

## Who Is Jesus Part 7

Living Water & The Bread of Life

*John 6:22-59*

*Memory Verses: John 6:35*

### MANUSCRIPTS

#### Introduction (Me, We, & the Struggle)

In *Matthew 16:15* Jesus asks; who do you say that I am? It's a great question. Who is Jesus?

For over a month now we've been answering this question from the very words of Christ. He says I am the Good Shepherd. I am the door and the way. I am the truth. And as we saw last week... he is the resurrection and the life. Who is Jesus... he is everything you need!

Today we want to continue with the theme of Jesus as life giving. In *John 6:35* he says this.... "I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in me shall never thirst."

Now we are talking. We are talking about one of my favorite topics; food. And in case you can't see very well this morning, I like to eat. You name it... I pretty much want to eat it. I've tried dieting... but my favorite diet is the seafood diet. I see food... and I eat it. Pizza, Ice Cream, Mashed Potatoes, Chicken wings... you name it... I'll destroy it. My sister-in-law, who happens to be one of our missionaries, before they moved to Senegal, loved it when I came over to their house... cause they weren't big left-over eaters... I'd clean em out. And I love desert. You know what one of my favorite deserts of all time is? **Little Debbie Oatmeal Creme Pies!** As they say where I come from... their so good they'd make you slap your mamma. In fact... i've got some right here? And because I don't like to eat alone... lets snack together.

But there are problems with eating things like Little Debbie Oatmeal Creme Pies... a lot of problems actually. For one... if you eat too much and don't exercise then you become over-weight and you start to have health problems. In America, the number one cause of our health issues are connected to the fact that we eat too much. Heart disease, diabetes, etc...

But the biggest problem with eating is simple... you can eat breakfast and in an hour... you are hungry again. You can eat lunch and in thirty minutes you need as snack. You can eat dinner but you are gonna get up at 12:30 rummaging around the fridge for that late night fourth meal. The problem is we eat and then we instantly start to get hungry all over again. It seems like a very self-defeating cycle. Little Debbie... why don't you satisfy?

How great would it be to eat something that made you healthier the more you ate it... and it satisfied your hunger once and for all?

That's what Jesus is saying... kind of. He's not talking about real food... but he is talking about the type of fulfillment that we get from food. In *Matthew 4:4* Jesus says that man cannot live by bread alone... but by the bread of God.

Why do we eat? Cause we want to. We are wired to desire food. It is one of mankind's most basic instincts and desires. But also because we need to. If we don't we will ultimately die for lack of nutrition. Our bodies have to have bread and water to survive. In the same way... if we do not have Jesus, the bread of life and the living water then we will not be able to survive. Without Jesus this life gets very empty, monotonous, repetitive, boring, sad, lonely, meaningless, and ultimately worthless. This is not God's plan.

This morning I want to take you through two specific passages of scripture and I want us to see what exactly Jesus means when he says that he is the living water and the bread of life. **If Your Existence Seems Dry & Stale It Might Be Time To Try Living Water & The Bread of Life .**

#### Teaching (Expand on the Problem, God)

So lets first look at this familiar story in John chapter 6:22-27. And what we will see here is that... **This World Can Satisfy You For A Time, But Only Jesus Can Satisfy You For All Time .** Read with me starting in *John 6:22-27*. Okay, for some context... Jesus has just fed the 5,000 and has crossed the sea of Galilee... by walking on water by the way. And all of these people he fed has followed him across the sea and when they see him, instead of receiving a warm welcome, Jesus rebukes them saying; you're following me not because you want to follow me for who I am... but because you want more food. Jesus knew that he was their meal ticket, their sugar daddy, but not their Lord. So, this begs a questions here... **do you simply follow Jesus because of what he can do for you?** Or do you follow Jesus because of who he is?

