

# WHAT JESUS SAID – THEN AND NOW

## About the Bread

TEXT: John 6:26-58

INTRODUCTION: When Jesus transformed the Passover into the Lord's Supper, He said, of the unleavened bread, "This is my body." It was not the first time that Jesus called Himself bread, and each one had great significance.

### I. THE TRUE BREAD OF GOD FROM HEAVEN

John 6:26-32 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. 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."

28 Then they said to Him, "What shall we do, that we may work the works of God?"

29 Jesus answered and said to them, "This is the work of God, that you believe in Him whom He sent."

30 Therefore they said to Him, "What sign will You perform then, that we may see it and believe You? What work will You do? 31 Our fathers ate the manna in the desert; as it is written, *'He gave them bread from heaven to eat.'*"

32 Then Jesus said to them, "Most assuredly, I say to you, Moses did not give you the bread from heaven, but My Father gives you the true bread from heaven.

#### A. Jesus is the true bread.

1. The people focused on the manna that God sent.
2. Jesus was telling them, "That is nothing compared with Me."
3. People are still focused on provisions rather than the Provider.
4. God moved Elijah away from the brook Cherith to teach Him to trust the Giver rather than the gift.

#### B. Jesus was sent by God.

#### C. Jesus came from heaven.

1. This affirms His pre-existence.
2. And His eternality.

Jesus said, "I am ...

## II. THE BREAD OF LIFE

John 6:33-35 For the bread of God is He who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world.”

34 Then they said to Him, “Lord, give us this bread always.”

35 And Jesus said to them, “I am the bread of life. He who comes to Me shall never hunger, and he who believes in Me shall never thirst.

**A. Men think of bread as that which sustains life.**

**B. Jesus says, “I sustain life.”**

**C. Men think of bread as giving daily satisfaction.**

**D. Jesus alone brings satisfaction.**

## III. THE LIVING BREAD

John 6:51-58 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.”

**A. All who eat “The Living Bread” receive eternal life.**

**B. How do we eat this “Living Bread?”**

1. The Catholics believe it is available through the bread of the Eucharist.
2. But if that were true, how could the believing thief be promised by our Lord that he would be in Paradise?
3. How could eternal life be promised to all who believe without partaking of the bread of the Eucharist being mentioned?

Acts 16:30-31 30 And he brought them out and said, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" 31 So they said, "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved, you and your household."

4. What does it mean to eat? It means to take into yourself so that what you eat becomes a part of you.
5. That is what we must do with Jesus, the Bread of Life. We receive Him into ourselves and let Him become a part of us, so that He lives in us.

John 1:12 But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name:

Colossians 1:27 To them God willed to make known what are the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles: which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.

CONCLUSION: Jesus is the One God sent from heaven, to give us life, abundant and eternal, if we will simply receive Him as the Lord and Master and bring Him into our hearts and lives.