

The Bread of Life

John 6: 41-58

8/29/04

Intro

Early in John chapter 6, Jesus feeds the 5,000 and the crowd is amazed. They were hungry and unable to find food in that desolate place, but Jesus provides “bread from heaven” as it were.

The verses we are studying today discuss issues of life and death and are important to truly understand.

There is a health food store that placed a sign out front that read, “Eat here and live a long life.” Not to be outdone, the BBQ place across the street placed a sign that read, “Eat here and die happy.”

Jesus teaches this lesson by starting with the physical world we know and brings us to the spiritual.

These verses will give us insight into life and death in understanding that Jesus is the Bread of Life.

I. The World is Empty

A. Worldliness doesn't satisfy

- The context of this discussion is the recent feeding of the 5,000. The crowd had followed Him and was seeking for selfish reasons.

- Verses 26-27 – “you seek Me because you ate of the loaves and were filled. Do not work for food that perishes, but the food that endures to eternal life.”
- They then asked for a sign to support His claims and said that Moses gave manna.
- Vs 27, 49 - Jesus responded by saying, “Do not work for food which perishes.” “Your fathers ate the bread in the wilderness and they died.”
- Jesus was making it clear that they needed something that would satisfy their soul.

Proverbs 27:19-20, “As in water face reflects face, so the heart of man reflects man. Sheol and Abaddon are never satisfied, nor are the eyes of man ever satisfied.”

B. It's promises are empty

- There is a message that comes with all the consumerism of the day; that if you try this product or thing, it will be the best thing since peanut butter.

Illus – the cup of coffee that's “good to the last drop,” or the image of the guy driving his new Beamer through the fall leaves as the wind sweeps through his hair.

- They want you to think *I want to be satisfied with life just like that*. But you aren't and you can't be.

Ecclesiastes 5:10, “He who loves money will not be satisfied with money, nor he who loves abundance with its income.”

C. There is no purpose in it

- Man was made to have purpose in his life.
- There is no purpose in worldliness except self-centeredness; and that doesn't satisfy.

Illus – One of the most popular books in the Christian world right now is the “Purpose Driven Life.” It's a great book that touches on a need in all of us – to have a godly purpose in our lives.

- We must be very careful about the words we speak and be sure they are the words the Lord wants said.

Illus – There was an article in the Reader's Digest that said, “Americans love to work.” People are resisting retirement because they love to feel valued and to have a purpose.

II. The Bread of Heaven Fills

A. He satisfies the soul

- After saying that the stuff of this world perishes, He said of Himself...

John 6:33, 35 “For the bread of God is that which comes down out of heaven, and gives life to the world. I am the bread of life; he who comes to Me will not hunger, and he who believes in Me will never thirst.”

- Our soul was made to respond to God. Someone once said that we all have a “God shaped vacuum in each of us.”
- This is the only way to receive God's approval. God has granted that this is the basis of judgment.

B. All who eat of it live

Vs 51

- Without Christ we are dead.
- What does it mean to be dead? We are all breathing, but still we are dead.
- It means being separated from God.

Ephesians 2:1, “And you were dead in your transgressions and sins... But God, being rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in our transgressions, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved).”

- There is a great difference between dying in Jesus and dying without Him.
 - To die with Jesus is to be brought into the presence of God in Christ. (to die is gain)

- To die without Christ is to be brought to a place separated from God.

III. We Must Eat and Drink of Life

- Adam and Eve ate of the forbidden fruit and died
- Jesus said, “eat of the bread of life and drink and you will live.”
- He also said that whoever eats and drinks will...

A. “Abide in Me, and I in you”

Vs 56

- The life Jesus gives is seen in these words “abide in Me and I in you.”
- This speaks to the life we have in God, to the depth of closeness and intimacy with God.

Colossians 3:2-4, “Set your mind on the things above, not on the things that are on earth. For you have died and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ, who is our life, is revealed, then you also will be revealed with Him in glory.”

John 15:4-5, “Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself unless it abides in the vine, so neither can you unless you abide in Me. I am the vine, you are the branches; he who abides in Me and I in him, he bears much fruit, for apart from Me you can do nothing.”

B. We must partake

- Eating and drinking of Christ is an important truth to understand, because it tells us that we must partake.
- It’s not enough to mentally know truth, the truth must be living in you and me.

Illus – You can study about bread, make commentaries about the ingredients, write songs about it, talk about it, even watch other people eat it.

But until you yourself eat of the bread, it will do you no good.

Psalm 34:8 “O taste and see that the Lord is good; how blessed is the man who takes refuge in Him!”

C. Of His life and of His death

- To eat meat with blood in it was offensive to the Jews because it was against the O.T. Law.
- But there is an important truth in what Jesus was saying.
- We must partake of His death and partake of His life.
- We need to have both His death and His life applied to us.

Conclusion

The death and the life of Jesus must be personally applied to each of us. May there be more than just an understanding of the truth, but also a partaking of Christ that we might all truly live in Christ.