

Manna: I Am That Bread of Life

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If you will this morning, turn with me to our text which will be found in John 6:48. A short text but very full of life and meaning. John 6:48. These words are in red as you see the Lord Jesus Christ spoke them.

48 I am that bread of life.

Let us pray.

Dear heavenly Father, how gracious and holy thou art. We thank thee, Lord, for bringing us back safely. We thank you, Lord, for bringing us here to worship once again with thy people. We pray, O Lord, that you would unify us in thy Spirit and in thy mind, that you would be pleased to anoint this hour and the hour to come with thy Spirit. Give an unction, Lord, as it pleases you. May you fill our souls with thee. May you meet us, Lord, and show us that life is in thee and thee alone. And Lord, may you set a table that we may banquet upon thee, that we may live upon thee, and that you may be our life and our sustenance. This we ask in Jesus' name. Amen.

John 6:48 says, "I am that bread of life." He is the sustenance of life. I find that wherever I go, whatever I do, wherever the Lord takes me, this one constant remains and that is that I need the Lord daily. I need him hourly. Sometimes I deceive myself by thinking, as we just left and went away for vacation for a week, you entertain thoughts that when you get on vacation things are going to be so wonderful and things are just going to be different but you don't leave your flesh behind, you don't leave sin behind. The things that plague us every day tell us that in this life there are no things in this life that we can run to or escape to.

Christ said, "I am that bread of life." Bread to them at that time was the sustenance of life. It is what the body needed nourished every day. They desired and they were fed the body, the physical body needs that sustenance to live every day and if the body is not given sustenance day after day, it will surely die. Our soul is like that also. Our soul is in need of the bread of life every day. The Lord Jesus Christ is that bread of life.

I thought about this deeply for a couple of weeks now because one of my favorite types in the word of God is the manna, the manna that the Lord sent from above, because in the

manna the Lord typified his Son in many ways, and we'll get to that here shortly. But he showed forth Israel of old that life would only be in the manna; that the manna was life; the manna was the sustainer of life. As I said, we'll look at that shortly.

Today I want to look as we see this passage that the Lord led me to, "I am that bread of life," is right in the middle of this discourse, right in the middle of John 6 where the Lord had just fed the 5,000 and the disciples, they were called disciples, not the 12 but many who followed him, saw what the Lord did and as they saw it, they cleaved to him even more. They said, "Surely this one must be the Messiah." I believe in 14 it said, "Then those men, when they had seen the miracle that Jesus did, said, This is of a truth that prophet that should come into the world." They saw the physical manifestation of Jesus doing this miracle and the Lord would tell them, "You didn't come to me because of a desire or a thirst in your soul, you came here because of the loaves. You came here because of the miracle." And I think about that and that's very descriptive and very searching and for the child of God it should be searching. It should be. What is the bread of life to you? What is the bread of life to me? Every day as we rise in this world, we live but what is it that we live upon? What is it your soul has need of? Does your soul have need of anything? Is it just your body that has needs? Your body will have needs every day.

So today I want to begin just at verse 28. They said after all this, "Then said they unto him, What shall we do?" And that's the thing, man sees Christ and he sees what the Messiah can do and the man today sees this is what Jesus was, this is the historical account of Jesus, this is where salvation is, and I want to be saved. What do you want to be saved from? Mostly if you interview people on the street or you talk about people in the religious world and church and things, they want to be saved from hell. But what about yourself? What about sin? What about certain death? All of these things for the child of God is what he has deliverance in his Lord. As I said, they come to him and they said, "What shall we do that we might work the works of God?" We've seen those throughout the word of God who did that, Simon Magus being one of them. "I want the power of the Holy Spirit." Man wants the Lord or God upon his own terms.

"What can we do to work the works of God?" Jesus then says this, who tells us today, this key verse right here is the essence, is the depth of understanding Christ as the manna that came from heaven and that is in verse 29, "Jesus answered and said unto them, This is the work of God," not the work of man, not the work of theological seminaries, not the work of your friends, not the work of books, not the work of any kind of formal education, "This is the work of God, that ye believe on him whom he hath sent." Faith is a gift of God. No one in here and none of the children of God have any merit, any merit to say to the Lord or to say to this world, "I am saved because I did this. I believe because I confess this." The work of faith in the soul is a gift of the Father through the Son. It is the faith of the Son of God. It is gifted to the child of God.

