

## “Jesus: The Bread of Life”

The Vine Series... John 15:5

### SCRIPTURE

John 6: 25-35 (NIV)

When they found him on the other side of the lake, they asked him, “Rabbi, when did you get here?”<sup>26</sup> Jesus answered, “Very truly I tell you, you are looking for me, not because you saw the signs I performed but because you ate the loaves and had your fill. <sup>27</sup> Do not work for food that spoils, but for food that endures to eternal life, which the Son of Man will give you. For on him God the Father has placed his seal of approval.”

<sup>28</sup> Then they asked him, “What must we do to do the works God requires?” <sup>29</sup> Jesus answered, “The work of God is this: to believe in the one he has sent.” <sup>30</sup> So they asked him, “What sign then will you give that we may see it and believe you? What will you do?” <sup>31</sup> Our ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness; as it is written: ‘He gave them bread from heaven to eat.’<sup>[a]</sup><sup>32</sup> Jesus said to them, “Very truly I tell you, it is not Moses who has given you the bread from heaven, but it is my Father who gives you the true bread from heaven.

<sup>33</sup> For the bread of God is the bread that comes down from heaven and gives life to the world.”<sup>34</sup> “Sir,” they said, “always give us this bread.”<sup>35</sup> Then Jesus declared, “I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never go hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty.

**Subject Question:** According to John’s gospel account, what is Jesus’ own take on His role as the Bread of Life?

**Compliment answer:** Jesus is Bread for the Father, Jesus is Bread from the Father and Jesus is Bread for the Elect.

**Big Idea:** According to John’s gospel account, Jesus’ own take on His role as the Bread of Life is: Jesus is Bread for the Father, Jesus is Bread from the Father and Jesus is Bread for the Elect.

**Homiletical Idea:** “God is Feeding”

**Purpose:** I want the congregation to consider the grace and the importance of their “spiritual diet.”

**Introduction:** This is the fifth in a series that we will be exploring concerning the passage in John’s gospel where Jesus states, *I am the vine, you are the branches, He who abides in me and I in them, He it is who bears much fruit, for*

*apart from me you can do nothing.* We will be looking at what it means to be “abide-ers” in this series. John has shown us Jesus’ roles as Son of God in Chapter one, Son of man in Chapter two, Divine teacher in Chapter three, Soul winner in chapter four, and Great Physician in Chapter five. In Chapter six we follow along with John’s thought as now that a person has been taught about, won and healed by the God-Man Christ, how does a believer sustain their spiritual health while living in an “overly” spiritual world?

**Groundwork:** As with much of Jesus conversations with the people of antiquity, He also is speaking to every generation and more, every believer within every generation. And so it is with his “conversation” with the crowds who having witnessed Jesus’ feeding of the 5000, have now followed Him to the other side of the Lake. However, in John’s presentation of the life of Christ the dialogue is really intended for believers. Jesus proclamation of being the bread of life is more about Jesus being the bread of life for you and me. Think of it this way: Bread represents the basic ingredient needed to sustain life itself; yes, we need water and yes, we need air, but without food we have no energy, no vitality, no real health in the truest sense. Thus, Jesus understands His role as not only Savior and Deliverer but also Sustainer! Let’s see how this works in our lives.

(Come and Dine)

- A. Jesus is Bread **for** the Father (vs. 25-27) *When they found him on the other side of the lake, they asked him, “Rabbi, when did you get here?”<sup>26</sup> Jesus answered, “Very truly I tell you, you are looking for me, not because you saw the signs I performed but because you ate the loaves and had your fill. <sup>27</sup> Do not work for food that spoils, but for food that endures to eternal life, which the Son of Man will give you. For on him God the Father has placed his seal of approval.”*
- B. We often forget that we as God’s chosen and cherished people are not only the apple of Jesus’ eye but we also are deeply loved by all the members of the Trinity. The father adores us... the Son cherishes us... the Spirit esteems and values us.
- C. A telling phrase here is... *<sup>27</sup> Do not work for food that spoils, but for food that endures to eternal life, which the Son of Man will give you.* In other words, don’t use all of your energy simply pursuing the temporal substances that only satisfy for a day—but keep in mind, and be diligent, and work if you will, making sure that you are feeding on the “bread” that sustains for eternity. How do we feed on Jesus as the Bread of Life? The key is a

balanced diet. Always however keeping Christ in the center of our lives.



