



Hungry?


I am the living bread that came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread he will live forever. The bread that I will give for the life of the world is My flesh. ~ John 6:51

Discover the Context

John 6:41-59

 In your own words, what is the teaching of John 6:51? How did many of the followers of Jesus respond to this teaching (v 66)? How do you want to respond to this teaching? What is one thing you can do every day to help yourself respond appropriately to this teaching?

 You wouldn't think of starting this day with a small glass of orange juice and then eating nothing for the rest of the day. Yet spiritually, that's what a quick devotion time in the morning and a skimpy prayer at night is like. Make a list of things you can do today that will demonstrate your hunger for the Lord.

 Be conscious of praying throughout the day. Whenever you begin a new task, commit the work to God and express your need for Him.

Bread in ancient Palestine was literally the source of sustenance. Jesus says in John 6:51 that He is the living bread that gives eternal life to the world. This raises the question: Are you spiritually hungry?

I know at camp I'm always physically hungry. Every Saturday the first meal with campers is a spaghetti dinner with garlic bread and salad. Sunday morning is pancakes and sausage links. On Wednesday we cook our own beef stew. But no matter what is being served, it seems like I can never get enough. Swimming, hiking, and running from sunup to sundown does wonders for my appetite. Worrying about staff conflicts and chasing naughty campers only adds to my calorie depletion. Did I mention that I never miss camp store in the middle of the afternoon so that I can get a snack to hold me over? And, of course, there's the bedtime snack—s'mores, hot dogs, cookies, and twizzlers. No doubt about it, the physical demands of camp life require lots of eating and sustenance.

Jesus teaches that this is a picture of how we are spiritually. The sins of our hearts, the pressures of the world, difficult circumstances, relationship questions, and the trials of life make us spiritually hungry. The only "food" that will satisfy and nourish us is Jesus Christ Himself. He takes away the hunger pangs. He truly satisfies, not just with nice platitudes or pleasant thoughts, but with the absolute reality that He is enough for all that life throws at us.

Our genuine need for Christ today is actually more important than our physical need for breakfast. He alone gives life. True life. Apart from Him there is only death. True death.

How is that? Jesus says that He would give His flesh for the life of the world. He was predicting His death on the cross for our sins. That is the source of sustaining grace for you and me today and every day. His death is life-giving. Because He died on the cross, He can say that He is the living bread. [JCR]