

I AM THE BREAD OF LIFE
GIVEN AT THE FIRST UNITED CHURCH
BROWNSVILLE, TX - AUG 6, 2006

Gospel Lesson - Listen for the Word of the Lord

1. **JOHN 6:24-35** ONCE THE CROWD REALIZED THAT NEITHER JESUS NOR HIS DISCIPLES WERE THERE, THEY GOT INTO THE BOATS AND WENT TO CAPERNAUM IN SEARCH OF JESUS. ²⁵WHEN THEY FOUND HIM ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE LAKE, THEY ASKED HIM, "RABBI, WHEN DID YOU GET HERE?" ²⁶JESUS ANSWERED, "I TELL YOU THE TRUTH, YOU ARE LOOKING FOR ME, NOT BECAUSE YOU SAW MIRACULOUS SIGNS BUT BECAUSE YOU ATE THE LOAVES AND HAD YOUR FILL. ²⁷DO NOT WORK FOR FOOD THAT SPOILS, BUT FOR FOOD THAT ENDURES TO ETERNAL LIFE, WHICH THE SON OF MAN WILL GIVE YOU. ON HIM GOD THE FATHER HAS PLACED HIS SEAL OF APPROVAL." ²⁸THEN THEY ASKED HIM, "WHAT MUST WE DO TO DO THE WORKS GOD REQUIRES?" ²⁹JESUS ANSWERED, "THE WORK OF GOD IS THIS: TO BELIEVE IN THE ONE HE HAS SENT." ³⁰SO THEY ASKED HIM, "WHAT MIRACULOUS SIGN THEN WILL YOU GIVE THAT WE MAY SEE IT AND BELIEVE YOU? WHAT WILL YOU DO?" ³¹OUR FOREFATHERS ATE THE MANNA IN THE DESERT; AS IT IS WRITTEN: 'HE GAVE THEM BREAD FROM HEAVEN TO EAT.'" ³²JESUS SAID TO THEM, "I TELL YOU THE TRUTH, 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. ³³FOR THE BREAD OF GOD IS HE WHO COMES DOWN FROM HEAVEN AND GIVES LIFE TO THE WORLD." ³⁴"SIR," THEY SAID, "FROM NOW ON GIVE US THIS BREAD." ³⁵THEN JESUS DECLARED, "I AM THE BREAD OF LIFE. HE WHO COMES TO ME WILL NEVER GO HUNGRY, AND HE WHO BELIEVES IN ME WILL NEVER BE THIRSTY.

2. This is the Word of the Lord and it is True.
3. Sermon

1. **TO FULLY UNDERSTAND THIS LESSON WE NEED TO START OUR STUDY IN THE 5TH CHAPTER.**

JESUS WENT DOWN TO JERUSALEM TO CELEBRATE A JEWISH FESTIVAL THAT ALL JEWISH MEN WERE REQUIRED TO DO.

HE WALKS ACROSS THE WHOLE CITY TO THE POOL NEXT TO THE SHEEP'S GATE.

ALONG THE WAY HE WOULD HAVE PASSED A LOT OF PEOPLE WITH REAL NEEDS THAT HE COULD HAVE MET, BUT THEY DID NOT STOP HIM AND ASK FOR HIS HELP.

HE WAS HEADED STRAIGHT FOR THE POOL IN THE HOUSE CALLED "HOUSE OF KINDNESS"

AT THIS POOL WERE MANY PEOPLE; SOME BLIND, SOME WITH WITHERED LIMBS, ALL IN A STATE WHERE THEY COULD NOT HELP THEMSELVES.

JESUS GOES DIRECTLY TO A MAN WHO HAS BEEN THERE 38 YEARS.

**JESUS ASKS HIM A QUESTION. "WILL YOU BE MADE WHOLE"
THE MAN DOES NOT SAY THAT HE WANTS TO BE MADE WHOLE, HE
JUST GIVES A LOT OF REASONS WHY HE IS NOT.**

**THE NEXT THING WE SEE, JESUS SAYS "RISE, TAKE UP YOUR BED
AND WALK"**

**IMMEDIATELY THE MAN WAS MADE WHOLE, AND TOOK HIS BED
AND WENT AWAY**

**AS HE IS WALKING AWAY SOME PHARISEES ASK HIM WHY HE IS
CARRYING HIS BED ON THE SABBATH,**

**HE TELLS THEM THAT A MAN TOLD HIM TO.
WHEN ASKED WHO THE MAN WAS,
HE HAD NO IDEA.**

**SO WHAT WE HAVE JUST SEEN IS A SOVEREIGN ACT OF GOD IN
HEALING THIS MAN**

**THE MAN DID NOT ASK TO BE HEALED
HE DID NOT KNOW WHO HEALED HIM.
HAD NO IDEA WHY HE WAS HEALED
ONLY THAT HE WAS HEALED**

**GOD WHO IS NO RESPECTER OF PERSONS IS SENDING A
MESSAGE**

HE WANTS HIS CREATION TO BE WELL.

