

THE BREAD OF LIFE
John 6:22-35

I. A MIRACLE MEAL

- A. *“Truly, truly, I say to you, you seek me, not because you saw signs, but because you ate your fill of the loaves” (John 6:26).*
- B. Have You Heard This Before?
 - 1. “ Oh, no. It’s communion Sunday.
 - 2. “The Sacrament of the Lord’s Supper doesn’t really mean anything to me.”
 - 3. “I’ll be glad when it’s over.”
- C. It’s Not About Me or You.
 - 1. “I fear that we are trained by our culture to consider that everything is about us.” (William Willimon)
 - 2. “It’s not about you ... The search for the purpose of life has puzzled people for thousands of years ... because we typically begin at the wrong starting point – ourselves.” (Rick Warren)

II. A SON INSTEAD OF A SIGN

- A. *“Do not labor for the food that perishes, but for the food which endures to eternal life, which the Son of man will give to you ... I am the bread of life.” (John 6:27 & 35).*
- B. Relationship Famine.
 - 1. “Our high divorce rates, our fractured families, our corporate superstructures ... all evidence our failure at relationships. Even when we get into relationships we no longer understand how they’re supposed to work and what we’re supposed to do to keep them healthy and alive.” (Leonard Sweet)
 - 2. “One of the most endangered resources in our world today is social capital.” (Robert Putnam)

III. GRACE AND DIS-GRACE

- A. *“For the bread of God is that which comes down from heaven, and gives life to the world” (John 6:33).*
- B. Separation.
 - 1. We know what it’s like when a child does something wrong and they are in disgrace with their parents.
 - 2. A spouse is unfaithful in marriage and they know what it is to be disgraced by their loved one.
- C. Salvation.
 - 1. At the Lord’s table we celebrate the moments of being *graced* when reconciliation occurs.
 - 2. Take the bread. Take the cup. Celebrate the way a father welcomes the prodigal home.

Prayer Concerns: *Burney Biesel, Mac Kerr, Jane Lipford, Joe McDowell, Anne Miller, Mildred Sentell, Carol Webb, Gerald Borden, Sarah Clark, Richard Cole, Jack Cothran, Cledus Creel, Jimmy Eubanks, Nancy Gunnels, Jeff Joyner, Sandra Kilzer, Carolyn Kimbrell, Linda Lindner, Van Lynch, Macy Morgan, Taylor Murray, Judy Owen, David Ray Petrie, Patrick Ramage, Bob Sparks, Lloyd Watson ...*

Christian Sympathy is extended to the family of *Mildred Hart*, who died on Friday, July 28, and to the family of *Polly Burton*, who died on Saturday, July 29.

PASTORAL PRAYER
(The Prayer of St. Francis of Assisi)

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace.
Where there is hatred, let me sow love;
Where there is injury, pardon;
Where there is doubt, faith;
Where there is despair, hope;
Where there is sadness, joy;
Where there is darkness, light.

O Divine Master, grant that I may not so much
seek to be consoled, as to console;
Not so much to be understood, as to understand;
Not so much to be loved, as to love.

For it is giving that we receive,
it is in pardoning that we are pardoned,
it is in dying that we are born again to eternal life.

THE LORD'S PRAYER: Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

JOHN 6:22-35

On the next day the people who 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. However, boats from Tiberias came near the place where they ate the bread after the Lord had given thanks. So when the people saw that Jesus was not there, or his disciples, they themselves got into the boats and went to Capernaum, seeking Jesus.

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

Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life; he who comes to me shall not hunger, and he who believes in me shall never thirst."

SERMON SCHEDULE

In the Sanctuary:

August 13 *How Do You Grieve the Holy Spirit?* Ephesians 4:25-32
August 20 *Miracle Grow and Fruit of the Spirit* Galatians 5:13-25
August 27 *The Armor of God* Ephesians 6:10-20

On the Radio (1450 AM):

August 13 *Son of Encouragement* Acts 4:32-37
August 20 *The Ugly Side of Faith* Luke 6:43-46
August 27 *Looks Like Judgment to Me* Genesis 6:13-22