"This is the work of God, that ye believe on him whom he hath sent. They said therefore unto him, What sign shewest thou then, that we may see, and believe thee? what dost thou work?" Jesus said, "An evil and adulterous generation requires a sign." I wonder

about us in this room today, how many of us require a sign? I grew up this way. I can't cast a stone at these because I grew up as a child, I always wanted to prove God to be God. "O Lord, if you do this, I'll do this. If you just do this for me, I'll know that you're God. If you get me through this, Lord..." I remember I was facing a surgery early early in my life and I didn't know much about the Lord then, but I knew as I was taught, if I tell the Lord what I want, he'll do it. So I told the Lord before that surgery, I said, "Lord, if you get me through this, I'll know that you're God." I got through that surgery. The Lord brought me through that surgery. Did I have a thankful heart? Did I turn to God and say, "Oh, I owe my life to you, Lord, that you brought me through that." No, I went on my merry way. I was seven or eight years old, I went on and it was over. That little blip in my life was over, I healed and everything just went back to playing and back to life again. And that's the way it is in this life, without the Lord, the gift of faith and the bringing of the child and that's what Jesus is going to say in this passage many times, that you can't come to me. The Father draws all of the children to the Son. He draws all men unto him.

But they sought a sign and they said, "What sign shewest thou then, that we may see, and believe thee?" I have to see it to believe it. And isn't that the case in all of our lives, in our fallen nature? Everything has to be seen and quantified by how we understand life. "I understand God to be this way. Now, God, prove yourself to be that way." Not, "Lord, I know nothing about you. You must reveal yourself to me before I can ever learn anything about you. You must do it, Lord." We are taught even from our early life, we're taught in this society today, we're taught in everything to always seek God from the creature first. We tell God what we need. We come to God and we say, "Listen, Lord, I'm going to begin with you." There is nothing more foreign to the Scriptures than that. The Lord begins with his children. He is the Alpha and Omega. He is the author and finisher of our faith. It is all of him.

So they said, "What must we see and how can we do it? Our fathers did eat manna." They introduced this. They said, "You know, our fathers. God rained down manna to them and they believed." Did they? That whole generation perished.

"Our fathers did eat manna in the desert; as it is written, He gave them bread from heaven to eat." So they want Jesus to do a miracle. He's already fed 5,000. They want another sign. They come and they look and they say, "Lord, are you really the Messiah? Show us another sign." It didn't matter what he did, it didn't matter how much miracles were performed, and it's the same today. It doesn't matter how much truth you preach to someone or how much truth you share with someone in your life, unless the Lord does his work in the soul, that person will never believe. It is the work of God that ye believe on him who he hath sent.

So they bring this up to the Lord and they said, "Hey, what about manna? He did that for our fathers." Then Jesus said this, "Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily," of a truth, "I say unto you, Moses gave you not that bread from heaven." Do you see how they focused on the physical in their generational understanding and the history that was sent down and

preserved? "Oh, our fathers had this. Moses did this." Moses was nothing but an instrument.

"Jesus said, Moses gave you not that bread from heaven; but my Father giveth you the true bread from heaven." I'm standing right before you. You want manna? There's something greater than manna here. There is someone greater than Jonah, there is someone greater than Solomon, there is someone greater than the manna. All of the types and pictures that the Father had ordained in the Old Testament showed forth the glory of Christ coming and what is in Christ.

So the Lord says to them, "my Father giveth you the true bread." Do you see the correlation? Do you see how he's comparing the two? One was a physical bread, this one is the bread of life. "I am the bread of life."

"For the bread of God is he which cometh down from heaven, and giveth life unto the world." Now, I told you at the beginning we wanted to look at the manna. I thought the manna was one of the most beautiful things of the types and pictures of the Old Testament. If you'll turn with me now over to Exodus 16. I don't want to read the whole account, I just want to share with you a couple of things that the manna stood for, and I hope the Holy Spirit joins us in unity this morning and we can understand and see the depth of the Scripture of how the Lord sent down this manna from heaven and it showed forth his Son.

