

# LIVING BREAD FROM HEAVEN

John 6:41-59

Key Verse: 51

## I. This bread is my flesh (41-51)

### John 6:41-51 (NIV2011)

<sup>41</sup>At this the Jews there began to grumble about him because he said, "I am the bread that came down from heaven."

<sup>42</sup>They said, "Is this not Jesus, the son of Joseph, whose father and mother we know? How can he now say, 'I came down from heaven'?"

<sup>43</sup> "Stop grumbling among yourselves," Jesus answered.

<sup>44</sup>"No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws them, and I will raise them up at the last day.

<sup>45</sup>It is written in the Prophets: 'They will all be taught by God.' Everyone who has heard the Father and learned from him comes to me.

<sup>46</sup>No one has seen the Father except the one who is from God; only he has seen the Father.

<sup>47</sup>Very truly I tell you, the one who believes has eternal life.

<sup>48</sup>I am the bread of life.

<sup>49</sup>Your ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness, yet they died.

<sup>50</sup>But here is the bread that comes down from heaven, which anyone may eat and not die.

<sup>51</sup>I am the living bread that came down from heaven. Whoever eats this bread will live forever. This bread is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world."

### A. The Way a Person Partakes of the Bread of Life, 6:41-51

1. The religionists rebelled against the claims of Jesus (41-43)
  - a. They questioned Jesus' origin (42a)
  - b. The misunderstood the incarnation (42b)
  - c. Jesus appealed: don't grumble (43)
2. A person must be drawn by God (44-46)
  - a. The result: He will be raised up at the last day (44)
  - b. He must be taught of God (God's part) (45a)
  - c. He must hear and learn through Christ (man's part) (45b-46)
    - 1) Because no man has seen God (46a)
    - 2) Because Christ is of God and has seen God (46b)
3. A person must believe on Christ (47-51)
  - a. Believe Jesus is the Bread of Life (48-49)
  - b. Believe Jesus is "out of" heaven—has come to deliver man from death (50)
  - c. Believe Jesus is the living bread—the One who gives life to man forever (51a)
  - d. Believe Jesus gave His flesh for the life of the world (51b)

The manna God provided for the Israelites during the Exodus is a picture of Jesus as the "living Bread." When God's people traveled through the wilderness, they had to depend on God to provide their food supernaturally. God provided the food in a way that would also teach the people something about their relationship with Him. Every day God gave enough food for that day. No one could gather more than a day's supply. There had to be a continual, constant dependence on God; He was the only source of sustenance.

The Jews murmured against Christ's claim to be "Bread that came down from heaven." They knew this Man and His family; how could He claim a heavenly origin? Jesus answered that it would be God who would draw men to Christ. And Jesus then went on to promise that anyone who believed in Him would have eternal life, and anyone who fed on the living Bread "will live forever."

## II. Read food and real drink (52-59)

### John 6:52-59 (NIV2011)

<sup>52</sup>Then the Jews began to argue sharply among themselves, "How can this man give us his flesh to eat?"

<sup>53</sup>Jesus said to them, "Very truly I tell you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you.

<sup>54</sup>Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise them up at the last day.

<sup>55</sup>For my flesh is real food and my blood is real drink.

<sup>56</sup>Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood remains in me, and I in them.

<sup>57</sup>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.

<sup>58</sup>This is the bread that came down from heaven. Your ancestors ate manna and died, but whoever feeds on this bread will live forever."

<sup>59</sup>He said this while teaching in the synagogue in Capernaum.

### B. The Results of Partaking of the Bread of Life, 6:52-58

1. The religionists were **perplexed** (52-53)
  - a. They questioned partaking of His flesh (52)
  - b. Jesus proclaimed a much more shocking thing: **Unless one partakes of Him, he does not have life** (53)
2. **Result 1: Eternal life**—conquering death and being resurrected (54)
3. **Result 2: True, not false satisfaction** (55)
4. **Result 3: Supernatural companionship and fellowship** (56)
5. **Result 4: A life that is full of purpose and meaning** (57)
6. **Result 5: Incorruptible food received within the heart—energizing life forever** (58)
7. **Jesus taught the truth continually** (59)

Many see in those words a reference to the Communion service. "This is My body, given for you," Jesus would say as He instituted

the memorial service. This is "My blood which is poured out for you." But to "eat" and "drink" the body and blood of Jesus means far more than to participate in a shared memorial, as the rest of our passage suggests. "Whoever eats My flesh and drinks My blood remains in Me" (John 6:56). "He who feeds on this bread will live forever" (John 6:58). "The words I have spoken to you are spirit," Jesus said (John 6:63).

Jesus was using body and blood to represent everything needed to sustain and support life. Our lives will be supported so completely that we never will hunger or thirst. Our spiritual lives will be sustained so completely that they will endure until Jesus raises us up on the last day.

We are to go to Jesus and to Him alone, for all the resources and the strength we need to live our new lives. We can rely only on our Lord.

**Prayer:** Lord Jesus, thank you for the cross. Thank you for giving us bread that leads to eternal life.

**One Word:** Eat the bread of life

### **Testimony Topics:**

**a. How can you eat the bread of life?**

**b. What are the results of eating the bread of life?**