

Feeding on Jesus as the Living Bread

**Now and then,
or as a habit?**

Food is the most basic necessity

- In the Old Testament:
- The garden of Eden (Genesis)
- The Passover (Exodus)
- The manna in the desert (Exodus)
- The offerings and sacrifices (Leviticus)
- Lack of food often led to murmuring by the children of Israel (Numbers)
- Lack of food (famine) caused Abraham to go to Egypt (Genesis), and Elimelech and Naomi to leave the good land to go to Moab (Ruth)

In the New Testament

- The first matter in which Satan tried to tempt Jesus was the matter of food
- Jesus fed the multitudes
- People invited Jesus to eat in their homes
- Jesus' disciples ate corn in the cornfields on the Sabbath
- Jesus ate with His disciples right before He went to the cross
- This was the beginning of the Lord's Table
- Jesus cooked breakfast for His disciples after His resurrection
- Jesus asked His disciples for something to eat after His resurrection

What is eating to us?

A Habit!

- **If I don't eat, I will die!**

Jesus came to be our food

- I am the living bread which came down from heaven (John 6:51)

Very hard to recognize that Jesus can be bread to us

- Why?
- The Jews then complained about Him, because He said, “I am the bread which came down from heaven.” And they said, “Is not this Jesus, the son of Joseph, whose father and mother we know? How is it then that He says, ‘I have come down from heaven’?” (John 6:41-42)

No outward miracle involved

- We like miracles
- We like to see bread falling down from heaven
- Yes, Jesus is the bread that came down from heaven, but not in a miraculous way
- Jesus came as a man, as the son of a carpenter
- “How can this Man give us His flesh to eat?” (John 6:52)

Where is the living bread today?

- Not in an outwardly miraculous way
- The Bible is living bread to us
- The Bible is always with us, on our bookshelves, in boxes
- Something so common
- Yet it is actually Jesus Himself!
- Yet we do not see it
- We take it for granted

Miracles do not change us

- Miracles catch our attention and satisfy our immediate need, but do not change us
- Your fathers ate the manna in the wilderness, and are dead (John 6:51)

The living bread changes us – gives us life

- 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.” (John 6:58)
- How can we eat this living bread???

Come

- No one can **come** to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him; and I will raise him up at the last day (John 6:44)
- Therefore everyone who has heard and learned from the Father **comes** to Me (John 6:45)

Believe

- Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me has everlasting life (John 6:47).
- The more we come to Jesus, the more we believe in Him

The living bread is always available

- We often despise things that are readily available and which cause us to form habits
- We always like exotic and rare things (miracles)
- Jesus is always with us and in us
- How much do I pray to Him? How much do I contact Him?
- We have so many Bibles. How much do I read?
- Is it my habit?
- Do I eat Jesus (habit) and live because of Jesus?
- As the living Father sent Me, and I live because of the Father, so he who feeds on Me will live because of Me (John 6:57).

Good habits have lasting effects

- The more I have the habit of feeding on the word of God, of coming to the Lord through a hymn, the more I will believe in the Lord, the more real He will be to me, and the more meaningful my life will be
- But forming habits is not easy
- We need to exercise again and again and again