



# RED HILL LUTHERAN CHURCH & SCHOOL

## THE WEEKLY BRICK

**August 9, 2009.**

*As you come to him, the living Stone-rejected by men but chosen by God and precious to him-you also, are being built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. - 1 Peter 2:4-5*

### **“Are You Satisfied?”**

John 6:35, 41-51

Who best articulates your “life-theme?”

Rodney Dangerfield?

Mick Jager?

Charlie Brown?

Howard Hughes?

*John 6:35, 37...Jesus declared, “I am the bread of life. He who comes to me will never go hungry, and he who believes in me will never be thirsty...<sup>[47]</sup> I tell you the truth, he who believes has everlasting life.*

JESUS IS THE ONLY ONE WHO CAN \_\_\_\_\_ MY DEEPEST NEED.

How do I know Jesus can satisfy my deepest need? Jesus satisfies my deepest need because:

**Jesus \_\_\_\_\_.**

*John 6:41, 43 At this the Jews began to grumble about him because he said, “I am the bread that came down from heaven...”<sup>[43]</sup> “Stop grumbling among yourselves,” Jesus answered.*

**Jesus still \_\_\_\_\_.**

*John 6:44 “No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him, and I will raise him up at the last day.*

EXPERIENCING REAL SATISFACTION COMES WHEN I:

\_\_\_\_\_ **My true hunger.**

*John 6:48-50 I am the bread of life.<sup>[49]</sup> Your forefathers ate the manna in the desert, yet they died.<sup>[50]</sup> But here is the bread that comes down from heaven, which a man may eat and not die.*

\_\_\_\_\_ **to Jesus.**

*John 6:51 I am the living bread that came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever. This bread is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world.”*

*(Answers: Satisfy. Knows me. Accepts me. Recognize. Surrender.)*

## WEEKLY BIBLE STUDY

**Monday, August 10<sup>th</sup>** *Read John 6:25-34.*

Jesus' answer to the crowd redirects the conversation to the motives of those who were following Him. The crowd, Jesus said, are only responding to Him because their stomachs are full and they want more! "I want more" could be a mantra for living in our culture. How often have you said, "If I just had \_\_\_\_\_ I would be satisfied, only to possess the object and of course, not be satisfied! God does not want us to live by the "When...Then" philosophy of life: "When I get, achieve, arrive, etc...Then I will be happy." The Bible says that to seek God will bring lasting satisfaction. When we trust in God's love and presence in our lives, everything else will follow! We will be TRULY satisfied.

Going Deeper: *Matthew 6:25-33*

Going Forward: What do you need in your life right now to be satisfied? Be honest. How do your need (s) relate to being a disciple of Jesus?

**Tuesday, August 11<sup>th</sup>** *Read John 6:35-37.*

One of the metaphorically potent 'I am' sayings of Jesus is found here in verse 35: Jesus' assertion that He is the "bread of life." The second half of verse 35 through verse 41 is really an expanded commentary on the "bread of life" saying. It is, of course, a direct response to the people's demand for bread, for it was necessary for them to understand that Jesus was speaking of spiritual and not literal food. Jesus is man's necessary "food." In our contemporary culture, bread is often optional, but it was an essential staple in antiquity. Jesus promised, *He who comes to Me will never go hungry, and he who believes in Me will never be thirsty.* The "nevers" are emphatic in Greek. God works sovereignly in people's lives. The election of individuals is the Father's gift to the Son. The Son has no concern that His work will be ineffective, for the Father will enable people to come to Jesus. As Jesus expresses confidence, we may have confidence also. The one who comes to Jesus for salvation will NEVER be driven away.

The "bread" that the people wanted were already in front of them—and they couldn't see Him! In verse 35 Jesus very succinctly states, "I Am the bread of life." The "I Am" sayings of Jesus form the core of Jesus' self-revelation in the Gospel of John. In the "I Am" sayings, Jesus identifies himself with common human symbols of spiritual hunger, meaning and hope. For example: "bread," (6:35, 48, 51) "life," (11:14) "light," (8:12) and "truth" (14:16). Jesus proclaims that He is the source of life and answers human needs and longings. Gail R. O'Day writes:

Verse 35b expands on the claim of the "I Am" saying. To come to Jesus and believe in him are synonymous here and... depicts in metaphorical language the results of faith in Jesus...The core meaning of the hunger/thirst imagery remains constant...What people need for life is available in Jesus. (Gail R. O'Day. In *The New Interpreters Bible: John*. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1995).

Going Deeper: *Deuteronomy 8:1-3*

Going Forward: Reflect upon your spiritual hungers and longings. Name these and ask God to reveal to you the source of these hungers. Pray about and offer to God the source of your hungers and longings.

