

Daily Bible Study

“The Only Meal You will Ever Need”

John 6:51-59

November 29 - December 5, 2009

THE LORD'S DAY –God willing, this coming Lord’s Day we will gather together around The Lord’s Table. As we approach the Sacrament of The Lord’s Supper together, I would like to reach back to February of 2004 when we were speaking from The Gospel of John and look at a passage from John’s Gospel. The text deals with Jesus as “*The Living Bread*” and Christ says that he who “*feeds on Me will live...*” This passage is not primarily speaking to The Sacrament of Holy Communion, but The Lord’s Supper does illustrate and demonstrate what Jesus is here speaking of; communion and shared life with Christ by faith. The Lord’s Table is a God given means of grace which helps us to remember the Lord’s death and by faith meet Him and commune with Christ as we share in The Supper. I pray that God’s Word will be a blessing to us as we study it and that we truly would be people who daily “*eat and drink of the Son of Man*”. Read **John 6:51-59**.

The Word Applied: *What truth(s) did I learn from God’s Word today?*

Suggestion for prayer: *Ask the Lord to teach you from His Word this week.*

MONDAY –In our text for this week we find that Jesus is repeating Himself as He elaborates further and reiterates on what He has previously said in **John 6**; namely, “*I am the bread which came down from heaven*” (**6:35-41**). Jesus gives a promise in **verse 51** when He says, “*If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever*”. Jesus does not leave us to our imaginations on what the bread is. He explains in the same verse as He continues, “*...and the bread that I give is My flesh, which I shall give for the life of the world*”. Notice the emphasis on “*I shall give*”. John Calvin comments, “Christ claims for Himself the office of sacrificing His flesh”. No Priest, No Preacher or Minister has this office; it is reserved for The Great High Priest alone (**Hebrews 10:12**). The bread is for the life of “*the world*”. It is available to all, but efficacious only to those who eat it. Read **John 10:18, 19:11**.

The Word Applied: *What truth(s) did I learn from God’s Word today?*

Suggestion for prayer: *Christ, thank You for the sacrifice of Your flesh. Thank You that You came down from heaven and gave it for us and that no one took it from You.*

TUESDAY –You will notice in **verse 52** that the Jews in our text had the same reaction that many have today to such language from Christ. “*How can this man give us His flesh to eat?*” The Scripture says they “*quarreled*” or machomai in the Greek which means to war, to fight, wrangle. It sometimes refers to armed combatants in hand to hand struggle and confrontation. The point here is that they were not “asking” or “inquiring” with honest question but rather they showed their obstinacy and contempt for Christ and His Word. Many people in Scripture have asked for more understanding in an honest manner (i.e. Abraham & Mary). Sadly, the

people in our text are like many people today who actually war against the truth as they fight it and strive against it. They cover their rebellion and pride with a false pretense of humility. As John Calvin said, "...those who dispute so keenly do, indeed, block up against themselves the road to the knowledge of the truth." Read **Proverbs 29:1, Isaiah 48:4, Jeremiah 17:23, 23:29, Hebrews 4:12-13.**

The Word Applied: What truth(s) did I learn from God's Word today?

Suggestion for prayer: O God, help me to not quarrel with Your Word but to humbly hear, listen, obey, and be blessed by it. Thank You for Scriptures power.

WEDNESDAY –In **verse 53** Jesus begins to unfold an analogy and speak metaphorically. I must say again that He is not speaking about partaking of The Lord's Table as in fact He had not yet instituted the Lord's Supper which comes later in His ministry. Furthermore, access to heaven is not granted by partaking of The Sacraments which are but "signs" of inward grace. He is speaking to what the partaking at The Table represents; Spiritual feeding on and believing in the finished work of Christ on the cross where both His blood and flesh were given as a sacrifice (**1 Peter 2:24**). The souls feeds on His flesh and blood the same way the body is sustained by eating and drinking, but the souls feeds by belief (faith) and acceptance. Notice Jesus says, "...unless you eat...you have no life in you." Christ denounces eternal perdition on all who refuse to seek life from His flesh. Apart from His flesh and blood (sacrifice on the cross) man cannot even have real life. Read **Luke 22:19-20, John 1:12-13.**

The Word Applied: What truth(s) did I learn from God's Word today?

Suggestion for prayer: Lord help me to see and believe. May I by faith feed on you, receiving not only forgiveness but strength for each day from your "flesh".

THURSDAY –Jesus reiterates the basic truth again in **verse 54-57** by further explaining this eating & drinking and the eternal rewards in doing so. Christ says that he who eats and drinks of Him by faith "has eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day" (see also - **6:39-40**). It is interesting that "eternal life" is connected to resurrection and that on the final day. This is reminiscent of what Peter says in his Epistle, "...for salvation ready to be revealed in the last time" (**1 Peter 1:5**). Jesus speaks to the partnership and joining of the believer and Himself when He says, "...abides in Me, and I in him". In **Verse 57**, "Christ has explained the manner in which we must become partakers of life. He now comes to speak of the principal cause, for the first source of life is in the Father" (Calvin). Read of the life giving work of The Father through His Son in **John 5:19-30.**

The Word Applied: What truth(s) did I learn from God's Word today?

Suggestion for prayer: Father, thank You that You alone can bring life and breathe life as it were into a dead soul. Thank You for opening my eyes to see my sin and feel the burden of it and then also to see the eternal remedy in my Savior Jesus!

FRIDAY –Are you eating and drinking Christ? Truly believing in Christ includes these four elements that are also found in physical eating and drinking. To eat and drink implies a person has: **1. Appetite** –We must have a hunger for Christ and His righteousness to truly be feeding on Him. **2. Application** –Meat that is only looked at rather than eaten can't nourish us. It must be eaten, taken in (to heart). **3. Delight** –“Jesus Christ and Him crucified” ought to be fine dining to us as believers. Nothing should bring more pleasant and delightful thoughts. **4. Derives Nourishment** –He is our source of dependence, nourishment, strength, vigor and growth. We will live upon Jesus as we do upon our meat and drink. “...abides in Me...” is to truly and intimately be connected with Jesus. It is to remain in the belief of his teaching and persevere, therefore receiving the benefits of his death. Jesus abides in believers by His Spirit and Word (doctrine, teaching). When the Spirit & Word dwell in a man to sanctify him (**John 17:17**); and when Christ's character traits and mindset pervades and dominates his heart; when the Truth is “eaten and drank”, therefore changing and influencing his life, and when he is sustained by the encouragements of the gospel, then it may be said that Christ “abides” in him. Read **Matthew 5:3-12**.

The Word Applied: What truth(s) did I learn from God's Word today?

Suggestion for prayer: God, help me to hunger and thirst for You and for righteousness. Change my heart and behavior, conforming me to my Savior Jesus.

SATURDAY –At the end of our text (**vs. 58**), Christ returns to the subject matter He began with saying, “*This is the bread which came down from heaven*”. Calvin—“He returns to the comparison between *the manna* and *his flesh*, with which he had begun; “There is no reason why you should prefer Moses to me, because he fed your fathers in the wilderness; since I supply you with far more excellent food, for I bring heavenly life with me.” For, the bread is said to have come down from heaven, because it has nothing earthly or corruptible in its nature, but breathes the immortality of the kingdom of God. They, who were only bent on feeding the belly, did not find such virtue in the *manna*. ...the life of the soul is not fading, but makes continual progress until the whole man is renewed.” Read **John 6:60-66**.

The Word Applied: What truth(s) did I learn from God's Word today?

Suggestion for prayer: Father, help me to feed on Christ by faith through the Spirit.