THE BREAD OF LIFE

**DATE: 8/5/2018 am**

**TEXT: John 6:22-35**

**INTRODUCTION**

We are continuing to study the Gospel of John

Specifically, the Portraits of Jesus he paints for us

We’ve seen many beautiful portraits painted

As this great chapter opens, we find Jesus preaching to a hungry multitude

As He finishes His message, He is aware that they need food for their bodies, so, He does that which only God Himself could do

He takes 5 small loaves, and 2 small fishes and feeds a multitude (between 15,000 & 20,00 people)

After all the people were satisfied the disciples took up 12 baskets filled with the fragments of this miracle

One basket for every doubting disciple!

This remarkable miracle served as a life-sized illustration for a sermon that Jesus was about to preach, a portion of which we have just read

In this passage, we are presented with a new Portrait of the Lord Jesus Christ

In this passage, Jesus is presented as **The Bread of Life**

This is an interesting Portrait of Jesus, …

… because Bread is a substance known and used by every society on the face of the earth

From the American who goes to the store to buy his bread to the aborigine who cooks his daily ration of bread on a stone beside the fire, bread is consumed by people everywhere

By the same token, most people enjoy their bread

While some like meat and others don't, or some like greens and others don't, most people like bread

Bread is one of the few foods that can be tolerated by most digestive systems

Also, bread has a satisfying quality that few other foods have

Any way you slice it, bread is good, and it is a food that most people Need, Use and Enjoy

When all this is taken together, it becomes clear why Jesus portrayed Himself as The Bread of Life

This morning, as we take the time to dissect these words of the Lord,

I want you to see that Jesus is still The Bread of Life

He is what the whole world needs, He satisfies all those who partake of Him,

There isn't a person in the world who can't tolerate Him,

And there isn't a person who won't enjoy Him when they meet Him

Therefore, let's spend a few minutes this morning in these verses and look together at **Jesus: The Bread of Life**

**~~~Prayer~~~**

**I. HIS “PERSONALITY”**

Let’s look at the Personality of Heaven’s Bread

Let’s look at several things about the **Bread of Life**

**A. Heaven’s Bread is a Person – v. 35 a**

***“And Jesus said unto them, I am the bread of life:”***

According to this verse, the Bread of Heaven is not a system or a denomination, but a Person

This truth simply serves to remind us that we can never be saved by some religious system or method

Salvation comes through Jesus and Jesus alone!

**Acts 4:12** reminds us that **– *“Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved”***

**B. Heaven’s Bread has Power – v. 35 b**

***“he that cometh to Me shall never hunger; and he that believeth on Me shall never thirst”***

This Heavenly Bread has the Power to Save, Secure and Satisfy every person who comes to Him by faith

This is what separates Jesus from all the religions and self-proclaimed messiahs of the world

While they promise great things, in the end, they only deliver death

**Proverbs 16:25 – *“There is a way that seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death”***

I can’t tell you for sure what happens after death

(Outside of what the Bible tells us)

But I can certainly tell you what He is doing for me now

And, He’s delivered every time!

I don't know about you, but that is the kind of Saviour to which I want to give my heart

**C. Heaven’s Bread has a Promise – vs. 47-51 …**

Jesus Promises Life, Salvation, Security, Satisfaction and absolute Safety for the soul of man

These verses tell us that Heaven's Bread will give man Eternal life

Physical bread can sustain human life for a long period of time

However, after time, the body will still die, even though it has been well fed

Jesus, on the other hand, is the Bread that gives Everlasting Life

When Jesus is received, He gives a salvation that lasts for all eternity

Nothing can ever take that away from the saint of God

The simple fact is this, ever person who places their faith in Jesus (for salvation) is going to live forever!

**D. Heaven's Bread has a Price – v. 53**

***“Then Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except ye eat the flesh of the Son of man, and drink His blood, ye have no life in you”***

Before Heaven's Bread can be enjoyed, it must first be received by someone

This is a simple enough thing, but many seem to stumble right here

They can believe that Jesus is real, that He died on the cross, and even that He rose from the dead

However, to make His sacrifice, and the salvation He offers a reality in our life, we must come to Him by faith and be born again!

Ill. Imagine that you are invited to my house for dinner

I pass you a plate of freshly baked bread

I pass it to you and say, *“Have a piece?”*

You say *“Yes, thank you, I would love one”*

But, instead of reaching out and taking one, you simply sit there and smile

I say, *“I thought you wanted a piece!”*

You respond, *“Oh I do!”*

My response would be, *“Well, if you want it, you are going to have to take it and eat it”*

Salvation works the same way

Jesus has already done everything that is necessary to save the sinner

He died on the cross, He rose from the dead and He calls the sinner to come to Him

He has done all that He can do

Before you can be saved, you are going to have to come to Him by faith

It won't cost you a dime to be saved,

**Isaiah 55:1 – *“Ho, every one that thirsteth, come ye to the waters, and he that hath no money; come ye, buy, and eat; yea, come, buy wine and milk without money and without price”***

**Revelation 22:17 – *“And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely”***

But it does require that you believe Him by faith

Notice **v. 47 – *“Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on Me hath everlasting life”***

To be saved, you must ***“believe”*** in Jesus

This word simply means *to rest your weight totally upon something*

It isn't Jesus plus this or that, it is Jesus alone that saves the soul of man!

