

January 27, 2013

I Am The Bread Of Life

Vol. 3 Num. 2

JOHN 6:25-59

Core Competency:

Authority of the Bible- I believe the Bible is the Word of God and has the right to command my belief and action.

¹⁶ All Scripture is inspired by God and is profitable for teaching, for rebuking, for correcting, for training in righteousness, ¹⁷ so that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.” (2 Timothy 3:16-17)

Using This Study

❶ EXAMINE His Word

What does God SAY? The words God uses to communicate matters so pay close attention to the details emphasized or repeated in the passage.

❷ DISCOVER His Word

What does God MEAN? Answer the questions and then bring to your COMMUNITY GROUP to discover and discuss with others.

❸ LIVE His Word

How does this truth FIT? God’s word is lived in real life so engage with truth in your LIFE GROUP.

Introduction

In Jeannette Walls autobiography *The Glass Castle*, she describes what it was like to be a 6th grader living in abject poverty in rural West Virginia.

“At lunchtime, when other kids unwrapped their sandwiches or bought their hot meals...I told people that I had forgotten to bring my lunch. No one believed me, so I started hiding in the bathroom during lunch hour. When other girls came in and threw away their lunch bags in the garbage pails, I’d go retrieve them.”

Jeanette goes on to describe how she would sift through the trash to find and devour partially eaten food that other girls had rejected: part of a boiled egg, slices of pickles, a half-eaten pimento cheese sandwich. Food at school was relatively easy to come by. In the evenings, she and her brother would go foraging for crab apples, berries, feed corn, and paw paws. Most night they went to bed without having eaten much of anything.

Now, imagine that you are a master chef preparing a gourmet banquet for Jeannette. You select all the finest ingredients, the freshest vegetables, the best cuts of meat, and lovingly produce a meal that is unrivaled. It is a culinary triumph, a reward to the palette, a work of cooking genius. You invite Jeanette to come and dine. She comes to the table spread with food prepared specially for her. She is desperately hungry. She looks at the glorious feast before her, sniffs the food arbitrarily, and then runs off to the trash bin to see if she can find any discarded food items. A minute later she triumphantly lifts out a wad of yellow paper which she quickly unwraps to find a few bites left of a big mac hamburger. She eagerly pops it into her mouth and waves a friendly good-bye to you.

This scenario seems absurd. Yet, in this scenario, we are like Jeanette. God has lovingly prepared a feast for us in the person of Jesus, who is the Bread of Life. Yet, somehow, humankind consistently finds reasons to reject God’s invitation to eat of the Bread.

As you study this passage, consider Jesus assertion, “I am the bread of life.” Jesus is inviting you to trust Him, to come to Him, and find true life and sustenance for living. He is here, every day, every moment, waiting for you to come and eat. “No one who comes to Me will ever be hungry, and no one who believes in Me will ever be thirsty again.” He will satisfy the hunger of your soul.

① EXAMINE His Word

What does God SAY? The words God uses to communicate matters, so pay close attention to the details emphasized or repeated in the passage:

John 6:25-59

²⁵ they said to Him, “Rabbi, when did You get here?”

²⁶ Jesus answered, “I assure you: You are looking for Me, not because you saw the signs, but because you ate the loaves and were filled.

²⁷ Don’t work for the food that perishes but for the food that lasts for eternal life, which the Son of Man will give you, because God the Father has set His seal of approval on Him.”

²⁸ “What can we do to perform the works of God?” they asked.

²⁹ Jesus replied, “This is the work of God—that you believe in the One He has sent.”

³⁰ “What sign then are You going to do so we may see and believe You?” they asked. “What are You going to perform?”

³¹ Our fathers ate the manna in the wilderness, just as it is written: He gave them bread from heaven to eat.”

³² Jesus said to them, “I assure you: Moses didn’t give you the bread from heaven, but My Father gives you the real bread from heaven.

³³ For the bread of God is the One who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world.”

³⁴ Then they said, “Sir, give us this bread always!”

³⁵ “I am the bread of life,” Jesus told them. “No one who comes to Me will ever be hungry, and no one who believes in Me will ever be thirsty again.

³⁶ But as I told you, you’ve seen Me, and yet you do not believe.

³⁷ Everyone the Father gives Me will come to Me, and the one who comes to Me I will never cast out.

³⁸ For I have come down from heaven, not to do My will, but the will of Him who sent Me.

³⁹ This is the will of Him who sent Me: that I should lose none of those He has given Me but should raise them up on the last day.

⁴⁰ For this is the will of My Father: that everyone who sees the Son and believes in Him may have eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day.”

⁴¹ Therefore the Jews started complaining about Him because He said, “I am the bread that came down from heaven.”

⁴² They were saying, “Isn’t this Jesus the son of Joseph, whose father and mother we know? How can He now say, ‘I have come down from heaven?’”

⁴³ Jesus answered them, “Stop complaining among yourselves.

⁴⁴ No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him, and I will raise him up on the last day.

⁴⁵ It is written in the Prophets: And they will all be taught by God. Everyone who has listened to and learned from the Father comes to Me—

⁴⁶ not that anyone has seen the Father except the One who is from God. He has seen the Father.