The first place we go is in Exodus 16:21 and this is the first lesson we get. "And they gathered it every morning." Every morning they gathered the manna. What does this show forth of our Lord and Savior? It's how we started in the opening: the Lord is needed daily. But not only is he needed daily, he is provided daily for his children. When Jesus taught his disciples how to pray, he said in Matthew 6:11, "Give us this day our daily bread." That had nothing to do with physical substance. That has everything to do with him. He is the bread as he says here, he is the bread that came down from heaven. "I am the bread of life."

So in 21 it says, "And they gathered it every morning, every man according to his eating," daily they gathered the manna. The Lord provided the manna every morning and that showed forth and that's the first picture that showed forth to them, that every day Christ is needed. Every day the bread of life is the sustenance of the child of God. He can't live by anything else. We can try to live off of this world, we can try to live off the flesh, we can try to live off emotions, but as our soul is starved from Christ because of sin, as it is starved, the Lord brings desperation into our soul for us to cry out unto him, "Lord, give us this day our daily bread!" That is a cry. It is a plea. It is a desire as the heart panteth after the water. That's the desire the Lord puts in the soul. We have to have this bread. That is the one thing as every day went by on vacation and the day would be filled with events and things to do and everything, but the soul needed the bread every morning. The soul needed to be reminded, needed to be nourished, needed to see the Lord reigning every day because every day is full of problems. Every day is full of sin. Every day is full of your flesh.

And the first picture we have, as I said, is daily. The Lord said, "Give us this day our daily bread." But he also instructed them not to take more than was needed in the day and if they did, the next day it would stink and the worms would get in it. What is that lesson to us? We live every day, day by day upon the Lord. That's the thing. People don't like to hear that because we are planning people. We like to plan ahead and say, "Oh, I'm gonna do this or I'm gonna search this out and I'm gonna do it this way. I'm gonna do this on this day. I'm gonna do it this way." And James tells us that we should say, "If the Lord wills, we'll do that." But that's not a flippant statement, it's truth. If the Lord is willing, then I'm willing. Not if the Lord is bent to my will, this is what I'm going to do on those days.

No, that's what the Lord showed them here in the manna. You can't collect more than you will need, that omer that you need for one day. You won't need any more than that. Christ is enough. And as we look into the future and we try to gather Christ for the future, we don't know what each day he holds for us. We don't know what Romans 8:28, the depth of it, that the Lord every day provides in his providence for our soul, in what way that is. We may try to tell the Lord we know it, we may try to tell him that we've got it figured out and planned and schemed, but he is faithful to show us that it's every day we need the Lord.

In Matthew 6:34 Jesus said, "Take no thought for the morrow." I mean, that's piercing to me because there are things I look and I say, "Oh, this is what I want to do in a week or this is what I need to do tomorrow, this is what I need to do later." Take no thought for the morrow. "O Lord, why would you instruct such a thing like that?" And he'll tell us, "Take no thought for the morrow: for the morrow shall take thought for the things of itself." He holds it in his hand. He has ordained every step. He has ordained every providence. He has ordained everything that will come into your life the rest of your life. "O Lord, make us to rest in your finished work."

And then the rest of that verse tells us why, "Sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof." Has the Lord proved that in your life? It doesn't matter how old you are in this room, has the Lord proved that in your life that there is evil in every day? He has for me and that evilness is within, that evil flesh that I have, those thoughts that rise up, the wickedness of Satan's attacks, the wickedness of the world trying to come into my soul to take my mind and my thoughts from my Lord's finished work. That there is wickedness every day and that's why the Lord tells us there is so much evil in every day you don't need to worry about tomorrow. Tomorrow is finished in me. Everything has been provided for. But we will, we'll worry.

So the first thing I wanted to show you was daily. The Lord provides himself daily. The necessity of daily living upon the Lord and that's all of him to bring, as you will see in our passage when we get back to it. The second thing I wanted to show you was in verse 15. "And when the children of Israel saw it, they said one to another, It is manna." The manna fell from the sky. The manna was given of the Lord. There was no creature involvement in it whatsoever. There was no worldly involvement in it whatsoever. The

Lord rained down the manna from above. If you are to have communion with the Lord in the bread of life, it will be because of him in your soul. It won't be because of any of your doing. It won't be because of anything you've done. It'll be all of him because he has sought you, because he has brought you to him. And that picture is beautiful to me. When the children of Israel saw it, they didn't have a hand in it. They didn't pray it down from heaven. They didn't say, "O Lord, we'll do this for you." It's a mercy of the Lord to rain down his Son to the soul of his children.