**AND AT THAT TIME HE HAS SOMEONE ON THE EARTH THAT WILL
DO HIS WILL.**

**LATER JESUS FOUND THE MAN IN THE TEMPLE AND SAID TO HIM,
"SEE, YOU ARE WELL AGAIN. STOP SINNING OR SOMETHING WORSE
MAY HAPPEN TO YOU."**

**This man will sin again, so Jesus is pointing to a truth that
all men must face, This man has been touched by a
healer, but more important what he needs is a Savior**

Later we will see a large group of people following Jesus.

We see them hungry, unable to feed themselves

Again they do not ask to be fed.

**The scripture says that Jesus seeing them determined what He was
going to do.**

He was going to feed this large group.

**And he was going to do it using what was available,
He had the lunch of a young man, five loafs and two fishes
First He takes the five loafs and He raises them to heaven and says
the prayer that a Jewish man would have said. "BLESSED BE
YOU, LORD OUR GOD, KING OF THE WORLD, WHO BRINGS
BREAD OUT OF THE EARTH."**

**He then breaks the bread and hands it to His disciples to give out
to those seated on the ground.**

**Then he takes the two fish and he raises them to heaven and says
the prayer that all Jewish men would have said. "Blessed be
you, Lord our God, King of the World, Who brings fish from
the sea."**

**He then breaks them and gives to his followers to pass out.
They ATE until they were all filled, that is, they had an abundance
When they had all they wanted there were twelve baskets full of
bread that was not needed so it was saved until another time.**

You will notice, all the fish were eaten, why?

They could not be saved.

After this Jesus took his disciples aside to the mountain top.

**After being with them for awhile he told them to cross the Sea of
Galilee and go to Capernaum.**

They got in their boat and started out. They were in the will of God.

They were doing what Jesus had told them to do.

**Shortly they ran into some rough weather, they had only crossed 3 ½
miles and it seemed they were going nowhere**

as they were struggling they see Jesus walking on the sea.

**At first they are afraid of Him. But when He makes it clear to them,
WHO HE IS.**

**They invite Him into their boat and immediately they are on the other
shore.**

That brings us to today's lesson

**The people that were seeking Jesus had heard about the healing of the man
by the pool and Jesus' other miracles including their being fed by the
multiplying of five loafs and two fish.**

The people were seeking a teacher, they called Him Rabbi.

There question to Him, "Rabbi, when did you get here?"
for they did not know about his walking on the sea
Jesus answered,

I tell you the truth,
you are looking for me,
not because you saw miraculous signs
But because you ate the loaves and had your fill.
Do not work [that is make your priority in life] obtaining food that
spoils,
[but let your priority in life, **that is your work**] be for food that endures
to eternal life,
this food the Son of Man, will give you.
and He can give it to you because God the Father has placed his seal of
approval on Him that is the Holy Spirit

Then they asked him, "What must we do, to do the works God
requires?"

Jesus answered, "The work of God that he has for you is this: to believe
in the one he has sent."

In this statement Jesus declares the work that God is requiring for man
to receive all the blessing of God.

That is FAITH.

It is not longer the sacrifice of animals, the celebration of festivals,
blessings coming from the working of the priest hood.

It is believing in this person, what He will do and has to say.

So they asked him,

What miraculous sign then will you give that we may see it and believe
you?

These people have a clear understanding of the requirement that God is
placing on them, for they say BELIEVE YOU

What will you do for us?

Our forefathers ate the manna in the desert;

For it is written: 'He gave them bread from heaven to eat.'"

What these people are saying, You have done nothing special, we have
seen it all before.

Moses fed our forefathers for 38 years in the desert , there was no

sickness among the people, even the clothing they had did not
ware out. Everything they had need of was provided to them.
In Joshua 10:12 we are told that Joshua asked God to stop the
movement of the sun and he did.

We ARE told and know that Elisha restored a dead son to his
mother

Jesus said to them, "I tell you the truth,

it is not Moses who has given you the bread from heaven,

this statement is in the present tense, also we see that they
acknowledge God in every prayer over bread that He is the provider.

but it is my Father who gives you the true bread from heaven.

For the bread of God is he who comes down from heaven and gives life to
the world.

Sir," they said, "from now on give us this bread."

