

## 6. The Church: Feeding on Bread from Heaven

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NOTES:

### I. The Manna from Heaven

#### A. *Exodus 15-16*

1. A \_\_\_\_\_ has elapsed since Israel left Egypt and they have run out of food. The people grumble over being hungry.
2. God's response is to rain down bread out of heaven.
3. God gives specific \_\_\_\_\_ regarding the gathering of the manna.
4. Israel is told to preserve some of the manna so that subsequent generations might \_\_\_\_\_ how God fed his people in the wilderness.
5. Finally, we are told in verse 35 that "The sons of Israel ate the manna forty years, until they came to an inhabited land; they ate the manna until they came to the border of the land of Canaan."

#### B. *Numbers 11*

1. In this passage, we find ourselves a little over a \_\_\_\_\_ later. Again the people are complaining.
2. The result of this is that God sends meat but while they were chewing the meat, God struck them with a severe \_\_\_\_\_.

#### C. *Deuteronomy 8*

1. Deut. 8 is an important passage because it gives us the \_\_\_\_\_ reason for the manna.
2. Deut. 8:3 take us back to two important truths in the first few chapters of Genesis: Life is \_\_\_\_\_ by God's word. Life is \_\_\_\_\_ by God's word. God's word makes alive but God's word also commands.
3. The manna in this way was given to Israel to teach them about the creative and commanding power of God's word which resulted in two things:
  - a) It humbled the Israelites and taught them to \_\_\_\_\_ on God and recognize his sovereignty over their own lives.
  - b) It humbled the Israelites by teaching them to \_\_\_\_\_ and submit to God's word.

## II. Jesus is the Bread of Life

NOTES:

### A. *John 1*

1. John begins his gospel in a provocative way. He gives the Word of Genesis 1 \_\_\_\_\_! The word with which God created all things is a \_\_\_\_\_ who is distinct from God and yet is equal to God.

### B. *John 6*

1. Jesus miraculously feeds the \_\_\_\_\_.
2. The next day, the people come looking for Jesus wanting another \_\_\_\_\_.
3. The rest of the chapter spins out of this. The people are thinking in \_\_\_\_\_ terms about physical food that can fill their physical bellies. Jesus knows that they need \_\_\_\_\_ food because they are spiritually starving. In order to explain what he means, Jesus is going to compare himself with the manna that Israel ate in the wilderness.

### C. *Parallels and Contrasts*

1. The manna is a type of \_\_\_\_\_. Just as the manna came down from heaven, so Jesus has come from heaven, sent by God.
2. The manna was given in order to sustain \_\_\_\_\_. Jesus is the manna that gives life to the \_\_\_\_\_ (v. 33, 51).
3. The manna came \_\_\_\_\_, daily. Jesus came \_\_\_\_\_ for all.
4. Israel ate the manna and drank the water. The proper response to Jesus as the bread of life is \_\_\_\_\_ to him and \_\_\_\_\_ in him (v. 35).
5. God was \_\_\_\_\_ over who ate the manna and when they ate the manna. In the same way, God is sovereign over who believes in Jesus.
6. Israel reacted to God's provision by \_\_\_\_\_. The Jews and even some of Jesus' disciples reacted to Jesus as the bread of life by grumbling and complaining (v. 41, 61).
7. The manna in the wilderness did not prevent the Israelites from \_\_\_\_\_ (v. 49, 58). Anyone who eats Jesus, the living bread, will \_\_\_\_\_ forever.

### III. Application and Significance

#### A. *Israel is a type of the new covenant people of God who \_\_\_\_\_ on Christ as the true \_\_\_\_\_ from heaven.*

1. **How do we eat and drink Christ?** By coming to him and believing in him. Jesus established the \_\_\_\_\_ of the metaphors “eating and drinking”.

a) We will not come to him unless we sense our spiritual \_\_\_\_\_. Those who come to him are those who realize they need bread.

b) To believe in Jesus means we believe he can meet our need. We believe he is the \_\_\_\_\_ to our hunger.

2. Jesus takes it to a deeper level. Notice how he steps up the language from verse 51 to verse 53. Eating and drinking Jesus is eating his flesh and drinking his blood. Jesus is using \_\_\_\_\_ language.

a) In other words, we don't just come to Jesus, we come to Jesus sacrificed for us. We recognize our need for his \_\_\_\_\_ work.

b) We don't just believe in Jesus, we believe in his sacrificial work. In other words, we are to appropriate Christ's sacrificial work by \_\_\_\_\_.

3. Jesus is clearly speaking about \_\_\_\_\_. But as he continues, he speaks of more than just a one-time conversion experience. He also speaks about a day by day continual feeding, a \_\_\_\_\_ on the sacrifice of Christ.

a) **John 6:53-54** So Jesus said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless you **eat** (*aorist tense- an action without regard for time, often one-time event*) the flesh of the Son of Man and **drink** (*aorist*) His blood, you have no life in yourselves. <sup>54</sup>He who **chews** (*present tense- continual action*) My flesh and **drinks** (*present*) My blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day."

b) The sacrifice of Jesus is spiritual food for believers. We cannot live spiritually \_\_\_\_\_ lives without coming back to the cross again and again, recognizing our need of cleansing, and appropriating his blood by faith.

#### B. *God's provision of Christ as manna \_\_\_\_\_ our pride, removing our sense of self-sufficiency and exalting God's absolute sovereignty in salvation.*

1. The provision of Jesus as manna teaches us the same lessons that the manna was supposed to teach Israel in the wilderness.

- a) Jesus is the word that \_\_\_\_\_ life!
- b) Jesus is the word that \_\_\_\_\_ life!

**C. *Just as the manna was particular to the wilderness experience, so God's people are nourished by Christ during their \_\_\_\_\_ on \_\_\_\_\_.***

- 1. Jesus situates his recipients outside of the Promised Land in the \_\_\_\_\_.
- 2. The church has not reached its promised home of a new heaven and a new earth. Yes, we have experienced God's salvation, yet we still live in environment that is \_\_\_\_\_ to our spiritual lives, to our faith. We need manna and God has provided him.

**D. *Israel's grumbling on account of the manna (and subsequent judgment) serves to warn God's people not to \_\_\_\_\_ over the spiritual diet God has provided.***

1. **Charles Stevens:** "Nothing reveals what we really are in our spiritual state so much as our \_\_\_\_\_ toward the manna. Does Christ satisfy? Are we taken up with Him?"

**E. *Feeding on Christ results in \_\_\_\_\_.***

- 1. Eternal life, particularly in John's gospel, speaks of a \_\_\_\_\_ of life. There is no genuine experience of life apart from Jesus Christ.
  - a) It is a \_\_\_\_\_ life. Jesus said that he who comes to him will not hunger and he who believes in him will never thirst.
  - b) It is an experience of \_\_\_\_\_ with God. The mutual abiding speaks of complete identification with Christ and the enduring personal communion that flows from that identification (v. 56).
  - c) It is an \_\_\_\_\_ life. Jesus promises that our physical death does not spell the end. Jesus says that there is a day coming when he will personally raise us up (v. 40, 44, 54). We will receive new bodies and we will live forever with him.