So Jesus takes this opportunity to disciple and exhort the people. Look at *vs27*. He says... you work for food that perishes... how about you work for something more... something that doesn't perish. Jesus is using physical bread as a metaphor for everything that we desire or work for in this life. Things like sexual pleasure, intoxication, entertainment, money, and all sorts of idols. These things... like food... will leave you wanting more and never really fulfills and satisfies the way we want it to. You will always need more alcohol, drugs, sex, money, entertainment, etc... It will never be enough. There is only one thing that can fill the God shaped hole in your heart. So Jesus calls them to another food saying... **Don't live your life chasing pleasures because ultimately they will leave you wanting more and in a worse position than you were before – It all perishes** There must be something else worth pursuing that doesn't perish.

Now lets move on... look at **John 6:28-47**. What does it mean to eat the Bread of Life? Four times here it is mentioned that you must believe. To eat the bread of life means to believe in the bread of life. But as we've said before, believing means more than just knowing or agreeing with certain facts. Believing means Be Living. You should be living what you say you believe. If you are believing in Jesus then it means you live for Jesus beyond just going to church or just saying you are a christian, or just saying a prayer every now and then. In fact if you look down at **vs53-54** we see that believing means that you must be consuming him consistently. How do you consume Jesus. Well we have a physical copy of his Words in the Word. Look again at **Matthew 4:4** no one lives by bread alone but by the word of God. You can't live by physical pleasures... but you must live by consuming Jesus by reading his Word. And we must consume him by praying. This is simple people. If you are a believer in Christ prayer and the Word are a huge part of your life. It shows that you truly depend upon Jesus as the Bread of Life. If we believe that Jesus is the very thing that can satisfy our lives beyond this world, if we can believe that he is the very sustainer of life and reason for living then we can actually begin to taste and experience living water and the bread of life.

Another point made here is that Moses did not give everlasting bread. The mana in the wilderness would perish overnight. This is another reminder of how fast the pleasures of this world vanish. But there is a bread that never perishes. **John 6:35** Jesus is the only bread that never perishes.

Believing also means that you truly must know some things as if they were never in doubt. In **John 6:39, 43, 54** we are told that we must believe in the resurrection. The resurrection of Christ and the resurrection of our lives as well. We are to believe in the resurrection, believe in a bread that satisfies forever, and we are to live in such a way that our lives consume this bread in the word and in prayer. But there is one other thing we need to see here.

Look at **John 6:44**. You cannot believe unless you are drawn. This is huge. This is the definitive verse on how people come to salvation in Christ. Yes, we must have faith. But no one can conjure that faith on their own. This verse tells us that if anyone comes to Christ... he must first be drawn by Christ. When you came to eat the Bread of Life... you were drawn by the grace of Christ. If you haven't come to eat the Bread of Life yet... we pray that Jesus would draw you today.

Moving on again... look at **John 6:48-59**. How does the Bread of Life satisfy more than this world? Well, first in **vs48-51** nothing in this world can give you eternal life but Jesus can. As we talked extensively last week... he secures eternal life for you by giving his life, his flesh for you.

But also, look at **vs52-58**. Nothing in this world can give you abiding life. But when you consume Jesus through prayer and the word, when you desire him and seek him constantly – you will have a sustaining connection to the resurrection and the life. Look specifically at **John 6:56**. You will abide in him.. you will remain connected to Jesus... and he will remain connected to you. And this in itself is the real life. So **without Christ you are left to satisfy yourself with the scraps of this world but with Christ you have a life support that satisfies constantly** . **If Your Existence Seems Dry & Stale It Might Be Time To Try Living Water & The Bread of Life** .

Now lets look at one more portion of scripture this morning. Turn with me over to a familiar story in John 4. In the story of the woman at the well we see one more pivotal thing... **This World Offers Aimless Worship, Jesus Offers Worship In Spirit & Truth**. Let's read **John 4:7-19**. Many of the same lessons we saw in John 6 are present here as well. Once again Jesus uses water as a metaphor for the physical desires of mankind. He makes it clear that if you pursue pleasures in this life they will leave you dry. He addresses her sexual promiscuity. She kept pursuing sexual relationships with men thinking they would bring her joy, but they kept leaving her broken. But Jesus makes it clear to her... If you pursue living water you will never thirst again **John 4:13-14**. Living water leads to eternal life.

