

The Bread of Life

(John 6:32-58)

- I. Our Lord Jesus had recently multiplied loaves and fishes for a multitude. **JOH 6:5-13.**
- A. This had generated an association with the manna given to Israel under Moses. **JOH 6:30-31.**
 - B. Jesus' audience consisted of "the Jews" (**JOH 6:41, 52**) and "his disciples" (**JOH 6:60-61**).
 - C. Jesus here sets Himself forth as the superior bread of life of Whom only some partake unto eternal life, fully entered at "the last day" (**JOH 6:39-40, 44, 53-54**).
 - D. To those who partake of Him, a certain and secure eternity is promised. **JOH 6:54.**
 - 1. They are *all that the Father gave to Him*. **JOH 6:37.**
 - 2. They will unfailingly "come" unto Him. **JOH 6:37-38.**
 - 3. Their "coming" to Him is owing to a gift by the will and power of the Father (**JOH 6:44, 65**), made alive by the Spirit without regard to the will of the flesh. **JOH 6:63 c/w JOH 1:12-13.**
 - E. Whatever this "coming" unto Him was, it was in accord with a teaching by *God*. **JOH 6:45 c/w ISA 54:13.**
 - 1. There is an inward teaching which God alone performs. **MAT 16:16-17.**
 - 2. This teaching by God gives an inward knowledge of God and forgiveness of sins. **HEB 8:10-12.**
 - 3. Herein is a life-giving change apart from human works.
 - F. This discourse was murmured against as an offensive "hard saying" by even many of His disciples. **JOH 6:60-61.**
 - 1. It sounded like Moses' manna implied death, not life. **JOH 6:48-49.**
 - 2. It sounded like cannibalism and blood consumption which they knew was wrong. **JOH 6:52 c/w LEV 17:10.**
 - 3. Christ the Bread was superior to Moses and manna.
 - 4. It implied that Israel was not the sole object of this Bread's provision.
 - 5. The works of the flesh were excluded as profitless.
 - 6. Partakers of Christ would not die, and only them.
- II. Consider the giving of the manna.
- A. It supplied the need of the body, no more.
 - B. It was given to a tempting people of little faith. **PSA 78:19-20 c/w EXO 16:11-14.**
 - C. Moses did not give it; God did by a miracle. **EXO 16:15 c/w JOH 6:32.**
 - D. It was angels' food. **PSA 78:24-25.**
- II. A comparison between the manna and Christ the Bread.
- A. The manna only *sustained* life. Christ *gives* life. **JOH 6:33.**
 - B. The manna could do nothing for a dead man. Christ has power to *quicken the dead*. **JOH 5:21 c/w JOH 17:2.**
 - C. The manna only sustained natural life *temporarily* (**JOH 6:49, 58**). Christ is the Bread of everlasting life. **JOH 6:51.**
 - D. The manna was only for Israel. Christ the Bread of everlasting life was given for the life of the world. **JOH 6:33, 51 c/w 1JO 2:1-2.**
 - E. The manna only temporarily stopped carnal hunger. Those who are partakers of Christ shall never hunger. **JOH 6:35.**
 - F. The manna had to be given *repeatedly* to bring Israel to Canaan. Christ was given *once* to

- bring God's children to glory. **HEB 9:26-28; 10:10-18; 1PE 3:18.**
- G. The manna stopped when Israel entered Canaan (**EXO 16:35**). Christ is continually the bread of life of His people after entering heaven. **HEB 9:24-28.**
- H. Those who ate manna might fall short of Canaan at any day. All who partake of Christ shall certainly come to heaven at the *last day*. **JOH 6:36-40, 54.**
- I. Those who ate the manna could be cast out of Canaan (**DEU 29:24-28**). Those given to Christ the Bread of Life will never be cast out of their inheritance. **JOH 6:37.**
- J. The manna was corruptible (**EXO 16:20**). Christ the Bread sent from heaven is incorruptible with an incorruptible inheritance for His people. **ACT 2:31; 1PE 1:3-4.**
- III. The eating and drinking of Christ is not referring to the ordinance of communion.
- A. These words were spoken long before the institution of the Lord's Supper.
- B. Christ was speaking in the present tense of something that was THEN occurring and which would be fully realized later at the resurrection.
- C. This is a spiritual partaking of Christ: having a part in His humanity and His eternal life.
1. This is not the first time such language applied to identity with Christ. **1CO 10:1-4.**
 2. That was *spiritual* drink, *spiritual* meat of the *spiritual* Rock, Christ.
 3. Those Israelites were partakers of Christ and His eternal life. c/w **JOH 6:54.**
 4. Their dying in the wilderness was owing only to their *lack of faith*, not their *lack of Christ*. **1CO 10:5.**
- D. Christ was setting forth that participation in His humanity is necessary for eternal life.
1. Eating Christ is defined in **JOH 6:57** as *living by Him*. If one has eternal life by Jesus Christ, he is spiritually eating His flesh and drinking His blood.
 2. We have eternal life by the humanity of Jesus Christ. **HEB 2:14; 1TI 2:5-6.**
 3. Note **JOH 6:62-63.**
 - a. The physical presence of Christ would be removed. He would become unseen until His Second Coming. **1PE 1:8; HEB 9:28.**
 - b. The union with the humanity of Christ is through the Holy Spirit Who imparts eternal life without regard to the flesh. **ROM 8:9-11; TIT 3:5.**
 4. "As Man alone, Jesus could not save us; as God alone, he would not; Incarnate, he could and did." (Malcolm Muggeridge)
- IV. Believers may rest assured that they are partakers of Christ and His eternal life. **JOH 6:47 c/w JOH 3:16; 3:36; 5:24; 1JO 5:13.**
- A. Their *belief* is not the cause of their eternal life any more than *seeing* Him is the cause of eternal life. **JOH 6:40.**
- B. To make *belief* a condition for eternal life prior to His coming is to also make *seeing* Him prior to His coming a condition for eternal life, which excludes multitudes.
- C. Belief is the *effect* of eternal life. **JOH 5:24; ACT 13:48.**
- D. Belief is the *evidence* of partaking of an unseen Savior in an unseen heaven. **HEB 11:1.**
- E. Unbelief has no such direct claim on Him.
- V. All who are partakers of Christ shall be raised up at the last day. **JOH 6:54.**
- A. The dead in Christ shall rise first, reunited to their *remains* and perfected. **1TH 4:16; 1CO 15:52.**
- B. Then the living which remain shall rise also. **1TH 4:15, 17.**
- C. No fragments of His life's saving efficacy shall be lost. **JOH 6:12 c/w JOH 6:39.**