

Come to the Table and Live

“Learning Jesus” (The Gospel of John)

John 6:22-51

March 24, 2019

BIG IDEA

Jesus is the Bread of Life. I invite you now to put aside your striving, guilt, shame, and spiritual scorecard. You won't need that where we're going. We're going to a place where you can eat spiritual food that will satisfy you forever. Come to His table and live.

THIS WEEK'S SCRIPTURE

Context:

This is the first “I Am” sayings of Jesus that prove that He is who He said He is.

The “I AM” Statements of Jesus:

- *I Am the Bread of Life*
- I Am the Light of the World
- I Am the Gate
- I Am the Good Shepherd
- I Am the Resurrection and the Life
- I Am the Way, and the Truth, and the Life
- I Am the True Vine

The 5,000 who had been fed by Jesus were still on the eastern shore of the Sea of Galilee. They thought that the Lord's feeding was less significant than Moses' manna from heaven. But Jesus will tell them that He is the Bread of Life and through Him, we can be fed forever. We can come to His table and live.

John 6:22-51

I Am the Bread of Life

²² On the next day the crowd that remained on the other side of the sea saw that there had been only one boat there, and that Jesus had not entered the boat with his disciples, but that his disciples had gone away alone. ²³ Other boats from Tiberias came near the place where they had eaten the bread after the Lord had given thanks. ²⁴ So when the crowd saw that Jesus was not there, nor his disciples, they themselves got into the boats and went to Capernaum, seeking Jesus.

²⁵ When they found him on the other side of the sea, they said to him, "Rabbi, when did you come here?" ²⁶ Jesus answered them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, you are seeking me, not because you saw signs, but because you ate your fill of the loaves. ²⁷ Do not work for the food that perishes, but for the food that endures to eternal life, which the Son of Man will give to you. For on him God the Father has set his seal." ²⁸ Then they said to him, "What must we do, to be doing the works of God?" ²⁹ Jesus answered them, "This is the work of God, that you believe in him whom he has sent." ³⁰ So they said to him, "Then what sign do you do, that we may see and believe you? What work do you perform?" ³¹ Our fathers ate the manna in the wilderness; as it is written, 'He gave them bread from heaven to eat.' "³² Jesus then said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, it was not Moses who gave you the bread from heaven, but my Father gives you the true bread from heaven. ³³ For the bread of God is he who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world." ³⁴ They said to him, "Sir, give us this bread always."

³⁵ Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in me shall never thirst. ³⁶ But I said to you that you have seen me and yet do not believe. ³⁷ All that the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never cast out. ³⁸ For I have come down from heaven, not to do my own will but the will of him who sent me. ³⁹ And this is the will of him who sent me, that I should lose nothing of all that he has given me, but raise it up on the last day. ⁴⁰ For this is the will of my Father, that everyone who looks on the Son and believes in him should have eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day."

⁴¹ So the Jews grumbled about him, because he said, "I am the bread that came down from heaven." ⁴² They said, "Is not this Jesus, the son of Joseph, whose father and mother we know? How does he now say, 'I have come down from heaven'?" ⁴³ Jesus answered them, "Do not grumble among yourselves. ⁴⁴ No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him. And I will raise him up on the last day. ⁴⁵ It is written in the Prophets, 'And they will all be taught by God.' Everyone who has heard and learned from the Father comes to me— ⁴⁶ not that anyone has seen the Father except he who is from God; he has seen the Father. ⁴⁷ Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever believes has eternal life. ⁴⁸ I am the bread of life. ⁴⁹ Your fathers ate the manna in the wilderness, and they died. ⁵⁰ This is the bread that comes down from heaven, so that one may eat of it and not die. ⁵¹ I am the living bread that came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever. And the bread that I will give for the life of the world is my flesh."



1. Come to the Table for Spiritual Truth

John 6:26-27 – *Jesus answered them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, you are seeking me, not because you saw signs, but because you ate your fill of the loaves. ²⁷ Do not work for the food that perishes, but for the food that endures to eternal life, which the Son of Man will give to you. For on him God the Father has set his seal.”*

The crowd was enamored with His most recent miracle because it filled their stomachs. It was an entirely temporal way to look at the world. They were missing the significance of eternal food that is served at the table of Jesus. He commanded them to work for things that matter for eternity. Physical food is short-lived. Spiritual food lasts forever. Jesus is that spiritual food.

The phrase “Truly, truly, I say to you” is an emphatic. Jesus was telling them to pay attention to the truth He was about to say. And Jesus told them the truth. He didn’t care if they liked it or not. The one thing we can be sure of when we pull up our seat at the table of life is that truth will dwell there.

