

What kind of Bread do you eat?

August 19, 2018 – John 6:47-48; 51; 56-58

“I tell you the truth, he who believes has everlasting life. I AM the Bread of Life.... “I AM the living bread that came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever. This bread is My flesh, which I will give for the life of the world.... Whoever eats My flesh and drinks My blood remains in me, and I in him. Just as the living Father sent Me and I live because of the Father, so the one who feeds on Me will live because of Me. This is the Bread that came down from heaven. Your forefathers ate manna and died, but he who feeds on this bread will live forever.”

What is your favorite kind of bread? Do you like it plain or do you have favorite topping? Thick Butter – Cheese – Meat?

At the beginning of John chapter 6, the Lord Jesus took FIVE small BARLEY loaves and TWO small fish and fed 5,000 men. After Jesus was finished feeding those 5,000 men there were 12 basketsful of food left over - One basketful for each of the 12 disciples.

When the crowd saw what Jesus did, they wanted to make Jesus their KING by FORCE. But Jesus withdrew into the mountainside because He did not come into the world to be an earthly King. Jesus came to be their Spiritual King – The King of their soul – Their Heavenly King. NOT an Earthly King!

It is after this feeding of the 5,000 and the miracle of Jesus walking on the water out to the disciples on the Sea of Galilee that the crowd of people looked for Jesus in the region of the Sea of Galilee and they found HIM in Capernaum in the Synagogue (The Assembly Place).

The crowd was looking for Jesus because they were amazed and enthralled by His miracles. Jesus knew that their motives were false because He could look into their hearts, because He is God. Jesus demonstrated His Omniscience when He said: **John 6:26 – you are looking for ME, not because you saw miraculous signs but because you ate the loaves and had your fill.”**

The crowds were only looking for Jesus because of their full bellies which Jesus had given them, without any cost on their part. The Crowds totally missed the REAL reason Jesus came into the World. The Crowds were not looking for a Savior Who would save them from their sin and its consequences, instead they were sidetracked by EARTHLY Pleasure and Earthly satisfaction.

The crowd was so bold as to challenge Jesus to another miracle. The Crowd compared the feeding of the 5,000 to the miracle of God providing for the Children of Israel in the wilderness under Moses, when God provided Manna and Quail for 40 years!!!

The crowd was taunting Jesus, and actually belittling HIM by saying that Jesus only feed 5,000 men for one meal, and Jesus even had the 5 Barley loaves and the 2 small fish.

While on the other hand the people said that at the time of Moses, God fed the Children of Israel in the wilderness from nothing for 40 years!!!

To this challenge Jesus responded with a Yes, but at the same time he reminded them that the people in the wilderness had Manna and Quail, BUT THEY Died. (Jn. 6:58)

Vs. 58 – This is the Bread that came down from heaven. Your forefathers ate manna and died, but he who feeds on this bread will live forever.

Jesus then continued, as HE pleaded with the people, as He reached out to them to draw them to HIMSELF and away from their foolish thinking and said:

Vs. 51 – “I AM the living bread that came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever. This bread is My flesh, which I will give for the life of the world

Jesus is telling the crowd and us, that TO BELIEVE in Him means to have Eternal Life in Heaven.

In this section of Scripture, Jesus is NOT speaking of the Lord’s Supper,

1. The Lord’s Supper had not yet been instituted.
2. Reception of the Lord’s Supper is not necessary to salvation, but FAITH in Jesus is.
3. Jesus purposely uses the terms – Flesh - σαρξ - and blood and not Body - σωμα - and Blood as He did when He instituted the Lord’s Supper on Maundy Thursday.

Jesus is The Word - λογος - who became Flesh - σαρξ - (John 1:14)

Let us not follow the false assumption of the crowd by chasing after earthly goods at the expense of missing out on Spiritual and Eternal Life in Jesus?

Jesus invites us to EAT of His Flesh and to DRINK of His Blood. That is to Believe in Him.

“Manducare est credere” - TO EAT IS TO BELIEVE.

He that believes also eats and drinks Christ. We pray:

“Blessed Lord, Who has caused all Holy Scriptures to be written for our learning, grant that we may in such wise, hear them, read, mark, learn **and inwardly digest them**, that by patience and comfort of Your Holy Word we may embrace, and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life, which You have given us in our Savior Jesus Christ.”
(TLH Collect for the Word - pg. 14) AMEN!