Man's Disbelief
- 3) Our Life is Secure With Jesus
- 4) We Are Brought To Jesus By the Father
- 5) It is Our Responsibility to Come to Christ
- 6) We Will Be Raised By Christ
- 7) God's Will is Our Assurance

### ❖ Setting

#### ➤ In a Synagogue (at the church)

- <sup>59</sup> Jesus said these things in the synagogue, as he taught at Capernaum.
- Jesus is removed from the setting of the mountain side...
- Those people have continued to follow him as they followed him to the mountain side...

- And now He is at the synagogue

## ❖ There is Something at Stake

### ➤ Death (No Life)

- Vs – 53 “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have **no life in you.**

### ➤ What does it mean to have “no life” in you?

- Have you ever seen anything dead?
- **Spiritually the person is dead... and if they die like this, they will face the second death as well**
  - They have no way to be like Christ...
  - And do not expect them to...
- **You wouldn't expect a mounted deer head to hop down off the wall and walk out your door**
  - And start munching on some grass and drinking some water would you
- **For the Person that has never been saved out of their sins...**
  - They are no more alive spiritually that that deer hanging on the wall...

### ➤ The Bible describes it like this:

- Ephesians 2:1 <sup>1</sup> And you were dead in the trespasses and sins
- Ephesians 2:3 <sup>3</sup> ... carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind.
  - There are so many other verses that describes this way...

### ➤ As Dead as Lazarus' body

- In John 11 (We will see this later in our Journey through John)
- Lazarus' body dies... And they lay his lifeless body in the tomb...
- And Jesus comes along and awakens that dead body...
- This Miracle is a Clear Picture of the Human Soul's Condition...
  - And the power that Jesus has to make it come alive

### ➤ Eternal life is at stake

- We all will continue to exist... Either in Life or in Death
- We can continue on into Eternal Life with God in Heaven and His rewards
- Or we can continue on and exist in the second death in a hell that was prepared as a place of punishment for Satan and His followers...

## ❖ We Must Feed on Jesus to Escape Death and Gain Eternal Life

- Vs 53 - unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have **no life in you.**
- <sup>54</sup> Whoever feeds on my flesh and drinks my blood **has eternal life**
- <sup>56</sup> Whoever feeds on my flesh and drinks my blood **abides in me, and I in him.**
- **so whoever feeds on me, he also will live because of me.**
- **Whoever feeds on this bread will live forever.”**

### ➤ If You do not Feast on Jesus, You have no Life

- You will remain dead in your trespasses and sins...
- And they are many, and they are grievous in the sight of God

### ➤ If You feed on His flesh and blood you have:

- Eternal Life
- Will be Abiding in Christ
- Christ Abiding in You
- You will Live
- You will Live Forever