"And when the children of Israel saw it, they said one to another, It is manna: for they wist not what it was. And Moses said unto them, This is the bread which the LORD hath given you to eat." So we see these pictures. I hope you see them. I hope as you see it here in Exodus you say, "Yes, I see how that typifies my Lord. I see how I do need him daily. The Holy Spirit says to me I need him daily. I see that I have no involvement in that. I can't bring him down from heaven. I can't make him." The Lord is sovereign to provide himself, that there is no creature involvement in my salvation. There is no creature involvement in what I must do for the Lord. He has done it all.

And that's the second thing we see, that there is no mixture. Notice there is no mixture of man and there is no mixture of God. I love when I see the power when the Lord reveals the power of how he does it all. It just takes man out of it. I'm so weary and tired of hearing religious man tell me what part he's got in salvation and then not only what part he's got in salvation but what part he's got in continuing his salvation and what kind of obedience he must be doing and what he has to do for the Lord and what we must do and have to. If you have that in your mind, you're not at rest. The child of God's Gospel conversation that's ordered is ordered in what he has done, not in what we have to do. It's what he has done. He is the faithful one and that is what lives out is the bread that lives out in the child of God's life on a daily basis. He reveals what he has done, no creature.

So that's the first two. The next one and this one is a beautiful picture. The manna came down and the Lord sent dew on the ground, then he brought the manna, and then he brought the dew. The manna never touched the ground. It was pure. It was undefiled. It never touched the ground. They didn't pick this up off the dirt. It showed forth the purity of Christ.

Numbers 11:9 says this and listen carefully because this tells you the picture. "And when the dew fell upon the camp in the night, the manna fell upon it." That's what you have first: the Lord sent the dew and then he sent the manna. Then look in Exodus 16, verse 14, "And when the dew that lay was gone up," there is your final layer. We have dew, manna, dew. The manna was preserved as a lamb without spot. It was preserved. It was undefiled. As I said, when the Lord sent these pictures and when he sent these types of his Son, he sent them in depth. He sent to show forth that greater than this manna is coming and this is who he is: he's undefiled, he's not touched by sin, he's not touched by this world. He's coming down to earth but he's not going to be partaking of the earth and its sin and its debauchery and all of those things that this world has. He is the lamb without spot. He is pure.

"And when the dew that lay was gone up, behold, upon the face of the wilderness there lay a small round thing, as small as the hoar frost on the ground." So now we have these three pictures: the Lord must be lived upon daily, the Lord is sovereignly given, there is no mixture, there is no creature in him, that the Lord is perfect, that he's undefiled, that man can't corrupt the Lord; and that everything the Lord was shown forth in, he is purity. He is God.

And then the final one we have, if you turn to verse 35 of 16, "And the children of Israel did eat manna forty years." Forty years they were in the wilderness. You and I are in the wilderness as many years as the Lord has ordained us to be in this wilderness and that's what that 40 shows forth, our whole life, the Lord has laid out in his perfect providence, in his perfect keeping of every one of us in here.

"And the children of Israel did eat manna forty years, until they came to a land inhabited; they did eat manna, until they came unto the borders of the land of Canaan." Do you see it? The Lord provided manna for them every day until he brought them to the Promised Land. Every day. That is the faithfulness of our Lord, that every day we live in this life the Lord provides until he takes us home, until he takes us to the Promised Land.

Isn't that beautiful? And that's what I said, the depth of the pictures of the Old Testament show that there was so much that God intended in the pictures. When they showed forth the Lord Jesus Christ, that's the whole thing, they're just types in the old covenant. They're just types and then when the Lord shows them in his Son, he reveals and fulfills everything in his Son. This is what the Lord has done. This is how much greater and that's what Jesus was telling them in John 6 and we're going to get back there in a minute. "I am that bread that came down from heaven. I am the bread from the Father. I am the bread that you must feed upon." And they wanted this physical bread and they wanted physical religion and they wanted creature religion. What about you? Is that what your soul desires? Is that what your body desires? Is that what your mind desires is a physical understanding of things? And the Lord provided so much.

