

THE NEED OF THE HUNGRY—LIFE'S FEEDING

Message 3

I. The Need of the Hungry - Life's Feeding

A. The Portrait in John 6

John 6:1-2 After these things Jesus went away across the Sea of Galilee, which is the Sea of Tiberias. ² And a great crowd followed Him, because they saw the signs which He did on those who were sick.

- 1. People Around a Sea - Signifying Mankind Busy and Occupied in Satan's Organized and Systematized World (John 6:1-2)**
- 2. The Feast of the Passover - Signifying the Beginning of Man's Life Always Ending in Hunger (6:4)**

John 6:4 Now the Passover, the feast of the Jews, was near

John 6:27 Work not for the food which perishes, but for the food which abides unto eternal life...

B. The Feeding of the Five Thousand

John 6:5, 8-11 Jesus then lifting up His eyes and seeing that a great crowd was coming toward Him, said to Philip, Where shall we buy bread that these may eat?... ⁸ One of His disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, said to Him, ⁹ There is a little boy here who has five barley loaves and two fish; but what are these for so many? ¹⁰ Jesus said, Have the people recline. Now there was much grass in the place. So the men reclined, in number about five thousand. ¹¹ Jesus then took the loaves, and when He had given thanks, He distributed to those who were reclining; likewise also of the fish, as much as they wanted.

- 1. Five Barley Loaves - The Generating Aspect of Christ's Life**
- 2. Two Fish - The Redeeming Aspect of Christ's Life**
- 3. The Smallness of Christ as the Life Supply to Us**

John 6:9 There is a little boy here who has five barley loaves and two fish; but what are these for so many?

John 6:14-15 The people therefore, seeing the sign which He did, said, This is truly the Prophet who is to come into the world. ¹⁵ Then Jesus, knowing that they were about to come and take Him by force to make Him King, withdrew again to the mountain, Himself alone.

Matthew 15:25-28 But she came and worshipped Him, saying, Lord, help me! ²⁶ But He answered and said, It is not good to take the children's bread and throw it to the little dogs. ²⁷ And she said, Yes, Lord, for even the little dogs eat of the crumbs which fall from their masters' table. ²⁸ Then Jesus answered and said to her, O woman, great is your faith! Be it done to you as you wish. And her daughter was healed from that hour.

- 4. Twelve Baskets - The Richness of Christ in the Overflow of His Life Supply**

John 6:13 So they gathered them and filled twelve handbaskets with broken pieces from the five barley loaves which were left over among those who had eaten.

II. A Revolutionary Change in Concept from Doing to Eating

Matthew 14:23 And after He sent the crowds away, He went up to the mountain privately to pray. And when night fell, He was there alone.

John 6:24-30 So when the crowd saw that Jesus was not there, nor His disciples, they themselves got into the small boats and came to Capernaum, seeking Jesus. ²⁵ And when they found Him on the other side of the sea, they said to Him, Rabbi, when did You get here? ²⁶ Jesus answered them and said, Truly, truly, I say to you, You seek Me not because you have seen signs, but because you ate of the bread and were filled. ²⁷ Work not for the food which perishes, but for the food which abides unto eternal life, which the Son of Man will give you; for Him has the Father, even God, sealed. 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 into Him whom He has sent. ³⁰ They said then to Him, What sign then will You do that we may see and believe You? What work will You do?

A. The Work of God - To Believe Into His Son by Receiving Him as Life and the Life Supply

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

John 6:47 Truly, truly, I say to you, he who believes has eternal life.

John 6:54 He who eats My flesh and drinks My blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up in the last day.

B. Eating Jesus

1. To Have Life

John 6:53 Jesus therefore said to them, Truly, truly, I say to you, Unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink His blood, you do not have life within yourselves.

2. To Live by Christ

John 6:57 As the living Father has sent Me and I live because of the Father, so he who eats Me, he also shall live because of Me.

III. The Way Revealed in John 6 to Take the Lord as Food

A. Through Incarnation

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

B. Through Crucifixion

John 6:51 ...And the bread which I will give is My flesh, given for the life of the world.

C. Through Resurrection

John 6:56 He who eats My flesh and drinks My blood abides in Me and I in him.

John 14:20 In that day you will know that I am in My Father, and you in Me, and I in you.

D. Through Ascension

John 6:62 Then what if you saw the Son of Man ascending to where He was before?

E. Becoming the Life-giving Spirit

John 6:63 It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing...

2 Corinthians 3:17 And the Lord is the Spirit...

F. Embodied in the Word of Life

John 6:63 ...The words which I have spoken to you are spirit and are life.

John 6:68 Simon Peter answered Him, Lord, to whom shall we go? You have words of eternal life,

IV. The Practicality of Eating Jesus

A. Eating Jesus by Praying His Word

Jeremiah 15:16 Thy words were found, and I did eat them; and thy word was unto me the joy and rejoicing of mine heart: for I am called by thy name, O LORD God of hosts.

Matthew 4:4 But He answered and said, It is written, "Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that proceeds out through the mouth of God."

Ephesians 6:17-18 And receive the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which Spirit is the word of God, ¹⁸ By means of all prayer and petition, praying at every time in spirit and watching unto this in all perseverance and petition concerning all the saints

B. Eating Jesus by Calling on His Name

Isaiah 55:1 Ho, every one that thirsteth, come ye to the waters, and he that hath no money; come ye, buy, and eat; yea, come, buy wine and milk without money and without price.

Isaiah 55:6 Seek ye the LORD while he may be found, call ye upon him while he is near:

Romans 10:12 For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek, for the same Lord is Lord of all and rich to all who call upon Him;

C. Responding and Going Along with the Inner Sense

John 15:7 If you abide in Me and My words abide in you...

1 Thessalonians 5:19 Do not quench the Spirit

D. Eating Jesus by Speaking His Word

John 4:27, 32 And at this point His disciples came, and they marveled that He was speaking with a woman; yet no one said, What are You seeking? or, Why are You speaking with her?... ³² But He said to them, I have food to eat that you do not know about.

Ephesians 5:18-19 ...Be filled in spirit, ¹⁹ Speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and psalming with your heart to the Lord