

Fellow redeemed sinners, redeemed by the blood of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ,

Prior to our sermon text, the miracle of Jesus feeding about 5,000 men with five barley loaves and two small fishes is reported. Sadly, most of the people subsequently followed Jesus for the wrong reason, for John 6:26-27 informs us, “Jesus answered them and said, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Ye seek me, not because ye saw the miracles, but because ye did eat of the loaves, and were filled. Labour not for the meat which perisheth, but for that meat which endureth unto everlasting life, which the Son of man shall give unto you: for him hath God the Father sealed.”

So, it’s very unfortunate that the people followed after Jesus simply because He filled their bellies without them needing to labor for it. The people desired a bread-king who would miraculously, repeatedly feed them, as their fathers had been miraculously fed with manna for forty years while wandering in the wilderness. The people failed to acknowledge Jesus as the King of kings who is the life-giving Lord. Thus, the importance of Jesus Christ and His saving work had not sunken into the hearts of most of the people, just as is the unfortunate case in our modern world.

The truth is that we all need to know Jesus Christ aright, as the Supplier of our most dire needs. Thankfully, our Scripture selection can be of help to all who ponder it, since it teaches and emphasizes the fact:

“JESUS IS THE BREAD OF LIFE”

With that as our theme, may we, in view of our text and with the help of the Holy Ghost, see—

- 1) Why Jesus is rightly known as the bread of life
- 2) Why some people reject Jesus the bread of life
- 3) Why some people accept Jesus the bread of life
- 4) What great benefits are had by those who accept, trust, and confide in Jesus the bread of life

Verse 36, ----- (John 6:36)

Jesus was speaking to a crowd of Jews who had been among the 5,000 He had miraculously fed; and, He said unto them, as recorded in John 3:35, just prior to our Scripture selection, “I am the bread of life: he that cometh to me shall never hunger; and he that believeth on me shall never thirst.” Then, as related in the opening verse of our sermon text, Jesus added: *But I said unto you, That ye also have seen me, and believe not.*

Hence, it is evident that Jesus read the people’s hearts and knew that although they had seen Him with their physical eyes, they remained in unbelief. Indeed, Jesus had shown them His divine power when He miraculously fed 5,000 men, plus women and children, and yet the people for the most part remained in unbelief— they failed to trust and confide in Jesus Christ as their personal Savior and Lord who is the bread of life.

My friends, Jesus is rightly known as the bread of life because He calls Himself such and He – God’s only begotten Son – is in fact the ONLY SUPPLIER of eternal life, for John 3:16-18 clearly informs us, “God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved. He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.” Thus, Jesus is truly the bread of life, and is rightly known as such.

Verse 37, ----- (John 6:37)

The perfect cooperation of God the Father with His only begotten Son in granting folks faith in Christ and keeping them in that faith is clearly evident from Jesus’ words when He says: *All that the Father giveth me shall come to me; and him that*

*cometh to me I will in no wise cast out.*

Verses 38-40, ----- (John 6:38-40)

We again see the total cooperation of God the Father with His only begotten Son, Jesus Christ, who says: *I came down from heaven, not to do mine own will, but the will of him that sent me.*

And what did Jesus do in full accord with His Father's will? Galatians 4:4-5 tells us, "when the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law, To redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons."

Think about it. For us, Jesus kept ALL of God the Father's commandments perfectly in thoughts, words and deeds, for Hebrews 4:14-15 states, "Seeing then that we have a great high priest, that is passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our profession. For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin."

Furthermore, Jesus paid for all the sins of all people with His holy and precious blood which He shed while nailed to the tree of the cross, for we learn in 1 John 1:7, "the blood of Jesus Christ" God's "Son cleanseth us from all sin." 1 John 1:2 adds, "And he is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world." Accordingly, Jesus is rightly known as the bread of life, since He has earned eternal life for all people.

Jesus says in our sermon text: *And this is the Father's will which hath sent me, that of all which he hath given me I should lose nothing, but should raise it up again at the last day. And this is the will of him that sent me, that every one which seeth the Son, and believeth on him, may have everlasting life: and I will raise him up at the last day.*

The persons given to Jesus Christ by His heavenly Father will not be lost, but will be raised up on the last day to enjoy eternal life in heaven according to

soul and body. It is God's will that it be so. NONE of those whom God the Father has given to Jesus Christ will be lost, for Jesus Christ – the man who is also God – will raise them up on the last day to life eternal.

It's as we read in John 10:27-30, where Jesus says, "My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me: And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand. My Father, which gave them me, is greater than all; and no man is able to pluck them out of my Father's hand. I and my Father are one." Mark 16:16 adds, "He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned." Hence, only by unbelief do people reject eternal life that Jesus has earned for all people; and so, all unbelievers will be raised on the last day by Jesus' power and will be consigned to never-ending death in hell which they will partake of according to soul and body.

It is again plainly evident that Jesus is rightly known as the bread of life, for without Jesus there is only death and damnation.

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As we ponder the next few verses of our text, let us see why some people reject Jesus the bread of life.

Verses 41 & 42, ----- (John 6:41-42)

Jesus spoke the truth and proved that He is the Son of God by the many mighty miracles He did. But, what happened after Jesus spoke about His relationship with His Father and the necessity of believing on the Son of the Father? *The Jews then murmured at him, because he said, I am the bread which came down from heaven. And they said, Is not this Jesus, the son of Joseph, whose father and mother we know? how is it then that he saith, I came down from heaven?* Therefore, the Jews refused to believe Jesus' words despite the fact He had proved His divinity by miraculously feeding

5,000 men, plus women and children. Furthermore, it was widely known that Jesus had performed numerous other miracles, such as healing various maladies and casting out devils, and yet many people still rejected Jesus the bread of life.

