

# THAT YOU MAY HAVE LIFE

## (A Study of the Gospel of John)

INTRODUCTION: Turning water into wine, healing the nobleman's son and the paralyzed man at the pool of Bethesda did not create a host of genuine followers of Jesus, but these signs did produce a crowd. People began to follow Him in mass.

So it is at the opening of John 6, that while Jesus was sitting on a hillside teaching His disciples that a great multitude, some 5,000 men and their families, a crowd of probably 20 to 30,000 people climbed the hill to listen to the words of Jesus.

John 6:5-14

### I. THE PEOPLE NEEDED BREAD, AND JESUS GAVE IT TO THEM.

Mt. 6:8 “Therefore do not be like them. For your Father knows the things you have need of before you ask Him.

John 6:22-27

### II. THE PEOPLE WANTED MORE BREAD (WANTED, NOT NEEDED).

John 6:26 Jesus answered them and said, “Most assuredly, I say to you, you seek Me, not because you saw the signs, but because you ate of the loaves and were filled.

#### JESUS TOLD THEM THEY WANTED THE WRONG BREAD.

Christmas is a time when we think a lot about what people we love want so we can get them something as a Christmas present.

Sadly, but honestly, it is also a time we may spend a fair amount of time thinking about what we want, what we hope we are given.

Usually our desires are restrained by what we consider to be the resources and the willingness of those who may give to us. There is no sense in me putting a Ferrari FF on my list, because I don't know anyone who would be both able and willing to buy that for me.

But what if your list did not have those limitations. Do the genie in a bottle game with me a minute. What if you could have any three things you wanted without consideration of value or likelihood of receiving it?

What would you put on your list?

Go ahead, write it on the Worship Folder

Make a note on your phone.

At least make a 3 item mental note.

Now let me ask you some questions about what is on your list.

- **Can you buy anything on your list with money?** If yes, then you want the wrong thing.
- **Is what is on your list going to be as valuable 10,000 years from now as it is now?** If no, then you want the wrong thing.
- **Is what is on your list on Jesus' list?** If no, then you want the wrong thing.

**John 6:27** Do not labor for the food which perishes, but for the food which endures to everlasting life, which the Son of Man will give you, because God the Father has set His seal on Him.”

So the crowd wanted to know what they ought to be seeking. They said that Moses gave them the bread called manna in the wilderness to eat.

Jesus told them, “Moses did not do that. God did that.” Then...

### III. JESUS CALLED HIMSELF

- **The true bread from heaven**
- **The bread of God**
- **The bread of life**

Then Jesus said, **John 6:33** For the bread of God is He who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world.”

Folks, do you understand that is what Christmas is all about?

That is what we are celebrating, that God sent Jesus from Heaven to be the bread of life for us.

But have you considered that **just as God had to be willing to send His Son, Mary had to be willing to receive Him.**

**John 6:47-58** 47 Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me has everlasting life. 48 I am the bread of life. 49 Your fathers ate the manna in the

wilderness, and are dead. 50 This is the bread which comes down from heaven, that one may eat of it and not die. 51 I am the living bread which came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever; and the bread that I shall give is My flesh, which I shall give for the life of the world.”

52 The Jews therefore quarreled among themselves, saying, “How can this Man give us *His* flesh to eat?”

53 Then Jesus said to them, “Most assuredly, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink His blood, you have no life in you. 54 Whoever eats My flesh and drinks My blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day. 55 For My flesh is food indeed, and My blood is drink indeed. 56 He who eats My flesh and drinks My blood abides in Me, and I in him. 57 As the living Father sent Me, and I live because of the Father, so he who feeds on Me will live because of Me. 58 This is the bread which came down from heaven—not as your fathers ate the manna, and are dead. He who eats this bread will live forever.”

#### **IV. EATING THE FLESH AND DRINKING THE BLOOD MEANS BRINGING JESUS INTO OUR LIVES.**

This is what we picture when we celebrate the Lord’s Supper.

When we eat the bread, we are testifying that we have invited Jesus into our lives.

When we drink the cup, we are saying that He has entered us and lives in us.

1 Cor. 11:24 and when He had given thanks, He broke *it* and said, “Take, eat; this is My body which is broken for you; do this in remembrance of Me.”

1 Cor. 11:25 In the same manner *He* also *took* the cup after supper, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in My blood. This do, as often as you drink *it*, in remembrance of Me.”