

## **Come Eat!**

*Jesus is the Bread of Life*

John 6:22-40

We begin life hungry for physical food and maybe about the time of becoming a teenager we start to realize that there is a fuel that we need that is beyond ourselves, a fuel that we need to live life with a purpose and that purpose is eternal. We see that Jesus is answering these questions to a questioning crowd. They have been fed physically, with His miracles, and His call is that they be fed spiritually, through a relationship with Him! We see that this is the same crowd that followed Him because of being fed in verse 26. He notes that they were following Him because of being fed, not because they see Him as the Savior! The offer to eat is very critical here. We must get this offer to eat for eternity! Here you have received Jesus, every time this offer is made, you rejoice!

**The Everyday Opponent (John 6:22-27)** The opponent of the great is good. Our physical, selfish desires will sometimes become the opponent to following Jesus Christ. They wanted physical food, Jesus wants them to have Him, eternal food. When we count the cost of following Jesus, unless He Himself shows us His glory, we will thirst for the wrong things. That's why its so important that we are everyday missionaries to combat the everyday opponent. Good is the opponent to great! "Pastor, I don't want that, because I cannot imagine anything like that." They, the crowd looking for Jesus was pursuing the good, but Jesus wanted to give them the great! Jesus wants to give you satisfaction beyond your wildest dreams! C.S. Lewis said it well, "*We are half-hearted creatures, fooling about with drink and sex and ambition when infinite joy is offered us, like an ignorant child who wants to go on making mud pies in a slum because he cannot imagine what is meant by the offer of a holiday at the sea. We are far too easily pleased.*" Hear my heart, people are not the opponent, the slavery of sin is the opponent. The overwhelming energy spent on the status quo is the opponent. The demonic forces pulling our loved ones away from Christ are the opponents. How does Jesus answer this opposition? He answers it with an everlasting opportunity!

**The Everlasting Opportunity (John 6:28-34)** Jesus gives the crowd the opportunity to go from good to great! We must remember that the only heaven an unrepentant non-believer will see is here on earth, short of them not coming to Jesus. The only hell that a believer will see is here on earth. The crowd ask Jesus "what must we do, to be doing the works of God?" Jesus tells them that they must believe in Him. No work is required, just belief! Service to God is done as a result of belief, not in order to believe, not in order to gain salvation. Paul tells us that salvation in Christ is not by works, but by faith. This is clear. Don't miss this, please! This is the moment when faith must become personal! Listen to their response in verses 30-31. They're wanting a sign! They've seen Him feed thousands,

heal the sick, but they're looking for something the magnitude of Exodus 16:14-15 ***"When the layer of dew evaporated, there were fine flakes on the desert surface, as fine as frost on the ground. When the Israelites saw it, they asked one another, "What is it?" because they didn't know what it was. Moses told them, "It is the bread the Lord has given you to eat."*** In Exodus, God provided for His people, as God is providing for His people eternally today! Jesus is given by God to be the bread of life! The manna was a temporal provision by God, the bread of life, Jesus is the everlasting opportunity, He is the eternal King! This is an opportunity of a lifetime! Come eat! This may be your only sign, that I'm preaching this message, a sinner saved by grace, and my name is written in the Lamb's Book of Life! How do we receive this opportunity of making Jesus our "Bread of Life," our Savior? Through belief! This belief is a surrender to no longer do things my way, but to live for Jesus. Paul explains this belief in Romans 10:9-10 and in Galatians 2:20. Rm 10:9-10 ***"because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. 10 For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved.*** Galatians 2:20 ***"I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me."*** Listen to the truth Jesus shares and the offer He makes in vv. 35-40.

**The Eternal Offer (John 6:35-40)** Verse 37 begins the first of seven "I am" statements that Jesus will give. What do believers get when they receive the offer of Christ as the "Bread of Life?"

**a.** We will have eternal satisfaction (v.35) Jesus nourishes us spiritually and satisfies us so deeply that the things of this world, while they will have lustful appeal, will not satisfy us the way that a relationship with Jesus can. The longing of our heart to know God is now met with knowing Jesus Christ as our Savior!

**b.** We will have eternal security (vv.37-39) This is one of the passages that Baptists hold to when we cling to the doctrine known as: perseverance of the saints or as we like to affectionately call it: "once saved always saved." Another of many of these passages is found in John 10:27-28 ***"My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of my hand."***

**c.** We will have eternal salvation (v. 40) The opposite of eternal salvation is eternal separation. 1 John 5:12 ***"Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life."***