⁴⁷ “I assure you: Anyone who believes has eternal life.

⁴⁸ I am the bread of life.

⁴⁹ Your fathers ate the manna in the wilderness, and they died.

⁵⁰ This is the bread that comes down from heaven so that anyone may eat of it and not die.

⁵¹ I am the living bread that came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread he will live forever. The bread that I will give for the life of the world is My flesh.”

⁵² At that, the Jews argued among themselves, “How can this man give us His flesh to eat?”

⁵³ So Jesus said to them, “I assure you: Unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink His blood, you do not have life in yourselves.

⁵⁴ Anyone who eats My flesh and drinks My blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day,

⁵⁵ because My flesh is real food and My blood is real drink.

⁵⁶ The one who eats My flesh and drinks My blood lives 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; it is not like the manna your fathers ate—and they died. The one who eats this bread will live forever.”

⁵⁹ He said these things while teaching in the synagogue in Capernaum.

② DISCOVER His Word

What does God MEAN? Answer the following questions and then bring to your COMMUNITY GROUP to discover and discuss with others.

1. What are some reasons that people, in real life situations, don't eat? Jesus calls Himself the "bread of life." As you think about this word picture from this passage, how might your answers be linked to reasons why people do not eat the bread of life
2. From verse 26, what reason does Jesus give for the people seeking Him and why is Jesus commenting on this? Take a moment and think about yourself. How are your attitudes like the people Jesus was addressing?
3. Read verses 27-29, how does Jesus answer the people's question, "What must we do to do the work that God requires?" How is this concept foundational?
4. Jesus says that He is the bread of life. Is He also implying that there is a bread of death? If so, give some examples. What do we "consume" to satisfy our appetites that does not satisfy the hunger of our souls?
5. List some practical ways that you, as a believer, can feast on Jesus, the bread of life.

Sermon Notes:

③LIVE His Word

How does this truth FIT? **God's word is lived in real life so engage with truth in your LIFEGROUP.**

How can your community group or your life group better reveal the gospel of Christ?

Read John 13:34-35. How can you help cultivate real community in your life group and your church?

30 CORE Competencies

10 Core Beliefs

Trinity *2 Corinthians 13:14*

I believe the God of the Bible is the only true God - Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Salvation by Grace *Ephesians 2:8-9* I believe a person comes into a right relationship with God by His grace, through faith in Jesus Christ.

Authority of the Bible *2 Timothy 3:16-17*

I believe the Bible is the Word of God and has the right to command my belief and action.

Personal God *Psalms 121:1-2*

I believe God is involved in and cares about my daily life.

Identity in Christ *John 1:12*

I believe I am significant because of my position as a child of God.

Church *Ephesians 4:15-16*

I believe the church is God's primary way to accomplish His purposes on earth today.

Humanity *John 3:16*

I believe all people are loved by God and need Jesus Christ as their Savior.

Compassion *Psalms 82:3-4*

I believe God calls all Christians to show compassion to those in need.

Eternity *John 14:1-4*

I believe there is a heaven and a hell and that Jesus Christ is returning to judge the earth and to establish His eternal kingdom.

Stewardship *1 Timothy 6:17-19*

I believe that everything I am or own belongs to God.

10 Core Practices

Worship *Psalms 95:1-7*

I worship God for who He is and what He has done for me.

Prayer *Psalms 66:16-20*

I pray to God to know Him, to lay my request before Him and to find direction for my daily life.

Bible Study *Hebrews 4:12*

I read the Bible to know God, the truth, and to find direction for my daily life.

Single-mindedness *Matthew 6:33* I focus on God and His priorities for my life.

Spiritual Gifts *Romans 12:4-6*

I know and use my spiritual gifts to accomplish

God's purposes.

Biblical Community *Acts 2:44-47*

I live life with other Christians to accomplish God's purposes in the world.

Giving Away My Time *Colossians 3:17*

I give away my time to fulfill God's purposes.

Giving Away God's Money *2 Corinthians 8:7*

I give away God's money to fulfill God's purposes.

Giving Away My Faith *Ephesians 6:19-20*

I give away my faith to fulfill God's purposes.

Giving Away My Life *Romans 12:1*

I give away my life to fulfill God's purposes.

10 Core Virtues

Joy *John 15:11*

I have inner contentment and purpose in spite of my circumstances.

Peace *Philippians 4:6-7*

I am free from anxiety because things are right between God, me, and others.

Faithfulness *Proverbs 3:3-4*

I demonstrate loyalty in my relationships with others in response to God's loyalty to me.

Self-Control *Titus 2:11-13*

I have the power, through Christ, to control myself.

Humility *Philippians 2:3, 4*

I choose to esteem others above myself.

Love *1 John 4:10-12*

I sacrificially and unconditionally love and forgive others.

Patience *Proverbs 14:29*

I endure patiently under the unavoidable pressures of life.

Kindness/Goodness *1 Thess. 5:15*

I choose to do the right things in my relationships with others.

Gentleness *Philippians 4:5*

I am thoughtful, considerate and calm in dealing with others.

Hope *Hebrews 6:19-20*

I can cope with the hardships of life and with death because of the hope I have in Jesus Christ