

John 6:27, 35, 48-58, 63 - True Food and True Drink

Intro - Eating & drinking are basics to physical life. If we are going to live, then we must eat & drink. But Jesus said, "Life is more than the body..." and that, "man does not live by bread alone..." There is more to life than the physical & there is "a food" that is beyond tangible. Just as physical life is sustained by food & drink, so too spiritual life is sustained by *True Food & True Drink*.

We gather today to observe a memorial meal and to celebrate the One who is *The Bread the Life*. This meal, with its two very simple elements, has a very profound message. The Supper is a sermon about the Incarnation (Immanuel - God who became flesh and dwelt among us). Deity & Humanity displayed in the simplicity of a meal. These elements are a dramatic display of the perfect humanity of Jesus which was prepared as a meal for us... grain must be milled, and grapes must be crushed if we are to have bread and wine. The Son of God is the Supper. "This is My body..." "This is the blood..." The elements represent His humanity. It is His Supper

This meal powerfully declares that the God-Man Jesus Christ is the sole source and only sustainer of life. If we are to live, then we must partake of Him. This meal calls us to faith. Communion speaks of the vital union we have in Jesus by faith- *Christ in us the hope of glory*. Yes, this is a tangible meal (see, taste, touch) ...but it speaks to spiritual nourishment and eternal life. This meal is a physical picture of a spiritual reality where we *taste and see that the Lord is good*. And just as you reach out and take the bread/cup, so too you can reach out by faith and lay hold of Christ who is life. You can receive Him into yourself, and He will give you life.

Meditate on a few thoughts as we prepare to partake. *Two kinds of Food One Source of Life*

TWO KINDS OF FOOD

- The context of John 6 is not the Lord's Supper
 - Feeding of 5000 walked on water crowds follow to other side
 - Jesus teaches these people, who are clamoring for more food, about *True Food*.
- There are two kinds of food. 6:27
 - Food that perishes. Doesn't last or have lasting effect - not satiate
 - Food that endures to eternal life there is a food that won't spoil...and will fulfill
- The Son of Man is the source of eternal food 6:27b
 - The Father's seal of approval is only on The Son 6:27c
 - FDA seal of approval Jesus has the Father's seal of approval
 - Jesus is the Bread of Life 6:35 He never goes bad.
- What kind of food do you crave the most?
 - My most memorable meal - leftover pancakes (famished after work - found in frig)
 - When you are hungry... food tastes all the sweeter - Prov. 27:7
 - If I only craved Christ like I craved those pancakes
 - Matt. 4:4
 - Matt. 5:6

ONE SOURCE OF LIFE

- 6:48-50
 - There is only one brand of bread that is *Living Bread*
 - Its not: Wonder Bread or Wal-Mart bread or homemade bread.....
- 6:51
 - Living Bread is not manufactured on earth but came down from heaven (manna)
 - Living Bread = Christ's human life
 - John 1:1,14 1 Tim. 3:16a Deity cloaked in humanity
 - Immanuel - Matt. 1:23 God with us in flesh and blood
 - We celebrate the incarnation every time we have Communion
- 6:55
 - Jesus' perfect humanity it the only remedy for our starved souls
 - There are many cooks and many kitchens...
 - ...but they all serve deadly meals
 - Only Jesus is True Food and True Drink
- Food and Drink must be prepared for use
 - Grain is ground and milled... Grapes are pressed and crushed...
 - The humanity of Christ was ground by God under a great millstone
 - *I was the Lord's will to crush Him* - Is. 53:10a
 - The Father pressed Him in the great winepress of the wrath of God
 - The body/humanity of Jesus was prepared...to be *The Bread of Life*
- Food outside of you cannot benefit you
 - Meals must be received if you are to receive any benefit. Food must be in you
 - Not left on plate but in palate
 - 6:56-58
 - Many disciples left after this difficult saying 6:60, 66
 - Jesus' words were spiritual but were vital - 6:63
 - By faith we must receive Him and abide in Him and He in us
 - Communion demonstrates our union with Christ and His life
 - Christ in me the hope of glory

Open Communion

Fencing the Table

Examine yourself

Solemn Celebration