

Jesus the Bread of Life

John 6:22-59

Leader Discussion guide

Sermon Summary:

Jesus is the bread of life. People naturally long for physical bread to satisfy their appetite. Jesus likens himself to bread, but makes the distinction that he is bread that completely satisfies, not the stomach, but the soul. When a person eats the bread, it means that he/she comes to Jesus and believes. The bread gives salvation, satisfaction, security, and unity.

Illustrations Used:

- Running on the wall
- Jesus as the bread machine that keeps on producing
- Fishing lure
- Tommy's Burger doesn't satisfy
- Tommy's Burger vs. imitations.

Comprehension Questions:

1. What do the people want Jesus to do in this passage? What do the people need?
2. Pastor Rick quoted a man in his bible study that said, "this (Jesus) stuff works for my brother so I thought I would try it out."
 - a. What is wrong with this approach to Christianity?
 - b. Why should we follow Jesus?
 - c. Application: In what ways do you seek Jesus for the stuff (physical bread) he will give you?
 - d. What do you do if you seek Jesus for the wrong reasons?
3. Verse 35 says that those who come to Jesus will not hunger and will never thirst. It speaks of a satisfaction in Jesus that should shape our life and fight with sin.
 - a. How does eating the bread of life bring satisfaction to the Christian?
 - b. How does eating the bread of life help us fight sin and the temptation of sin?
 - c. How does the fishing lure illustration fit into satisfaction in Jesus vs. temptation to sin?
4. The third thing the bread of life gives is security. One implication of security is that when we sin God does not leave us; in fact, we remain his beloved child even in the midst of sin.
 - a. When we sin, how does God view us?
 - b. As a Christian, when we sin, what must we do to get God to love us again? (trick question!! God's love remains on his children even when we sin.)
 - c. As a Christian, what is going on when it feels like God is far from me after I sin?
5. Discuss the definitions of Union with Christ from Grudem and Hodge.

Application Questions:

1. We daily have to fight against sin. The lure of sin regularly looks promising and satisfying.
 - a. Think in your mind about a sin that you struggle with in an ongoing way.
 - b. Practically, how does eating the bread of life help us fight sin and the temptation of sin? In the moment of sinful temptation, what do we do to fight?
2. When we sin and feel far from God what should we pray? What should we do?
 - a. Pastor Rick said, "Our prayer when we sin, IS NOT, God help me to stop sinning so I can be close to you. OUR PRAYER should be, God come to get me. How does this teach or challenge you?"
3. Eating the bread of life is not only for salvation, it is also for the believer. Our hope is Jesus who is our salvation, satisfaction, security, and unity with him. What part of this truth is most difficult for you? What is God challenging you to believe or do?

Extended Outline:

The setting

v. 59 – the crowd finds Jesus in the synagogue. He is teaching.

v. 25 – The crowd asks, “How did you get here?”

Jesus as always jumps to the important point.

V 26 – Jesus tells us why they are seeking him.

They want to be fed. They want the bread machine to keep on producing. But Jesus says, NO. You think that is what you need but it isn't. We see that today as well. People seek Jesus for the wrong reasons

I was in a Bible study and a man said, “this stuff works for my brother so I thought I would try it out.”

This huge crowd is following Jesus, but they are seeking the wrong thing.

The size of the crowd does not authenticate the truth of a message.

We don't want a big crowd here if we are not seeking and preaching Jesus.

Jesus is going to contrast what they are seeking, with what they really need.

The bread they want vs. The bread they need

The bread they want

They want more of the bread that Jesus gave them in the first part of the chapter.

What is that bread like?

- It perishes, v 27
- It leads to death, v 58
 - There is nothing wrong with regular bread, but it doesn't renew. It doesn't give life. It gives nourishment for a short time but does nothing to stop the process of death that is in us.

That is the HUGE need. Yes they need to eat everyday. BUT they are dying,

This is the HUGE need of people today.

Romans 3:23 – All have sinned

Romans 6:23 – The wages of sin is death.

Eating bread delays the death, but it doesn't cure the death.

They are dying, and they don't know they need something else. There is a bread that conquers death.

The bread they need to be clear, Jesus is the bread

This bread gives 4 things: Salvation, Satisfaction, Security, Unity

1. SALVATION

v. 27 – this bread gives eternal life.

v. 33 – gives life to the world

v. 40 – everyone who looks and believes in him should have eternal life

v. 47 – whoever believes has eternal life

v. 50 – they ate mana and died, eat this and live

v. 51 – eat and live

v. 53-54 – no life in you, life is only in Jesus

v. 57-58 – Live forever

Paul summed up the situation like this in Ephesians 2

“And you were dead in your trespasses and sin in which you once walked...

BUT God being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us made us alive together with Christ.”

Jesus, the bread of life, gives salvation

2. SATISFACTION

v. 35 – never hunger, never thirst – completely satisfied.

This is the same offer he made to the Samaritan woman in chapter 4.

Drink this water and never thirst again.

I have a few favorite places to eat. Most of them involve cheeseburgers and often chili fries.

Tommy's every Sunday night in college.

I smell hops I crave Tommy's.

I eat Tommy's and it is good, but there is always a future date when I crave it again.

Tommy's doesn't satisfy forever.