### ➤ 2 Understandings of eat, drink and feed

- 1) The Completed Condition Act
- 2) The Present Continual Never Completed Act

### ➤ The Technical Meaning of to eat, to drink, and to feed (Can You Comprehend?)

- 8 different times just in these few verses Jesus says we must (eat, drink, or feed)
    - On his flesh or on his blood
  - **In Vs 53 We see the verbs “eat” and “drink”**
    - Vs 53 - unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have **no life in you**.
    - These verbs are Completed Conditional Verbs...
      - ◆ Meaning they must be completed if... you want to live...
      - ◆ This eat the flesh, and drink the blood can be completed...
  - **Then We see the verbs take on a more present tense...**
    - In vs 54, 56, 57 and 58
    - The verbs are in the Present Active Tense.... – Meaning...
      - ◆ They are an action in process at the present time with no thoughts on its completion
  - **We will come back to this, because it is very important... but first...**
- **Why does He use this type of graphic language to describe eternal life**
- **This Should Stand Out...**
    - I really want you to hear this point this morning... Why use this kind of talk..
  - **Why isn't it more like John 3:16**
    - There aren't many pastors/leaders encouraging Christians to memorize these verses...
  - **Why doesn't He continue to just say: Believe on Me....**
    - It means the same thing right?
  - **Remember John the Baptist in John 1 (Behold the Lamb of God!)**
    - **John 1.28 “Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!**
      - ◆ This was a loaded statement... Remember... He was not talking about a cute pet
      - ◆ He was pointing out to everyone why Jesus came...
      - ◆ And it was to die a gruesome death for the sins of mankind...
      - ◆ Being called a Lamb... meant dying as a sacrifice
    - Jesus is doing the same thing here... He is pointing out the way in which He will die
  - **He is Foreshadowing His Death**
    - **John 2:19<sup>19</sup> Jesus answered them, “Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.”**
  - **Jesus is being very Intentional to Point Out what it is about Him that we are believing**
    - Jesus is making sure we see who it is we are believing in
    - We are believing in Him as a crucified, buried and risen Savior
    - This is what makes Jesus so unique as God...
  - **Jesus was constantly trying to explain to people that He came to die...**
    - But many would hear none of that talk...
    - The Jewish people did not expect a Messiah that would come and die...
      - ◆ Even though their Bibles laid it out in great detail, especially in the book of Isaiah...
    - **Even His Disciples didn't understand**
      - ◆ IN Mark 8 Jesus is trying to explain this to them...
      - ◆ And Peter pulls Jesus aside to rebuke Him
    - **In Mark 9**
      - ◆ **Mark 9:31-32<sup>31</sup> for he was teaching his disciples, saying to them, “The Son of Man is going to be delivered into the hands of men, and they will kill him. And when he is killed, after three days he will rise.”<sup>32</sup> But they did not understand the saying, and were afraid to ask him.**
  - **Many Believe in Jesus...**
    - But not like this...
    - Many believe in Jesus as a great Teacher with much wisdom... even better than Confucius
    - Many believe He is God
    - Many believe He was very powerful and did many miracles no one else could do

- **We Must Believe**
    - That He is God, the Son of God, who came in the flesh (becoming like man), so that He could offer up His life as a sacrifice for our lives.
    - He did this because our lives **were and are** full of sin, and this sin would damn us to hell if we did not receive mercy.
    - And We believe these things to be true about ourselves and our terrible state, and We believe these things to be true about who He is, and how His death and resurrection can deliver us!
  - **His Flesh and Blood as the Only Means of Our Justification**
    - It is only through His flesh and blood that we can be made right with God
    - **In His flesh He took our sins**
      - ◆ 1 Peter 2:24 <sup>24</sup> He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed.
    - **By His blood our sins are washed away**
      - ◆ Hebrews 9:22 <sup>22</sup> Indeed, under the law almost everything is purified with blood, and without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness of sins.
      - ◆ 1 John 1:7 <sup>7</sup> ...and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin.
- **What Exactly does He mean by Eat and Drink and Feed**
- **1) Believing**
    - in the way just explained (Completed Conditional Act)
    - We must complete the act of Believing...
    - The way we Partake of this Bread is by Believing... Remember?
      - ◆ John 6:29 <sup>29</sup> Jesus answered them, "This is the work of God, that you believe in him whom he has sent."
  - **2) Being In Union/Fellowship With Jesus (Continuous)**
    - This is where we see the use of the word "abide" ...
    - And this begins at our conversion...
    - And continues as we walk with Jesus...
    - Which leads into the next thing it seems Jesus is getting at here...
  - **3) Jesus as the Word (So important to us as Christians) (Continuous)**
    - In John 1 John refers to Jesus as the Word...
    - **And We know, or should know, that the Word of God = the Bible = Jesus**
      - ◆ We literally hold in our hand the Word of God...
      - ◆ Although the Bible is not Jesus
      - ◆ It has completely come to us through Him...
    - **When We are in the Word of God we are feasting on Jesus...**
      - ◆ 1 Peter 2:2 <sup>2</sup> Like newborn infants, long for the pure spiritual milk, that by it you may grow up into salvation
      - ◆ Psalm 119:103 <sup>103</sup> How sweet are your words to my taste, sweeter than honey to my mouth!
  - **Application:**
    - **You want to inject a little life into your walk with God?**
      - ◆ Is it stagnant and you are running on fumes as a Christian...
      - ◆ You can not grow, and you can not serve unless you are Consistently in the Word of God...
    - **How far does your car go once the gas light comes on...**
      - ◆ I know almost exactly... cause I am close to empty a lot...
      - ◆ In my wife's care it will go 19-21 miles...
      - ◆ In my truck... The light doesn't work... But as soon as the top of the gauge gets even with the bottom of the E-line... I better make a straight line to the gas station
  - **Presently Actively Consistently Feeding on Jesus...**
    - ◆ <sup>56</sup>Whoever feeds on my flesh and drinks my blood **abides in me, and I in him.**
    - As is the case in vs 54, 57 and 58.... Here in vs 56 Jesus is using the Present Active Tense