The Jews hardened in unbelief considered Jesus to be Joseph's son and nothing more, like many folks stuck in unbelief do to this very day.

Oh, it's sad that some folks wilfully refuse to believe Jesus' words and they only see with their eyes the things they want to see, for they are NOT drawn by God the Father to Jesus. It's as Jesus says in Matthew 13:14-15, "And in them is fulfilled the prophecy of Esaias, which saith, By hearing ye shall hear, and shall not understand; and seeing ye shall see, and shall not perceive: For this people's heart is waxed gross, and their ears are dull of hearing, and their eyes they have closed; lest at any time they should see with their eyes, and hear with their ears, and should understand with their heart, and should be converted, and I should heal them." Yes, some hard-hearted folks wilfully and repeatedly reject Jesus the bread of life; consequently, God finally leaves them hardened in their unbelief.

Verses 43 & 44, ----- (John 6:43-44)

Jesus told the unbelieving Jews: *Murmur not among yourselves. No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him: and I will raise him up at the last day.* Thus, Jesus made it clear that those folks were NOT drawn to Him by God the Father— that is why some people reject Jesus the bread of life. Yes, God the Father finally will not draw those who repeatedly spurn the Savior's WORD, but finally leaves them in their unbelief.

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As we continue to ponder our text, let us see why some people accept Jesus the bread of life.

Verses 44-46, ----- (John 6:44-46)

Observe that it is by the power of God that some people accept Jesus the bread of life, for Jesus says: *No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him: and I will raise him up at the last day. It is written in the prophets, And they shall be all taught of God. Every man therefore that hath heard, and hath learned of the Father, cometh unto me. Not that any man hath seen the Father, save he which is of God, he hath seen the Father.*

Note it well: the Father draws people to Christ; God teaches people, for they learn OF the Father and NOT by their own power. Realize that NO sinful human being has the power to "make a decision for Christ" since by nature every naturally conceived human being is spiritually dead and unable to move even a fraction toward Christ. God does the saving, all of it.

It's as we read in Ephesians 2:1-10, "And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins; Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience: Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others. But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us, Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;) And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus: That in the ages to come he might shew the exceeding riches of his grace in his kindness toward us through Christ Jesus. For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them." Accordingly, it is by GOD'S POWER that some people accept Jesus the bread of life.

Looking again at verse 45 of our sermon text, note that Jesus says: *It is written in the prophets, And they shall be all taught of God. Every man therefore that hath heard, and hath learned of the Father, cometh unto me.* Therefore, God does the teaching, and those that hear and have therefore learned of the Father working in their hearts through His Word by His Holy Spirit, come unto Jesus in faith and thereby partake of the bread of life. "So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God." (Romans 10:17) "Wherefore I give you to understand, that no man speaking by the Spirit of God calleth Jesus accursed: and that no man can say that Jesus is the Lord, but by the Holy Ghost." (1 Corinthians 12:3) "For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure." (Philippians 2:13) So, I repeat, it is by God's power that some people accept Jesus the bread of life.

Realize that it's not by seeing God the Father with one's physical eyes that one comes to faith and thereby accepts Jesus the bread of life, for no man *hath seen the Father, save he which is of God, he hath seen the Father.* Only Jesus Christ, the only begotten Son of God, has seen God the Father with His own eyes, for John 1:18 reports, "No man hath seen God at any time; the only begotten Son, which is in the bosom of the Father, he hath declared him." Therefore, to know God the Father one must know God the Son, Jesus Christ, who says in John 14:6, "I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me."

Accordingly, fellow Christians, let us be grateful to God for the faith we have in Jesus Christ as our personal Savior and Lord, for we've accepted Jesus the bread of life because God drew us to Him, gifted us with faith in Him, and keeps us in that faith. All thanks and praise be to God— Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

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As we ponder our text to its conclusion, let us see what great benefits are had by those who accept, trust, and confide in Jesus the bread of life.

In our sermon text we've already seen that Jesus mentioned more than once that He will raise up on the last day those who have come to Him in God-given faith. Accordingly, having one's body raised to everlasting life on the last day is certainly a great benefit to be had by those who accept and trust in Jesus the bread of life.

Verses 47-51, ----- (John 6:47-51)

The concluding verses of our sermon text clearly inform us as to what great benefits are had by those who accept, trust, and confide in Jesus the bread of life, for we just read that Jesus declares: *Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me hath everlasting life. I am that bread of life. Your fathers did eat manna in the wilderness, and are dead. This is the bread which cometh down from heaven, that a man may eat thereof, and not die. 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.*

Think of it: everlasting life according to soul and body is a great benefit which is had by those who accept, trust, and confide in Jesus the bread of life. Yes, fellow Christians, the forgiveness of sins and salvation is ours by God's grace through faith in Jesus Christ as our personal Savior and Lord, for John 3:36 plainly states, "He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him."

The Jews of the Old Testament who fed on manna for 40 years in the wilderness still died; and, those who died without faith in the promised Messiah, the Christ, will suffer never-ending death in hell forever according to soul and body. ONLY THOSE who believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, partaking of Him – the living bread from heaven – shall live forever in glorified bodies, because Jesus Christ gave His flesh for the life of the world, paying for ALL the sins of ALL people with His holy and precious blood which flowed from His pierced hands, feet, and side.

My friends, Romans 3:23 and 6:23 plainly states, "all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God; [and] the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord." Hence, it's a fact that Jesus is the bread of life, our life-giving Lord, our only Savior, sent by God the Father to deliver us from never-ending doom.

Therefore, let us daily and sincerely repent of our sins; let us keep our full trust and confidence in Christ Jesus as our personal Savior and Lord; and, let us go forward appreciating all that God has graciously done and still does for us. Amen.

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