

JESUS BY JOHN

— THE BREAD AND THE BLOOD —

PART 1: The Scandal
PART 2: The Bread

PART 3: *The Blood*

APPETIZER: Christian Cannibalism?

*What has been your biggest criticism for following
or at least being interested in Jesus?*

DINE IN: Soul Food & Wonder Bread

John 6:25-59

Our great need is to hunger for the right things... **Matthew 5:6**

THREE DEGREES OF MIRACLES (VERSES 30-33)...

1. Jesus used cheap barley loaves to feed 5,000 for one afternoon.
2. "That's nice Jesus. But Moses fed all Israel with heavenly bread for 40 years! Top that!"
3. First of all, it was God, not Moses, who fed Israel with the *Moses Manna*. Secondly, that God is my Father, and he's doing it again. Now he's feeding the whole world with the true bread, *Messiah Manna*, forever. Top *THAT*.

THE LESSER →	THE GREATER →	THE GREATEST
Jesus	Moses	My Father
Gave	Gave	Gives
Barley Bread	Manna Bread	True Bread
To 5,000	To all Israel	To the Whole World
One afternoon	For 40 years	Forever

Jesus (accessed through Scripture and the Church by his Spirit) is enough...

John 6:63; 2 Timothy 3:16-17; 2 Corinthians 12:9; Romans 10:17

ABSOLUTE "I AM" STATEMENTS... 6:20; 8:24, 28, 58; 18:5

METAPHORICAL "I AM" STATEMENTS...

1. I am the bread of life 6:35, 48, 51
2. I am the light of the world 8:12; 9:5
3. I am the door of the sheep 10:7, 9
4. I am the good shepherd 10:11, 14
5. I am the resurrection and the life 11:25
6. I am the way, the truth, and the life 14:6
7. I am the true vine 15:1

HELKO = to DRAW or to DRAG? (v. 43)

John 12:32; 5:39-40; Matthew 23:37

THE COMMUNION CONUNDRUM...

1. Transubstantiation / Real Change (Catholic)
2. Consubstantiation / Spiritual Change (Lutheran)
3. Pneumatic Presence (Reformed / Protestant)
4. Memorialism / Symbolic Meal of Remembering (Zwingli, Anabaptists)
5. Suspensionism / Not practiced today (Salvation Army)

BLOOD... **Genesis 9:4; Leviticus 3:17; 17:10-14; Deuteronomy 12:23**

TAKE OUT: "Sir" or "Lord"?

Sir/Lord, always give us this bread. (v. 34)

"Sir" is the cloak of polite expression, hiding jabs of selfish demandingness.

...Or...

"Lord" makes this "the best prayer ever, and one that we should all pray regularly."

NEXT WEEK...

We return to our study on the life of Abraham, starting in Genesis 16.

Home Church Questions

HANGOUT [Warming Up to the Topic – in one Large Group]

1. Review Sunday's sermon, rebuild your collective memory of the teaching, and talk about what most interested you.
2. Make time (or make plans) to have a Eucharist meal together as a Home Church.

HEAR [Listening to God through Scripture – in Discussion Groups]

3. Read **John 6:25-59**. Use the following options as a menu, not a list that must be completed.
 - a. What verse or idea stands out to you the most? Why?
 - b. In **verse 26**, Jesus seems to indicate that the crowd only wants him because of what they can get from him superficially (food). Do you think there are some shallow benefits to following Jesus that people like, but that don't ensure they will stick with Jesus when the going gets tough? Give some examples.
 - c. Instead of seeing Jesus' feeding of the five thousand as the sign they needed, the crowd simply wanted to see more (**verses 30-31**). What signs of God's love and care and conviction in your life might you tend to overlook while you're waiting for something more?
 - d. Do you think **verse 34** is a "jab of demandingness" or "the best prayer ever"? Why? Would you translate KYRIOS as "Sir" or "Lord"? Why? What difference can it make?
 - e. In **verse 35**, Jesus declares that those come to him and believe in him will never go hungry or thirsty. What does this mean? Has this been your observation and/or experience?
 - f. According to **verses 38-40**, what is God's will? How can we partner with rather than resist (or be dead weight in relation to) God's will?
 - g. Using thoughts represented in **verses 45-46** (also see **1:18**) how might you respond to someone who told you they've decided to look for God through alternative spiritualities and religions?
 - h. Do you see "communion" or "the Lord's Supper" or "the Eucharist" as merely symbolic, or do we encounter Jesus there in some unique way?

HUDDLE [Making It Personal and Praying Together – in Huddles]

4. Use your Huddle Questions and pray for one another.