"And the children of Israel did eat manna forty years, until they came to a land inhabited; they did eat manna, until they came unto the borders of the land of Canaan." John 3:16 says, "For God so loved the world," that's his elect world, "that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life." It's a continuation of life. That's the whole thing. The manna stopped there as the Lord ushered them into a new life. The same way with us, we will have the Triune Lord in heaven. We will have the fullness of the God-head in heaven. Now the Lord has provided his Son in our soul. He has provided all of the teaching of his Son by the power of the Holy Spirit. He has done all of these things for his children, that we have enough in this life.

That is the rest that the children of God have in their Lord. It's not a life to be busy and to be like Martha and cumbered about and say, "O Lord, what must I do for you? What must I do for all these people that are around here? What must I do for this....?" No, Mary desired the one thing, the one thing needful. Well, how? The Lord drew her to him. He

drew her to his feet. That was the only way she desired something greater than Martha did at that time and you and I won't be any different.

So now we go back to our text in John 6 as now we have seen the picture and what they're talking about. They said, "Oh, our fathers did eat manna." Jesus is saying, "That manna showed forth me. That manna was a type and picture of me but I'm greater than that manna." And that's where we pick up back in 34.

"Then said they unto him, Lord, evermore give us this bread." Once again, you're going to see this all throughout this: on our terms. Give us this bread. Do you see that? Starting with the creature again. Give us this bread. Do it on our terms. Our fathers had this, you do this for us.

Jesus once again says in 35, "And Jesus said unto them, I am the bread of life: he that cometh to me shall never hunger; and he that believeth on me shall never thirst." Now, how do we reconcile that with what the Lord said in Matthew 5:6 when he said, "Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness, for they shall be filled"? Well, he just described it: they shall be filled. Blessed are they who do have a hunger and thirst. He didn't say anything about not hungering and thirsting, he said he fulfilled it. You see, he that cometh to me shall never hunger. He'll never. The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want. He shall never hunger and not be fed. He shall never thirst and not be quenched.

That is what the Lord is. I can only sit up here and speak words to his faithfulness. I can only stand up here and tell you how faithful he is over and over because he's proved it in my life but he must prove it in yours too. And he does, he proves it in every child of God's life, that he is the faithful sustenance over and over and over again. Wherever we go, wherever we are.

I told the children on this trip as we were talking one night and we were talking about the Lord not being a territorial God, that back in that time in Israel, he met them in Israel. He told them not to go out, told them his presence was there with them. Well, that's not the case now. Wherever we go, the Psalmist said that, "If I go into the depths of hell and I rise up to heaven, if I go to the mountains, if I go here, the Lord is there." The Lord is omnipresent to his people. He lives within them. He's not an abstract being that you come once a week to church and say, "I want to learn about him," and then you go off in your life. He is life. He is life and everything we are. Fathers, husbands, workers, bosses, servants, children, whatever we are, he is life for his children.

"I am the bread of life: he that cometh to me shall never hunger; and he that believeth on me shall never thirst. But I said unto you, That ye also have seen me, and believe not." Isn't that the truth? The Shepherd knows his sheep. The Shepherd knows which one and that's the thing, it doesn't matter what we mouth. It doesn't. The Scriptures prove that out. The world we see today proves that out. We see thousands upon millions professing the name of Christ but do they know it? I'm not their judge. The Lord is. Do they know it? "Many will come to me in that day and say, Lord, I did this in your name." And the Lord says, "I never knew you." If you have a relationship that begins with you, with God,

you're in trouble. It's not a relationship, it's not a union in Christ because it must be in Christ, it must begin with Christ. He must be the bread of life, as we see.

"But I said unto you, That ye also have seen me, and believe not. All that the Father giveth me shall come to me." Do you see that? Do you hear? Does the Holy Spirit make you rest in that and say, "Wow, the Lord is more powerful than my flesh. He's more powerful than this world that pulls at me. He's more powerful than all of sin."

"All that the Father giveth me shall come to me." No man can keep you from that. "And him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out." That's sovereign election. That's sovereign keeping. That's being kept and accepted in the Beloved and not any other way.