**Wednesday, August 12<sup>th</sup>** *Read John 6:38-39*

Jesus then repeated His claim about His heavenly origin. The purpose of Jesus' earthly sojourn was to do what God had sent Him to do—to save those whom the Father will bring to Jesus. This includes you and me. Here we see the divine sovereignty that is at work in human lives. No one that God has chosen to receive salvation will never be lost! In this passage we can see a strong affirmation of the eternal security of the believer. The emphatic negative statement “*I will never drive away*” is to be understood as an assurance that Jesus will preserve the believer. Jesus' clear affirmation: “*I shall lose none*” (v. 39) again underscores the grace and love of God that is the foundation of our relationship with Jesus. Our salvation is not dependent upon our feelings, knowledge, understanding, or our “coming to the Lord.” God's grace is operative from the beginning to the end of our Christian lives. Linguistically, the “all” in v 39 is neuter (as in v 37) and sums up everything given by the Father to the Son. The two references to the “last day” in v. 40, show that Jesus was thinking ahead to the end of the age, when all will be consummated. Ultimately, Jesus' discourse on being the “bread of life” corrected, and corrects, two critical errors in human thinking: (1) First, the “food” of which Jesus spoke refers to a Person, not a commodity. It is being in a personal, right-relationship with Jesus. Second, once someone is in this right relationship to Jesus, he or she finds a satisfaction which is everlasting, not temporal.

Going Forward: What does it mean to you that God was at work in your life even before you were consciously aware of God's work? Do you ever doubt that you belong to Jesus? Do you spend more time focused on the temporary or the eternal?

**Thursday, August 13<sup>th</sup>** *Read John 6:40-44*

Verse 40 repeats and reinforces the ideas of the previous verses. The one who “looks” and “believes” on Jesus for salvation has their destiny secure. The divine choosing of the believer has insured it. The believer has eternal life and will experience resurrection “at the last day.” The Jewish leaders and hostile unbelievers, criticized (grumbled) about and to Jesus because of Jesus' description of His heavenly origins. Like their ancestors in the wilderness, these people murmured (see Exodus 15:24; 16:2, 7, 12; 17:3; Numbers 11:1; 14:2, 27). Their thinking was seemingly logical: a person whose parents are known could not be “from heaven?” (See also Mark 6:3; Luke 4:22). These “grumblers” were ignorant of His true origin and full nature. They could not reconcile this with their knowledge of Jesus' humble origins (v 42). Notice that Jesus rebuked their grumbling rather than answering their objections (v 43). Jesus was essentially telling these people that they were out of step with the Father (44).

Going Deeper: *Romans 8:28-30*

**Friday, August 14<sup>th</sup>** *Read Again John 6:43-45*

Jesus made no attempt to correct the people's ignorance other than to rebuke their grumbling and to point them to the drawing and teaching ministry of God. They are not in a position to judge Him. Without God's help any assessment of God's Messenger will be faulty. No person can come to Jesus or believe in Jesus without divine help. People are so enveloped by sin and unbelief that unless God calls and draws them, there is not hope. Here is an important point: This drawing of God is not limited to a few. Jesus said, “I . . . will draw all men to Myself” (See John 12:32). This does not mean that all will be saved but that Gentiles and Jews will be saved. In support of this doctrine of salvation by God's grace, Jesus cited the Old Testament. Jesus' quote, “They will all be taught by God,” is from the Prophetic books, likely both Isaiah (Isaiah 54:13) and Jeremiah (Jeremiah 31:34). This “teaching” of God refers to His inner work that leads people to understand and accept the truth about Jesus and respond to Jesus.

Going Deeper: *Isaiah 54:13; Jeremiah 31:34.*

**Saturday, August 15<sup>th</sup> John 6:46-51**

This teaching of Jesus is not to be seen as a type of mystical connection of people with God, reserved only for a special few. Rather, knowing God comes only through Jesus, the *Logos* of God (See John 1:18). As one is confronted by Jesus and then hears His words and sees His deeds, this is evidence of the Father's call toward Jesus and the Father's work in the believer's life. In verses 47-48, we find a summary of Jesus' teaching in this particular debate. Jesus' "I tell you the truth" occurs here for the third of four times in this passage (See also vs. 26, 32, and 53). "He who believes" is in the Greek language a participial construction in the present tense, meaning that a believer is characterized by his continuing trust. The believer has "everlasting life," which is a present and abiding possession.

In verses 49-50, Jesus explains that the manna met only a temporary need. The manna provided temporary physical life. The Israelites eat the bread but ultimately they died. Jesus is a "bread" of a different kind. Jesus is from heaven and gives eternal life. A person who eats of that "bread" will not die eternally. Since Jesus is the "Bread of Life," what does "eating" this bread mean? Many commentators assume that Jesus was talking about the Lord's Supper. This of course is possible and logical application. However, since the Last Supper has yet to occur (probably one year later), eating His flesh and drinking His blood is metaphorical speech. It means to believe in Jesus, to "consume" His words and life so that our souls may be nourished. To eat of this Bread is to "live forever." (See vs. 40, 47, 50, 54, and 58). Jesus' revelation about the Bread from Heaven was then advanced in that not only is the Father giving the Bread (Jesus), but also Jesus is giving Himself: "This bread is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world." Salvation is through the sacrificial death of Jesus who surrenders His body to sin, death, and the Devil so that we may truly live; now and forever.