Now look down at **John 4:20-26** . After talking about eternal life, living water, and her sexual sins... Jesus leads the conversation to worship and the Messiah and what we see here is that... worship isn't confined to a place or subset of rules **vs21**. Look at **vs22** most people don't understand what worship is. Isn't that what we see in this world. So many people have abandoned the idea of worshipping God simply because they think that worship is just a bunch of rules, wearing certain clothes, doing certain religious things. Yeah, if thats all it is... then I'm probably out to. But it's not that... worship goes way beyond that stuff. Its a lifestyle of joyfully obeying our Lord in a way that gives us meaning and purpose.. and overwhelming peace and happiness. **Most people don't find satisfaction in worship because they think worship is about ritual observance instead of joyful obedience** . To eat the Bread of Life & Drink Living Water means to worship God in Spirit & In Truth. Again... we worship in Spirit by having a spiritual and constant relationship with Jesus in prayer. Think about it... prayer is an almost completely spiritual thing. Worshipping in Spirit must mean a prayerful worship. This is why we are called to pray constantly. We are to have a constant conversation with Jesus at all times which in return gives us a spiritual abiding connection.

We worship in Truth by having a truthful and constant relationship with Jesus in the word. The word is the standard of truth. If you want to

know how to truthfully worship God then you must read the Word. And these are the worshippers that Jesus wants. Why? Because... **It's impossible to experience a life of joyful and authentic worship apart from a consistent relationship with Jesus .**

Now look at how the woman at the well responds in vs25-26 . Only the Messiah can give me this living water... Jesus says bingo it's me. If you are looking for all satisfying, everlasting fulfillment... it's found in Jesus. If your life has been spent worshipping stuff like sex, intoxication, money, entertainment, etc... you know that it never turns out in your favor. Why not worship someone who can also fulfill you forever? If your life feels like a life spent worshipping aimless things... turn your worship to the one who can give you living water. **If Your Existence Seems Dry & Stale It Might Be Time To Try Living Water & The Bread of Life**

### Application (Resolution, You)

You've tried to satisfy yourself haven't you! No matter how many Oatmeal Creme Pies you stuff into your face... you are going to want something else later. And it will not fully satisfy either. There is only one thing that truly satisfies, there is only one thing that can give you a life of fulfilling worship rather than aimless worship.... Jesus is the Bread of life... he is living water! Won't you come and eat of him today.. won't you come and drink of him and be filled? Eating and drinking Christ means consistent constant worship in Spirit through prayer and in truth through the world. To be satisfied in Jesus means that once you eat of the bread of life... no other bread will ever taste as good. Once you drink of the living water... no other water will be as good. **Jesus should be good enough to quench your hunger and thirst for anything else.**

### Conclusion

So.. have you believed on Christ to satisfy your hunger and thirst in this world? If you are a believer.... are you sharing the bread of life and living water with others? Let's end with a story.

Many years ago there was a man in India who was delivering the Gospel on a train. He was offering copies of the Gospel of John to non-believers when one of the men he gave the Gospel to responded by ripping it up into pieces and throwing it out of the window. That seemed the end, but it so happened, there was a man anxiously seeking for truth walking along the railroad line that very day, and he picked up as he walked along a little bit of paper and looked at it, and the words on it in his own language were 'the Bread of Life'. He did not know what it meant; but he enquired among his friends and one of them said: 'I can tell you; it is out of the Christian book. You must not read it or you will be defiled.' The man thought for a moment and then said: 'I want to read the book

that contains that beautiful phrase; the Bread of Life. So, he went to a book store and bought a copy of the New Testament. He was shown where the sentence occurred-our Lord's words 'I am the Bread of Life'; and as he studied the gospel, the light flooded into his heart, he came to the knowledge of Jesus Christ, and he became a preacher of the gospel in India. That little bit of paper through God's Spirit was indeed the Bread of life to him, satisfying his deepest need.

My prayer this morning is that you would either find the Bread of life this morning. That he would draw you to himself today. Or, if you are already a believer, that you would start consuming Jesus daily in prayer and in the Word... and that you would share this bread and this water with those who don't have it. **If Your Existence Seems Dry & Stale It Might Be Time To Try Living Water & The Bread of Life .**