**THE “PERSONALITY” OF HEAVEN’S BREAD**

**II. HIS “PRESENTATION”**

Let’s look at the Presentation of Heaven’s Bread

This is not the first time the Bible as talked about Jesus being the Bread of Life

The Bible as presented the Saviour as the Bread of Life thru-out the Scriptures

Let me show you the best of those examples

**A. Illustrated by ‘Manna’ – vs. 30-33 …**

The Jews come to Jesus and request a miracle

(What did they call the feeding of the 5000?)

And they remind Jesus of the Old Testament miracle of the Manna

They tell Jesus that Moses gave the children of Israel Manna, and they want to know what He is going to do

Jesus’ response is to remind them that Moses was not responsible for the Manna,

**v. 32 – *“Then Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Moses gave you not that bread from heaven; but my Father giveth you the true bread from heaven”***

But that it was the provision of God

He goes on to tell them that the True Bread from Heaven is a person

In fact, it is Jesus Himself who is the Bread of Life

**v. 33 – *“For the bread of God is He which cometh down from heaven, and giveth life unto the world”***

What Jesus is saying is that the Manna was a type of Himself

Notice the various ways that the Manna speaks of Jesus

**1.** It was *Small* - **Exodus 16:14**

***“And when the dew that lay was gone up, behold, upon the face of the wilderness there lay a small round thing, as small as the hoar frost on the ground”***

This speaks of Christ's humility

He wasn't born in a king's palace, but in a manger

He lived a poor life all the time he was in this world

**Matthew 8:20 – *“And Jesus saith unto him, The foxes have holes, and the birds of the air have nests; but the Son of man hath not where to lay his head”***

He did this that He might identify with you and I

**2.** It was *Round* – **Exodus 16:14**

Something that is round has no beginning and no end

This speaks of Christ's eternal nature

Jesus did not have His beginning in Bethlehem,

But He has always been

**John 1:1 – *“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God”***

Jesus is the Eternal Son of God!

There has never been a time when He wasn't, there will never be a time when He will not be!

He is the Great I AM!

**3.** It was *White* – **Exodus 16:31**

***“And the house of Israel called the name thereof Manna: and it was like coriander seed, white;”***

This reminds us of the sinless, holy nature of the Lord Jesus Christ

White speaks of Purity

He was born without sin, lived without sin and died without sin

He was absolutely impeccable in His character

Jesus is the sinless Son of God

**I Peter 2:22 – *“Who did no sin, neither was guile found in His mouth:”***

**II Corinthians 5:21 – *“For He hath made Him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him”***

**4.** It *came at* *Night* - **Exodus 16:13,14** …

Tells us that the Manna was deposited over night

Jesus came to a world lost in spiritual darkness …

… and gave them light and life

**5.** It was *Misunderstood*  - **Exodus 16:15**

The name Manna means, *What is it?*

Jesus was misunderstood by the very people He came to save

**John 1:11 – *“He came unto His own, and His own received Him not”***

**John 10:20 – *“And many of them said, He hath a devil, and is mad; why hear ye Him?”***

By the way, He is still misunderstood!

He is more than a teacher, a prophet, a poor unfortunate man who got Himself killed

He is the Son of God!

He is the King of Kings and Lord of Lords!

**6.** It was *Sufficient* -**Exodus 16:17,18**

Tells us that everyone always had just the right amount

This reminds us that Jesus is the all-sufficient Saviour

He meets every need of man's soul

Some go deep into the Christian life

Others get in, but stay close to the edge

Wherever you find yourself, if you’re trusting Jesus,

You will find that He is sufficient to save and keep your soul

It is said that to feed the Millions in the Wilderness

God gave them approximately 240 boxcars of Manna per day for 38 years

**7.** It was *Sweet* – **Exodus 16:31**

Tells us that it tasted like Honey

Those who partook of the Manna found it sweet and satisfying

By the same token, all those who receive Jesus as their Saviour find Him to be sweet and satisfying to the soul

That is why we are encouraged by David in **Ps. 34:8** to ***"taste and see that the LORD is good”***

**8.** It was *to be Passed on* – **Exodus 16:32**

Tells us that God wanted them to fill a pot with the manna to show to other generations

Jesus is the same, He is to be showed to those who cross our path

We are to be certain that we share Him with the next generation,

Because we are only one generation away from extinction as a people at any given time

**II Timothy 2:2 – *“And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same …***

***… commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also”***

**Illustrated by the ‘Manna’**

**B. Illustrated by the ‘Miracle’ – vs. 1-13**

In feeding the 5,000, Jesus Presented a type of Himself

He is shown Caring, Providing, and Satisfying the multitude

The implication is that Jesus, like the physical loaves and fishes, is sufficient for the need of mankind

Jesus is the all-sufficient Saviour

Notice in **v. 11** that every man took ***“as much as they would”***

Then after they had filled themselves, there was still an abundance left over – **v. 13**

Even though hundreds of millions have been saved by the grace of God, there is always grace for one more!