1. Horizontally: A healthy diet of Prayer. keep connected!
2. Horizontally: A healthy diet of Scripture. Keep learning!
3. Vertically: A healthy diet of Witnessing. Keep sharing!
4. Vertically: a healthy diet of Fellowship. Keep active!

D. Jesus is the bread of Life **for** God in the sense that the Father's wish for the welfare of His people could be accomplished as Christ would be our Savior and the Bible would be our sustenance and the Church would be our strength and Witnessing would be our purpose. To you and me He says...

(Come and Dine)

- A. Jesus is Bread **from** the Father. (vs. 28-32) <sup>28</sup> *Then they asked him, "What must we do to do the works God requires?"* <sup>29</sup> *Jesus answered, "The work of God is this: to believe in the one he has sent."* <sup>30</sup> *So they asked him, "What sign then will you give that we may see it and believe you? What will you do?"* <sup>31</sup> *Our ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness; as it is written: 'He gave them bread from heaven to eat.'* <sup>32</sup> *Jesus said to them, "Very truly I tell you, it is not Moses who has given you the bread from heaven, but it is my Father who gives you the true bread from heaven.*
- B. In Jesus being the Bread of Life **for** the Father, it's a question of quantity of life... living the days we are given. In Christ being the Bread of Life **from** the Father its more about the quality of life. Why are we to be feeding on Christ? Consider... Paul's admonition to the Corinthians 5:

*All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation:<sup>19</sup> that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting people's sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation.<sup>20</sup> We are therefore Christ's **ambassadors**, **as though God were making his appeal through us**.*

- C. For a world that is intent on syncretism and pluralism, you and I stand and proclaim, by word and deed, that indeed there is only one God and there is only one mediator between men and women and our God and His Name is Jesus.
- D. He came **from** God and has gone back to God His Father. The God Jehovah is the God who sought us and bought us and send His Son to save us. NO other God is worthy of any honor or glory or allegiance. As Christian every time we settle on letting out kids or grandkids search for their own religion weather its Jehovah's witnesses, Muslims, Hindu, Buddhism and just like of sit back and assure ourselves that at least they have "some" religion, we deceive ourselves and them and we dishonor the God who has entrusted us with the One true message that can change this world right side up. Jesus is the Bread of Life **for** God and Jesus is the Bread of life **from** God... The message we have to share is

(Come and Dine)

- A. Jesus is Bread for the Elect. (vs. 33-35)<sup>33</sup> *For the bread of God is the bread that comes down from heaven and gives life to the world.*<sup>34</sup> *"Sir," they said, "always give us this bread."*<sup>35</sup> *Then Jesus declared, "I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never go hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty.*
- B. If the first two topics discussed the Quantity and Quality of Christian life, this last pericope considers the security within and for the Chosen One's who God has claimed for His own.
- C. *Whoever comes to me will never go hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty.* Notice that lots of people wanted this Bread—this free food if you will. People today are seeking some kind of solace or religious life that will try to alleviate the deep spiritual hunger that all people have. Yet, how many will take Jesus at His Word and come to Him as the True bread of heaven. Not many then... not many now. Thu this verse is really more about the life of the believer—never hunger, never thirst. What does that mean?

D. It's not really about your and my ability to sustain ourselves in the life God has called us too. It's not that we will never be spiritually dry or tired; not thirsting for more righteousness in our lives. It's more of an assurance from God's point of view when it comes to His relationship with us.

*For we know that if the earthly tent we live in is destroyed, we have a building from God, an eternal house in heaven, not built by human hands. <sup>2</sup> Meanwhile we groan, longing to be clothed instead with our heavenly dwelling, <sup>3</sup> because when we are clothed, we will not be found naked. <sup>4</sup> For while we are in this tent, we groan and are burdened, because we do not wish to be unclothed but to be clothed instead with our heavenly dwelling, so that what is mortal may be swallowed up by life. <sup>5</sup> Now the one who has fashioned us for this very purpose is God, who has given us the Spirit as a deposit, guaranteeing what is to come. Therefore we are always confident and know that as long as we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord. <sup>7</sup> For we live by faith, not by sight. <sup>8</sup>*