Then Jesus declared, "I am the bread of life.

He who comes to me will never go hungry,

and he who believes in me will never be thirsty.

Jesus will say in this setting, "You must eat my body and drink my
blood."

Many in this crowd on hearing this turned away from the Lord.

For they said, how can we eat His body and Drink His blood.

Jesus went on to say, that all the miracles and teachings of the Bible
are spiritual and one must see and understand the spiritual meaning
in them.

Jesus says, I AM THE BREAD OF LIFE

EATING IS A NECESSARY ACT IF I AM TO RECEIVE THE FOOD VALUE

WHICH IT IS INTENDED TO CONVEY, NAMELY BODILY NOURISHMENT

I MAY LOOK AT BREAD AND ADMIRE IT

I MAY STUDY ABOUT BREAD AND LEARN WHAT IT IS MADE OF AND HOW
TO BAKE IT.

I MAY TALK ABOUT BREAD AND COME TO AN UNDERSTANDING OF HOW
GOOD IT IS FOR ME.

I MAY HANDLE BREAD AND SAY HOW GOOD IT FEELS

BUT I MUST EAT THE BREAD TO GET THE NOURISHMENT
FROM IT.

JESUS SAYS I MUST DRINK HIS BLOOD.

SO I KNOW THAT I MUST LEARN ALL I CAN ABOUT WHAT HIS BLOOD
HAS DONE FOR ME. WHY DID HE HAVE TO GIVE IT, HOW DO I
RECEIVE THE BENEFIT OF HIS GIFT.

HE SAYS I MUST EAT HIS BODY.

SO I KNOW THAT I MUST LEARN ALL I CAN ABOUT WHY HIS BODY WAS
SO BAD ILY BEATEN DURING THE CRUCIFIXION, AND WHAT BENEFIT
IT WAS FOR ME, AND HOW I RECEIVE THE BENEFIT OF THE GIFT.

JESUS SAYS HE IS THE BREAD OF LIFE.

THE BREAD THAT GIVES LIFE

I MUST LEARN ALL I CAN ABOUT JESUS, AND THEN WHEN I KNOW THAT
HE CAN DO SOMETHING FOR ME, I THEN MUST LOOK FURTHER FOR
THE ANSWER TO THE QUESTION, WILL HE DO IT FOR ME. [THIS IS THE
SPIRITUAL MEANING OF EATING THE BREAD]

WHEN I KNOW HE CAN AND WILL HELP ME, THEN I ASK HIM INTO THE
CIRCUMSTANCES OF MY LIFE TO BENEFIT FROM HIM.

I MUST CONFESS AND BELIEVE WHO HE IS FOR ME TO RECEIVE THE
SALVATION THAT HE OFFERS ME.

IN THIS CONGREGATION, THAT IS DONE OFTEN BY CONFESSING THE
APOSTLE CREED.

I MUST ASK HIM INTO THE CIRCUMSTANCES OF MY LIFE FOR HIM TO BE
INVOLVED IN THEM, AS THE DISCIPLES DID WHEN THEY WERE
ROWING THE BOAT AND GOING NO WHERE.

I MUST SEE HIM AS THE ONE WHO HAS ASKED TO CARRY MY BURDENS,
AND WHEN I GIVE THEM TO HIM. I MUST LEAVE THEM WITH HIM
AND KNOW THAT HE WILL SEE ME THROUGH THEM.

I MUST GIVE TO HIM OUT OF MY NEED, AND THEN KNOW THAT HE WILL
TAKE WHAT I HAVE GIVEN HIM AND MULTIPLY IT AS HE DID THE
FIVE LOAVES OF BREAD AND TWO FISH AND RETURN TO ME THE
ABUNDANCE HE DESIRES ME TO HAVE.

EATING IS A PERSONAL ACT

NO ONE CAN DO IT FOR ME

TO TAKE JESUS INTO MY LIFE, I MUST MAKE A PLACE FOR HIM

I MUST BELIEVE THAT JESUS HAS COME, THAT HE IS, AND IN HIS
COMING HE SAID "I COME THAT YOU MAY HAVE LIFE, AND

THAT TO ITS ABUNDANCE.
LET US LEARN OF JESUS,
LET US SEEK OUT THE ANSWERS THAT HE HAS FOR US,
LET US INVITE HIM INTO ALL THE AREAS OF OUR LIVES,
AND ALLOW HIM TO FINISH THE WORK THAT HE HAS STARTED
IN US.
LET US LEARN TO WALK AS HE WALKED,
AND SAY AS HE SAID, "I AM HERE TO DO THE WILL OF MY
FATHER"

A MAN