

TITLE: A SPIRITUAL FEAST

TEXT: JOHN 6:25-63

THESIS: The purpose of this sermon is to see how Jesus showed the seriousness of following Him...it is to take Him internally.

INTRO: We've all seen the man on the street corner with the sign "Will work for food." Whether you're this man or whether you're a millionaire, we're all doing the same thing...working for food. We work so we can feed ourselves & our families. But is this true sustenance? Is this all life on earth is about? Jesus dealt with this attitude in John 6. He explained how He was there to provide a *spiritual* feast to all who would eat. However many left Him when He tried to tell them what the food was. This morning you will have the same opportunity to eat of this feast. I am not the provider. I am merely your waiter...God is the cook. He provides; I will deliver it to you, but *you* must eat.

I. DESIRING THE FOOD (v. 25-33) – Physical sustenance vs. spiritual sustenance:

- A. (v. 25) When (how) did you get here, Jesus? - An irrelevant question
- B. (v. 26) You came for the potluck! Jesus had just provided physical food and spiritual (the physical was secondary in importance, but not to the people!)
- C. (v. 27) Fix your priorities – pursue *spiritual* food...physical food is meaningless in comparison. Would Jesus really be sent to earth to feed our bellies? (**Mt 15:17** – Jesus put physical food into perspective – “mouth...belly...draught”) NO! Jesus came with a higher purpose...to provide *spiritual* food.
- D. (v. 28-29) How, Jesus? What are the works we must do? This is in response to Jesus' command to labor (same word) in v. 27. Answer: Believe on the one God sent. (Interesting that “belief” is a “work.” So is baptism! But neither are meritorious works).
- E. (v. 30-31) Show us a sign so we will believe *you* (they recognize that He is claiming to be the One God sent in v. 29).
(v. 31) Moses' sign was the manna our fathers ate. Jesus is going to put this into perspective in v. 49.
- F. (v. 32-33) The bread Moses gave wasn't the *real* food. It was temporal physical sustenance. The real bread is **He** that comes from Heaven and gives life. So the bread is a person. Already one might wonder about how to eat this bread!

II. KNOWING & BELIEVING IN THE FOOD (v. 34-47):

- A. The *real* food (v. 34-40)
 1. (v. 35) **I am the bread of life** (no wonder people could say “no one has ever taught like Him”)
 - a. Jesus uses images we can understand.
 - b. Bread is the essence for maintaining physical life. *Jesus* is the essence for maintaining spiritual life.
 2. (v. 36) You have seen me and don't believe – they believed enough to follow Jesus everywhere He went looking for food. But Jesus is teaching here that belief is more than just a statement...it's obedience in all things...it's trusting Him with your life/soul.
 3. (v. 37-40) Purpose of the food – that those who eat (who “come to me”) will not be cast out, but have eternal life.
- B. Doubts about the food (v. 41-47)
 1. (v. 41-42) “How can this Jesus guy, the son of Joseph, claim to have come down from heaven? He's just a human like us!”
 2. (v. 43-47) Jesus doesn't address his virgin birth and how Joseph wasn't *really* his father. Instead He address the fact that what He has done fulfills law/prophesy (“it is written” –v. 45) ... they should've recognized this!

III. EATING THE FOOD (v. 48-63):

- A. The food defined (v. 48-51)
 1. (v. 49) Jesus addresses their “sign” request (from v. 30-31). They wanted a sign like Moses providing manna. That food could not sustain eternally.
 2. (v. 50-51) What sustains eternally is the *real* bread that came down from Heaven...Jesus!
Now He says what He has been implying...you must eat Jesus' flesh! Jesus will explain this better momentarily, but first he tests them (how badly do we want to know?). ...given for the life of the world (not a “limited atonement”)!)
- B. Seriousness of eating this food (v. 53-59)
 1. Jesus uses a cannibalistic image to show the seriousness of this calling (we must take Jesus internally).
 2. Spiritual life, like physical life, is in the blood.
 3. Think about the significance of this. Jesus is preparing people for the kingdom (church). Why not just tell them the plan of salvation? Instead He continues to talk about eating His flesh & drinking His blood! Why? Because as important as the plan of salvation is, it is only the beginning of a new life *completely dedicated* to Christ. **HE MUST BE COMPLETELY INSIDE YOU!**
 4. Is this a reference to the **Lord's Supper**? No. Verse 51 says his flesh is for the *life of the world*. The LS is for the life of the church. But this & the Lord's Supper reference the same thing...the seriousness of the Christian's calling. During the LS, we remember Jesus' death, but the LS is for Christians...those who have already done what Jesus is talking about here.
- C. How to eat this food explained (v. 60-63)
 1. As with His parables, Jesus' teaching here separates the men from the boys. Many disciples left because they didn't understand.
 2. Was there anything written in the prophets regarding the Christ that would've led them to believe they would literally eat his flesh?
 3. (v. 62) If they didn't get this, what about when they saw him ascend to heaven? In what body? Obviously his flesh wasn't going to be literally eaten, otherwise how could it ascend?
 4. **(v. 63) the final explanation** – the flesh profits nothing; the *words I speak are spirit and are life*. So, eat my words!

CONCLUSION: Being a Christian involves a serious, life commitment. It involves taking Jesus internally...eating His words. His words are life. They teach us how to inherit eternal life. And we will be judged by them (**Jn 12:48**). This commitment must be made daily. It involves hungering and thirsting for righteousness...for the truth Jesus brought. Have you made this commitment? Are you willing to make this level of commitment?