

February 16, 2014

Lesson 19: Bread of Life



John 6:35-59

Jesus said to them, 'I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty. But I said to you that you have seen me and yet do not believe. Everything that the Father gives me will come to me, and anyone who comes to me I will never drive away; for I have come down from heaven, not to do my own will, but the will of him who sent me. And this is the will of him who sent me, that I should lose nothing of all that he has given me, but raise it up on the last day. This is indeed the will of my Father,

that all who see the Son and believe in him may have eternal life; and I will raise them up on the last day.'

Then the Jews began to complain about him because he said, 'I am the bread that came down from heaven.' They were saying, 'Is not this Jesus, the son of Joseph, whose father and mother we know? How can he now say, "I have come down from heaven"?' Jesus answered them, 'Do not complain among yourselves. No one can come to me unless drawn by the Father who sent me; and I will raise that person up on the last day. It is written in the prophets, "And they shall all be taught by God." Everyone who has heard and learned from the Father comes to me. Not that anyone has seen the Father except the one who is from God; he has seen the Father. Very truly, I tell you, whoever believes has eternal life. I am the bread of life. Your ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness, and they died. This is the bread that comes down from heaven, so that one may eat of it and not die. I am the living bread that came down from heaven. Whoever eats of this bread will live for ever; and the bread that I will give for the life of the world is my flesh.'

The Jews then disputed among themselves, saying, 'How can this man give us his flesh to eat?' So Jesus said to them, 'Very truly, I tell you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you. Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood have eternal life, and I will raise them up on the last day; for my flesh is true food and my blood is true drink. Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood abide in me, and I in them. Just as the living Father sent me, and I live because of the Father, so whoever eats me will live because of me. This is the bread that came down from heaven, not like that which your ancestors ate, and they died. But the one who eats this bread will live for ever.' He said these things while he was teaching in the synagogue at Capernaum.

Bread of Life

John 6:35-59

"I Am
the bread of life."

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The Big Story Truth: Jesus gives the miraculous gift of himself- his own flesh and blood- for the life of the world.

About This Scripture Passage: Just before this passage is the story of Jesus feeding the 5,000. Jesus miraculously fed all these people with just 5 loaves of bread and two fish. The crowds followed Jesus. Jesus confronts them about why they are searching for him. Are they really looking for him or just more bread? This sparks a whole conversation about bread and the kind of bread that Jesus provides. It's clear from Jesus' ministry that he can provide the kind of bread that we have for lunch.... but the gospel reveals that we have a much bigger need. We need Jesus. We need for Jesus to provide more than just another meal. We need Jesus to give us real and eternal life. Jesus uses the occasion of having fed the crowd with bread to reveal that what we really need is his flesh and blood. We

needed Jesus to become flesh and blood for us. And we needed Jesus to give up that flesh and blood for us. Our receiving the gift of life that God intends for us to have comes by means of the flesh and blood of Jesus. A free meal is great... just like manna in the wilderness was great. But what Jesus came to give is so much more!



Making the Connection: Eating flesh? Drinking blood? It sounds like we are talking about the latest vampire movie! No, we're talking about Jesus and about the gift of life he offers. Kids know what it is like to be hungry. (Some kids may know painfully too well.) It's hard to think of ANYTHING being more important than having food. But Jesus is saying that there is. Being with God is even more important than food. It's important though to remember that Jesus didn't tell the crowds that until after he had fed them. God knows that we need lunch. That's why God provided the gift of manna for the Israelites wandering in the desert. It's why Jesus provided a big meal that fed a crowd of 5,000. But God also provides more. God makes a way for us to be with him forever. That's why Jesus is the best gift of all!

Where in the World Are We? Jesus is teaching in the synagogue at Capernaum.

For Your Reflection:

*What are you hungry for today?
Is it a physical hunger?
A spiritual hunger?
Both?*



