



Lesson #23, The Book of John

Presentation by Gerald E. Cumby

John 6:47-51, “Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me has everlasting life. I am the bread of life. Your fathers ate the manna in the wilderness and are dead. This is the bread which comes down from heaven, that one may eat of it and not die. I am the living bread which came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever; and the bread that I shall give is My flesh, which I shall give for the life of the world.”

He who believes in Me has everlasting life:

- We read this staggering statement with two (2) main thoughts in mind.
 1. First, *what it means to “believe” in the sense Jesus meant*; that is, to trust in, rely on, and cling to.
 2. We think of *this astounding claim*. No other prophet or “holy man” of the Bible ever said such a thing; “Believe **in me** and find **everlasting life**.”
- *A continued theme...Belief in Jesus and what He was teaching...and you will have eternal life. It was good for Nicodemus (and it is good for ALL who are willing to believe it).*
THAT STATEMENT HAS CONTINUED TO BE THE TRUTH UNTIL TODAY AND WILL BE TRUTH TOMORROW!

I am the bread of life: Jesus repeated this metaphor again and again.

- ✓ As bread is necessary for physical life, so Jesus is necessary for spiritual and eternal life.
- ✓ The spiritual bread Jesus offers is even greater than the manna Israel ate in the wilderness. What they ate only gave them temporal life (temporary satisfaction); what Jesus offers brings eternal life.

I am the living bread which came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever:

- ✓ Jesus spoke in a figure of speech. The metaphor of eating and drinking was common in Jesus’ day and pointed to a taking within one’s innermost being.
- ✓ “He is saying: ‘You must stop thinking of me as a subject for theological debate; you must take me into you, and you must come into me; and then you will have real life.’” (Barclay)

The bread that I shall give is My flesh, which I shall give for the life of the world:

- ✓ Jesus plainly explained what He meant by **bread** in this context. That bread was His **flesh**, given **for the life of the world**.
- ✓ It was His soon-coming work on the cross when He gave His life as a sacrifice pleasing to God the Father and as a substitute for guilty sinners.
- ✓ Jesus explained that receiving Him as *bread* was not receiving Him as a great moral teacher, example, or prophet. It was not receiving Him as a good or great man or noble martyr. It was receiving Him in light of what He did on the cross, His ultimate act of love for lost humanity.

John 6:52, “The Jews therefore quarreled among themselves, saying, “How can this *Man* give us *His* flesh to eat?”

- It’s probable that the Jewish leaders **willfully misunderstood** Jesus at this point. He just explained that the bread was His body that would be given as a sacrifice *for the life of the world* (John 6:51). They **willfully twisted His words to imply a bizarre cannibalism**.
- The result of Jewish leaders quarreling among themselves:
 - ✓ “They differed in their judgment of Him.
 - ✓ Some impatiently denounced Him as insane; others suggesting that there was truth in His words.” (Dods)

SOME PEOPLE (INCLUDING THEOLOGIAN) DISCOUNT A RIVAL’S WORDS AS HERESY. THEY LOOK FOR “LIKE PEOPLE” AND THEIR BELIEFS/WORDS TO PROVE OR UPGRADE THEIR OWN BELIEF. IT STILL DERIVES FROM A JEALOUS AND ENVIOUS ATTITUDE IN ORDER TO PROVE A POINT.

NOTE: THERE ARE NARCISISTS NOW AND THERE WERE NARCISISTS THEN.

NARCICIST: A “I AM RIGHT; YOU ARE WRONG” BELIEF SYSTEM THAT WILL GET WORSE AS TIME GOES ON...UNLESS THE CROSS, THE HOLY SPIRIT’S CONVICTION STEPS IN.

John 6:53- 59, Then Jesus said to them, “Most assuredly, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink His blood, you have no life in you. Whoever eats My flesh and drinks My blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day. For My flesh is food indeed, and My blood is drink indeed. He who eats My flesh and drinks My blood abides in Me, and I in him. As the living Father sent Me, and I live because of the Father, so he who feeds on Me will live because of Me. This is the bread which came down from heaven—not as your fathers ate the manna, and are dead. He who eats this bread will live forever.” These things He said in the synagogue as He taught in Capernaum.

Unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink His blood, you have no life in you:

- Jesus responded to their willful misunderstanding by speaking even more boldly, amplifying the point made at John 6:51 – His “**flesh**” was His willingness to lay down His life for “the salvation of the believer.”
- *Bread of life* is a metaphor. *Bread from heaven* is a metaphor. *Living bread* is a metaphor. *Bread of God* is a metaphor. It shouldn’t surprise us (or the Jews) that Jesus extends the bread metaphor to His actual, soon-to-come sacrifice on the cross.
- The crucified and risen Jesus must be received and internalized – metaphorically speaking (eating) – or there is no true spiritual **life**, no **eternal life**.

My flesh is food indeed, and My blood is drink indeed:

- The sacrificed life of Jesus *is* **food** and **drink** for the hungry and thirsty soul.
- When we receive and take Jesus Christ as a sacrifice for us (into our spirit man), we truly abide in Jesus, and He in us (**abides in Me, and I in him**).
- Such radical statements offend many; in part this was Jesus’ intent. In response to those who twisted His words and meaning, He made the metaphors *stronger*, not weaker. Jesus said, “You hear what you want to hear.”

NOTE: I FIRMLY BELIEVE THE ENEMY (SATAN) IS TRYING TO DESTROY THE CRUCIFIED CHRIST/BLOOD OF CHRIST PREACHING. WE GINGERLY PLAY ON FLOWEREDY, PEACEFUL, AND TRANQUIL WORDS COMING FROM THE PULPIT AND IN OUR BIBLE STUDY CLASSES TO AVOID MENTIONING THE HORROR OF THE CROSS...AND WHAT JESUS HAD TO EXPERIENCE BEFORE AND WHILE ON THE CROSS.

WHY? TO NOT OFFEND OR CAUSE THE “LITTLE ONES” TO HEAR AND EXPERIENCE WHAT WAS DONE FOR US ON THE CROSS.

WITHOUT THE BLOOD, THERE WOULD BE NO SALVATION!

WITHOUT THE BLOOD, THERE WOULD BE NO SINNERS IN HEAVEN (Saved by the Blood of the Lamb)!

WITHOUT THE BLOOD, THERE WOULD BE HELL FOR ALL OF US!

Hebrews 9:22b, “...without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness of sins.”

THE EVIL ONE IS “STIRRING THE POT” FOR THE DESTRUCTION OF OUR DENOMINATIONS AND LARGE CONGREGATIONS ALL OVER THE COUNTRY. HE DESIRES TO DESTROY THE CHRISTIANS WHO STAND UP FOR THE TRUTH AND DESIRE TO HEAR THE WORD PREACHED WITH CONVICTION!

- **He who feeds on Me: He who eats this bread will live forever:** “

“In eating and drinking, a man is not a producer, but a consumer; he is not a doer or a giver forth; he simply takes in. If a queen should eat, if an empress should eat, she would become as completely a receiver as the pauper in the workhouse. Eating is an act of reception in every case. So it is with faith: you have not to do, to be, or to feel, but only to receive.” (Spurgeon)

- Jesus offers us heavenly bread for eternal life, but we must *eat* it. Faith in Jesus is not compared with *tasting* or *admiring*, but with *eating*. Jesus says that we must have Him within us, and we must partake of Him.
 - ✓ Seeing a loaf of bread on a plate will not satisfy our hunger.
 - ✓ Knowing the ingredients in the bread will not satisfy our hunger.
 - ✓ Taking pictures of the bread will not satisfy our hunger.
 - ✓ Telling other people about the bread will not satisfy our hunger.
 - ✓ Selling the bread will not satisfy our hunger.
 - ✓ Playing catch with the bread will not satisfy our hunger.
 - ✓ Nothing will satisfy our hunger and bring us life except actually eating the bread. **He who eats this bread will live forever.**
- **These things He said in the synagogue as He taught in Capernaum:**
 - ✓ Teachers in the synagogue has others to ask question and make statements.
 - ✓ Jesus knew what they were thinking before they asked.

John 6:60, “Therefore many of His disciples, when they heard *this*, said, “This is a hard saying; who can understand it?”

- ✓ This refers to that which is **hard** to accept, not to what is hard to understand.
- ✓ ONE OF THE RADICAL STATEMENTS BY JESUS (RED LETTER LIVING).



Enduring Word Bible Commentary John Chapter 6, David Guzik