- ◆ Remember that means we are presently doing this feeding, and we continue on
  - There is no thought of completing this act
- ◆ **He is literally saying:**
  - Whoever presently and continuously feeds on my flesh and drinks my blood
  - Will presently and continuously abide (or live in) me
  - And... I will presently and continuously abide (live in) him...
- **Gnawing on the Word of God...**
  - Remember we looked at how the Bible describes the Word as food....
  - The word “feed” used here 4 times in these verses... literally means... get this....
  - To gnaw on or munch on
    - ◆ What a great way to understand how we are to feed on God’s word...
    - ◆ We are supposed to chew on it a little bit....
- **Remember Back: If you do not feast on Jesus, you have no life**
  - Vs – 53 “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have **no life in you**.”
  - **1) This first and foremost applies to Un-Saved People getting saved**
  - **2) Also, a believer must constantly be Feasting on Jesus in order to live a God filled life**
    - **In Fact: An Strong Argument can be made and won, that if we are not doing this, we have no life in the first place**
      - ◆ Remember... The Doctrine of the Perseverance of the Saints...
      - ◆ If we do not continue on in our faith, it means we will not see heaven and we were never saved...
      - ◆ **Remember what Jesus said about those who are His...**
        - John 6:39 <sup>39</sup> ...that I should lose nothing of all that he has given me, but raise it up on the last day.
      - ◆ **Remember the point Jesus makes about the vines and the branches...**
        - John 15:6 <sup>6</sup> If anyone does not abide in me he is thrown away like a branch and withers; and the branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned.
        - Those who continue in Christ will not be lost, those we do not will be thrown into the fire
- **Summary of eat, drink, and feed**
  - 1) The completed condition action... We must do \_\_\_\_ if we want \_\_\_\_
  - 2) We must continually without an end feed on Jesus...
- ❖ **There is One and Only One Way to Win**
  - <sup>55</sup> For my flesh is **true food**, and my blood is **true drink**.
  - **Jesus came down out of Heaven**
    - <sup>58</sup> This is the bread that came down from heaven, not like the bread the fathers ate and died. **Whoever feeds on this bread will live forever.”**
  - **Jesus Alone is Way to Eternal Life**
    - True Food and True Drink
    - There is no other substitute... Nothing else will give you eternal life...
    - Everything else will only let you down...
  - **Jesus says**
    - John 14:6 <sup>6</sup> Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.
  - **Christianity is Exclusive... Only those who come through Christ are truly Christians...**
- ❖ **Many Fail to Understand**
  - <sup>52</sup> The Jews then disputed among themselves, saying, “How can this man give us his flesh to eat?”
  - **Later many leave:**
    - John 6:66 <sup>66</sup> After this many of his disciples turned back and no longer walked with him.

## ❖ Communion and John 6

- **What is the connection b/w John 6 and the Lord's Supper?**
- **It is a Symbolic Reminder of what we see Jesus saying in John 6**
  - And it is a symbolic reminder of what He did so that we would have life...
- **In the same way that Passover (some of you should understand)**
  - Was a reminder of God delivering Israel out of Egypt...
  - The Lord's Supper is a reminder of Jesus Delivering us out of our sins and keeping us from hell
- **Partaking of the Lord's Supper is not:**
  - Actually eating his real flesh and drinking his real blood
  - The bread and drink do not turn into his flesh and blood
  - And neither do you gain eternal life by partaking in the Lord's supper...
  - **You gain eternal Life By Believing...**
    - Which is how we Spiritually partake of the bread that is Jesus
    - By Believing
- **This is Why it is only for believers..**
  - If you have never truly believed.... There is no reason to take part in the Lord's Supper
  - B/c it is a reminder of something that has happened in your life...
- **So, Communion is for Believers only...**
- **And it is important that Believers not take of the Lord's Supper with Unconfessed Sin**
  - That they are not actively repenting of

## ❖ Invitation