Jesus is sufficient for the needs of the entire world!

Men wear themselves out trying to please God through religion and religious practices

But Jesus is the answer for the need of mankind

He is received, just like the bread on the mountain, by simple faith

All the multitude had to do was take what the disciples passed their way

It works the same for the sinner!

All the lost man has to do is receive Jesus by faith and salvation is the result – **Ephesians 2:8,9**

**Illustrated by the ‘Miracle’**

**C. Illustrated by the ‘Master’ – vs. 52-58 …**

This is a passage that has been misinterpreted over the century

Jesus says that He is the ultimate bread

The Israelites ate of the Manna in the wilderness and eventually they died

The crowd was filled on the mountainside, yet eventually, they died too!

Jesus is the anti-type of the Manna

All that it was, He exceeds

Jesus is greater than the bread given out on the mountainside

All who partake of Him will live forever

His guarantee is that they will never die!

His guarantee is one of eternal life to all who come to Him,

**John 10:28 – *“And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of My hand”***

After all, Jesus is the real Bread!

**HIS “PERSONALITY”**

**HIS “PRESENTATION”**

**III. HIS “PERFORMANCE”**

Let’s look at the Performance of Heaven’s Bread

**A. Heaven’s Bread ‘Grants Salvation’ – v. 51**

***“I am the living bread which came down from heaven: if any man eat of this bread, he shall live for ever: and the bread that I will give is My flesh, which I will give for the life of the world”***

Man can try any method of salvation he chooses

That doesn’t mean it’s right

God has created us with a free will

We have the ability to choose how we will live our lives

However, regardless of how a man lives or what path he chooses …

Salvation will never be produced in the life of any person unless they come to Jesus Christ by faith

That may seem narrowminded and simplistic, but that is what the Bible teaches and that is how it will all play out!

There are not many things in life that I can guarantee

I do not know what will happen to the President

I do not know what will happen with the economy

I do not know what will happen next week or next year

But, I do know that every sinner who comes to Jesus by faith, repenting of his sins and accepting Jesus as Saviour, will be saved by the grace of God and will live forever in Heaven someday!

I know this because I have the Word of God on the matter

**Heaven’s Bread ‘Grants Salvation’**

**B. Heaven’s Bread ‘Bring Satisfaction’ – v. 35**

***“And Jesus said unto them, I am the bread of life: he that cometh to me shall never hunger; and he that believeth on me shall never thirst”***

We've already touched on this aspect

But suffice it to say that those who come to the Lord Jesus Christ are eternally Satisfied

They no longer have to drink from the broken cisterns of this world

(i.e. The methods and the activities of the world)

But find themselves tapped into a source of life and blessing that never runs dry

There is abundant satisfaction for the Child of God

This world can never satisfy the longings of the human soul

In Greek mythology, a King by the name of Tantalus was punished in the underworld by being chained in a lake

Its waters reached to his chin but receded whenever he bent down to satisfy his thirst

Over his head were branches laden with choice fruit, but they immediately withdrew whenever he reached upward to satisfy his hunger

A symbol of utter frustration, his name is immortalized in the English word *“tantalize”*

So, too, seeking to know God, or to satisfy the human soul apart from Christ is utterly futile

**Heaven’s Bread Bring ‘Satisfaction’**

**C. Heaven’s Bread ‘Guarantees Our Security’ – vs. 37-40..**

These verses tell us beyond any shadow of a doubt that those who place their trust in the lord Jesus Christ need never fear being cast away or forgotten about

Faith in Jesus guarantees us perfect and absolute security in our salvation relationship

Jesus didn't save us to lose us along the way

He saved us to take us home with Him someday

Many doubt the security of the believer

They feel that their security depends upon them and what they can do

They have the opinion that they are responsible for maintaining their salvation and that if they let down their guard, or if they are guilty of some sin or another they will lose what they have and will have to get it all over again, if they don't die first

This couldn't be any farther from the truth!

Salvation is the gift of God

It is a forever work

Man has nothing to do with it

Man cannot Earn it, Keep it or Lose it

Salvation is totally a work of the Almighty

And, when He gives it, He gives it forever!

Those who are saved by the grace of God are absolutely secure in their salvation!

**CONCLUSION**

From these verses, it is plain to see that Jesus is the only hope for the world

He is what the soul of man needs before it can experience eternal life

The question that comes to us at this point is this:

What have you done with Jesus?

Have you received Him into your heart and life?

Are you secure in His salvation this morning?

If something were to happen to you and you died, where would your soul spend eternity?

You can only honestly say Heaven … if you have eaten Heaven's Bread

What I mean is this: You are only saved if you have come to Jesus as a sinner, have confessed your sin and have placed your faith in Jesus alone for salvation

Do you know The Bread of Life in a personal way?

If not, you can if you will come to Him right now

Will you do what He calls you to do?

Will you come to Jesus?

**HIS “PERSONALITY”**

**HIS “PRESENTATION”**

**HIS “PERFORMANCE”**

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