- a. **Is there really such a thing as objective truth? What would be examples of it? How does it compare with subjective truth? Which one would our culture promote?**

- b. **The truth of Jesus affects our everyday lives. Can you think of some ways within your family, work, and at church that you are guided by the truth of Jesus? How would you see these things differently if you didn’t believe in objective truth?**

2. Come to the Table and Obtain Grace

John 6:28-31 – *Then they said to him, “What must we do, to be doing the works of God?” ²⁹ Jesus answered them, “This is the work of God, that you believe in him whom he has sent.” ³⁰ So they said to him, “Then what sign do you do, that we may see and believe you? What work do you perform? ³¹ Our fathers ate the manna in the wilderness; as it is written, ‘He gave them bread from heaven to eat.’”*



Their question wasn't, "What are the godly works that we should be doing?" It was really: "What kind of work does God require?" Jesus flatly refutes their thinking. You don't need to work for a seat at the table—you just need faith. You just need belief. In fact, it would be fair to go one step further and say that not only does God *not* require works in order to receive spiritual food; God demands that we embrace our inability to save ourselves.

a. What are some ways that you tend to strive to earn God's favor?

b. Do you believe that God loves you just the way you are? Why or why not?

c. Read Titus 3:5. Who saves you? What is your role in salvation?

Titus 3:5 – He saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit.

3. Come to the Table and Receive Life

John 6:32-34 – Jesus then said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, it was not Moses who gave you the bread from heaven, but my Father gives you the true bread from heaven. ³³ For the bread of God is he who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world." ³⁴ They said to him, "Sir, give us this bread always."

Jesus makes it clear that it was his Father, not Moses, that gave them manna, and that the Father is *still* giving manna. But, the manna He's giving now is not the bread—it's Jesus. That's why I want you to come to the table. Life is found at the table.

God is the source of all life. His Son, Jesus, is life, and He has come to give everlasting life to all people. Sin cuts us off from God and we die spiritually and physically. Christ



has come down from heaven to give life to the world. Jesus is thus the genuine “Bread of God.”

There are so many problems in the world. Billy Graham said, “We don’t suffer from a race problem, or a poverty problem, or a war problem. We suffer from a heart problem.” And so we need a heart change. The hearts of human beings have been ravaged by sin. Without Christ, we literally die on the vine. We starve to death because sin kills us. There is only one way to avoid death and destruction; it’s by turning our hearts over to Jesus Christ.

- a. **What are the evidences you see that convince you that your heart is ravaged by sin? What has Jesus done to help you overcome your sin problem?**

- b. **Where are some places that you go to try to find life outside of Jesus? Do you find satisfaction there? What keeps you from going right to Jesus?**

- c. **Do you believe Jesus’ statement in John 14:6? “No one comes to the Father but through me.” If so, how does this apply to your life and how you interact with non-believers?**

4. Come to the Table and Receive a Person, Not a Commodity

John 6:35 – Jesus said to them, [and here is the “I Am” saying], “I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in me shall never thirst.”

The food that’s available at the table of life is eternal food. It’s Jesus. “He is the Bread of Life.”



- a. The crowd had just seen Jesus feed the 5,000. How did Jesus use that event to make this “I Am” saying so powerful? Do you hunger more for temporal food or spiritual food?

- b. What are some examples of temporal food that distract you from the table of life? What strategies have you put in place to change these dynamics?

5. Come to the Table and Be Satisfied Forever

John 6:47-51 – *“Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever believes has eternal life. ⁴⁸ I am the bread of life.⁴⁹ Your fathers ate the manna in the wilderness, and they died. ⁵⁰ This is the bread that comes down from heaven, so that one may eat of it and not die. ⁵¹ I am the living bread that came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever. And the bread that I will give for the life of the world is my flesh.”*

“Whoever believes has eternal life” is a Greek construction that means we have eternal life *now*. Jesus is that life. He is the Manna from heaven that always satisfies. The table of life is a satisfying table. The person who wisely sits at this table will never die.

- a. **Jesus said we can pull up a chair to the table when we heed the Father’s call. In John 6:44 He tells us that “no one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him.” Is the Father calling you to come to the table? What will you do about this calling?**

- b. **So often we strive to gain a spot at the table. In what ways do you try to earn the Father’s love? What is the truth about your standing before Him?**



- c. In verses 37 and 38, Jesus tells the crowd, “Whoever comes to me I will never cast out.” Who would you like to invite to the table? Set a time-frame for yourself so that this person can hear about the love of Jesus.

PRAY

Dear Lord, thank you for giving me a seat at the table. I don't deserve it. Help me to live a life of gratitude and give me a passion to invite others. Amen.

DIG DEEPER

For further study this week:

- [*The Jesus Answer Book*](#) – a book from John MacArthur
- [*Jesus the King: Understanding the Life and Death of the Son of God*](#) – a book from Timothy Keller

NEXT WEEK'S BIG IDEA

Special Easter Season – *The Journey of Peter from Humiliation to Glory*

