

## **Jesus the Bread of Life**

### **John 6:28-35**

28 Then they said to Him, "What shall we do, that we may work the works of God?" 29 Jesus answered and said to them, "This is the work of God, that you believe in Him whom He sent." 30 Therefore they said to Him, "What sign will You perform then, that we may see it and believe You? What work will You do? 31 Our fathers ate the manna in the desert; as it is written, 'He gave them bread from heaven to eat.' " 32 Then Jesus said to them, "Most assuredly, I say to you, Moses did not give you the bread from heaven, but My Father 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." 34 Then they said to Him, "Lord, give us this bread always." 35 And Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life. He who comes to Me shall never hunger, and he who believes in Me shall never thirst.

In John's gospel Jesus has told Nicodemus about a new birth that he must have to get to heaven. He has also told the woman at the well of living water that satisfies thirst but not physical, but rather spiritual. Now Jesus come to talk about bread. They Jews think Jesus is talking about bread made with wheat or barley but He is not. He is talking about a spiritual bread which like the new birth and the living water comes from God alone. We must be conscious that what the crowd is speaking of is not what Jesus is speaking of. They are talking about material bread that can satisfy the body, the flesh. But Jesus is talking about spiritual bread that satisfies the soul.

Remember this all began when Jesus volunteered to feed the multitudes with a few loaves of bread and fish. When the people were filled with the miraculous multiplication of the bread and fish they decide to make Him king. But Jesus withdraws from them and they continue to pursue Him to Capernaum. When they came to Jesus, He firmly told them that it was only because they were filled with the bread and fish that they had pursued Him.

As I said a couple of weeks ago, if Jesus would just feed people and work miracles for them He would be followed by almost everyone. But now Jesus begins to teach them. He upbraids them for their worldliness and short sightedness. He cautions them to not labor for food that only perishes with the eating. But He admonished them to pursue that which leads to eternal life.

He then is so bold to tell them that eternal life comes only from Himself. He tells them that whoever believes in Him has eternal life and that He alone can give eternal life to all those who put their trust in Him alone. We then pick up the text of this morning's message.

- I. They want Jesus to perform a sign that they might have a reason to believe in Him.
  - A. What is the saying, there is none so blind as those who will not see.
  - B. At least some of these people were with Jesus when He fed the multitudes.
  - C. Almost everyone of them has seen Jesus heal the sick.
  - D. So why now do they want another miracle.
    1. Those whose faith is fake can only be retained by ever increasing feats of amazement.

2. Like the drug addict that is never satisfied with the fix they had a few hours ago, but must have it continually and in ever increasing amounts.
  3. That is why in the area of entertainment the old is stale and what was shocking yesterday has lost its appeal.
- E. But Jesus is not in the entertainment business.
- F. Also, in another place Jesus tells them that an evil and an adulterous generation seeks after a sign.
1. They would eventually, as a nation, reject Jesus' greatest sign, His own resurrection.
  2. This was the ultimate sign but they rejected even it.
  3. No wonder Luke is careful to record the account of the rich man and Lazarus, where Abraham says to the rich man that if they will not accept the law and the prophets, that is the word of God, they will not believe even if one should rise from the dead.
- II. They give an illustration of the miracle of the feeding of the children of Israel in the wilderness which they ascribe to Moses.
- A. Jesus tells them that it was the Father in heaven that gave them that bread not Moses.
1. Like people, they had given Moses the credit for this great miracle that took place every day, instead of giving the glory to God.
  2. But Moses had no power at all except God gave it to him.
  3. Yes we certainly have a tendency to worship the creature more than the creator.
  4. It is like admiring a painting or a sculpture as though they had produced themselves.
- III. The same Father who has sent down the True Bread for them.
- A. They think He is speaking of physical bread but He is not.
1. We are so tied to physical results. You put in the effort and you get the result.
  2. You put the ingredients together and you get a cake.
  3. Jesus mentions bread and they begin to have hunger pains.
- B. They ask that He might always give them this bread.
1. To always be satisfied, to never be hungry.
  2. But there is a greater hunger than for bread.
  3. There is a hunger for the spiritual, the eternal, that with gives life for more

than a day but for eternity.

4. But all they can think about is their next meal.

IV. Jesus alone is the bread of life.

A. Bread had a different role in that day than in ours.

1. Bread was the main food.
2. Meat was something they might have only a few times a year at very festive occasions.
3. Most times setting down to a meal meant some bread with some spices and water.
4. Bread was the staple of life.

B. Therefore it made it possible for life.

1. Without bread there would be death.
2. That is the significance of what Jesus now offers them.
3. But He does not offer them physical bread that produces physical life but spiritual bread that produces spiritual life.

V. No hunger or thirst for those who come to Him.

A. What He gives never leaves us wanting more.

B. We are fulfilled, satisfied.

C. Unlike us, Jesus possesses life and give life to those who will humble themselves and come to Him for life, eternal life.