Jesus is better than Tommy's, he satisfies forever.

Here is another thing about Tommy's

There are a lot of knock offs. Imposters. TOMMIES, etc

When we were living in KY I missed Tommy's. We came back and saw a Tommies in Bakersfield.

There was great rejoicing. Singing, maybe dancing.

Then we got our food. Then I looked closer at the sign, and the logo.

This is our battle with sin.

James 1:14 “Each person is tempted when he is lured and enticed by his own desire.”

Lured/enticed – the idea is similar to the idea of a fishing lure.

Something is dangled out there, that looks so good.

It looks like it will satisfy.

When we sin, we are choosing to put our hope of satisfaction in something other than Jesus.

NOTHING else will satisfy like Jesus. EVERYTHING else will be a cheap rip off that leaves you longing for something better.

Psalm 107:9

Only Jesus can fulfill your hunger and your thirst. He is the only bread that will never leave you empty in the future.

3. SECURITY

Implications and application of this for the Christian:

- This does not mean that we have license to sin. The next point is Unity. You can't be united with Christ and act totally different than him.
- When we do sin.
 - God doesn't leave you
 - We know we are saved by grace but often think we are sanctified by works.
 - When we sin we don't have to do good works to get back on God's side. YOU ARE ON GODS GOOD SIDE
 - Remember the story of the lost sheep? Luke 15 The shepherd goes and gets the sheep
 - So our prayer when we sin, IS NOT, God help me to stop sinning so I can be close to you. OUR PRAYER should be, God come get me.
 - This is what we sang earlier

When I fear my faith will fail, Christ will hold me fast
 When the tempter would prevail, He will hold me fast
 I could never keep my hold through lifes fearful path
 For my life is often cold. HE MUST HOLD ME FAST

Then there is verse two:
 Those He saves are his delight, Christ will hold me fast
 Precious in His holy sight, He will hold me fast
 He'll not let my soul be lost, His promises will last
 Bought by him at such a cost, He will hold me fast

Sometimes when we sin, we get down and depressed. God doesn't love me, he probably doesn't need or want me.

No one sneaks into God's kingdom. No one sneaks the bread off the counter to steal a bite without God knowing.

v. 37 – all the Father gives me will come to me

v. 39 – I will lose nothing of all He has given me

v. 44 – No one can come to me unless the Father draws him

You are secure in Christ, because God was intimately involved in your salvation. DO NOT DOUBT GODS LOVE AND CARE FOR YOU

He is your secure place.

Salvation, Satisfaction, security, and finally Unity

4. UNITY

v. 56 – “whoever feeds on my flesh abides in me, and I in Him
 to abide in is to live in, to dwell in to exist in
 Jesus is saying, We become one with Him.

Here is how two theologians summarize this truth.

We may define union with Christ as follows: Union with Christ is a phrase used to summarize several different relationships between believers and Christ, through which Christians receive every benefit of salvation. These relationships include the fact that we

*are in Christ, Christ is in us, we are like Christ, and we are with Christ.*¹ – Grudem, Systematic Theology

To be in Christ is the source of the Christian's life; to be like Christ is the sum of his excellence; to be with Christ is the fullness of his joy. - CHARLES HODGE

Ultimately, this is the defining truth of who and what the Christian is.

So, We are not only saved, satisfied, and secured. But we also get united with Christ.
He is our hope and our help.

Three responses

1. Work for the bread.
 - a. V. 28, What must we do?
 - b. They missed what he just said, v. 27, don't work for it I will give it to you
 - c. You can't earn Jesus. You can't do enough, ever.
2. Reject the Bread
 - a. v. 41 they grumble about Him. They call Him Rabbi or teacher in v. 25, but reject his teaching.
 - b. V. 51 they argued with each other. They don't understand or refuse to understand what Jesus is saying. So they try to reason through it.
 - c. Summary, they won't except Jesus teaching because it is hard (v. 60)
 - i. It isn't hard because it takes great physical discipline or effort
 - ii. It is hard because it takes great humility put all your hope in Jesus. To trust Him for Salvation, Satisfaction, Security, and Community
3. Eat the Bread
 - a. v. 53-58 – Eat and Drink Jesus. At first reading this seems weird.
 - b. What does it mean to eat and drink? It means to come and believe.
 - i. V. 35, 37, come to, 40 (looks on)
 - ii. V. 29, 35, 40, 47 – believe
 - c. Jesus is using and illustration. What is eating what is drinking?
 - i. It is to ingest
 - ii. It is to digest
 - iii. It is to get nourishment and sustenance from
 - iv. It is to take in what you need for life.
 - v. It is to say, "Jesus you are my only hope of salvation, satisfaction, security, and community. I want and need nothing besides you.

A question people often use when talking about Jesus is, "If you were to die right now, and God said, 'why should I let you into heaven'? What would you say?"

Have you eaten the bread? Have you put your faith in Jesus as your only hope of salvation, satisfaction, security and unity with him? If you have not, Please do so

If you are already a believer, don't lose sight of your hope.

Jesus is your salvation, satisfaction, security, and unity with him.

¹ Grudem, W. A. (2004). *Systematic theology: an introduction to biblical doctrine* (p. 840). Leicester, England; Grand Rapids, MI: Inter-Varsity Press; Zondervan Pub. House.