"For I came down from heaven, not to do mine own will, but the will of him that sent me. And this is the Father's will which hath sent me, that of all which he hath given me I should lose nothing, but should raise it up again at the last day." There is our resurrection life, from the life that he gives now in the new birth and that he sustains in resurrection life, being delivered from bondage. Over and over again, I hope that that is a testimony of you; that the many bondages in this life that we wander into, that we put ourselves under: the law, the bondage of sin, the bondage of Satan's allurements, the world. But the Lord's resurrection life delivers his children even as we've said, to the end when he raises the body anew. The Lord is faithful. The Lord is the Lord of all life and he is life.

Then he reiterates it again and he says, "And this is the will of him that sent me, that every one which seeth the Son, and believeth on him, may have everlasting life: and I will raise him up at the last day." You see, everything we ever need in this life and the life to come, he has ordained, he has purposed, and he has done it. That just floods my soul with peace. When I hear he is the bread of life, that means life here and life to come. I mean, he's done it all. He's procured it all. And how much we need to be made to rest in that.

And of course, "Then the Jews murmured at him, because he said, I am the bread which came down from heaven." So now, "Wait a minute, our fathers had manna, you told us about the manna and you said you're the bread. We don't need what they had, we need you." And they murmured and they complained and you might be murmuring. There are those that hear this and are going to murmur. "What do you mean Christ is life? Doesn't it mean that I can compartmentalize life? Can't I have a work life? Can't I have a school life? Can't I have a friend's life? Can't I have a sports life? Can't I have this life?" No. No. He is life. He must be the life of your soul. He must be the life. He is the life giver. That's the difference. That's the difference in the child of God and the professing religious world. They compartmentalize God and put him in a place in their life. He must be life. He is life.

"And they said, Is not this Jesus, the son of Joseph, whose father and mother we know? how is it then that he saith, I came down from heaven?" Guess what that is? Did you recognize it? It's carnal reasoning. "Well, I know where he grew up. I know who his parents were. I know where he came from." Do you really? No, you don't. You don't

know how he was born from on high. You don't know how the Holy Spirit birthed him. You don't know how he is the God-man. You don't. What you see is with your eyes and your physical understanding and that will always damn a man. Always. If all you have is your own thoughts and your own way and Christ is not the way, your way will lead to hell and everyone in these Scriptures that had their own way are perishing and have perished in hell.

"How can he say this? How can this one be? I know where he's from." Well, Paul tells us in 1 Corinthians 2:14, "But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God." You say, "Well, why? Does he keep the Spirit from him?" It's not for him. The Spirit does not speak to the world. "For they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned."

I'll tell you, I don't know how any true child of God could have any haughty thoughts about being saved. I don't know. I don't know how you can because there is nothing...you know, that's one thing I told my wife, "I'm not a good fisherman but do you know why I like to fish? Because it shows forth the sovereignty to me." I can't make that fish come over to that bait. I don't even know where to throw it. I don't have the strength to pull anything in without him. There were times in my mind I'd say, "Oh, I'm going to cast it over there," and one time or two times or three times, I'd go to cast it and it would get caught up and go straight down to the ground. My will. This is what I'm going to do. But it's all of him and our flesh rebels against that. Oh no, there's a part we have to do in it. No. I don't have strength without him. I don't have knowledge without him. There is no way I could tell a fish to jump on a line. It's all of him.

"Jesus therefore answered and said unto them, Murmur not among yourselves." Your murmuring is not going to get you anywhere.

"No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him." No man. No man. It doesn't matter how much you know, it doesn't matter how much you want to know. You can go to all the schools you want to, go to all the men you want to.

"No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him: and I will raise him up at the last day." Three times the Lord said that about resurrection life, about life and all of life being in him.

"It is written in the prophets, And they shall be all taught of God. Every man therefore that hath heard, and hath learned of the Father, cometh unto me." Every one the Father has ordained to eternal life will and shall come to me. The time of their life that the Lord reveals that is in his sovereign doing, is in his sovereign power.

"Not that any man hath seen the Father, save he which is of God, he hath seen the Father. Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me hath everlasting life." And then our text, "I am that bread of life." Now what you've heard today, is that your God? Is he the bread of life to you? Is he the sustenance and the substance and all of life to you? Is

he the Lord of life in every facet of your life? The Holy Spirit is sufficient to answer those questions in the souls of his people.

"Your fathers did eat manna in the wilderness, and are dead." There is death in formal religion. There is death in a profession of religion. Your sign that you hang your life on in your generation said, "God gave us this," your sign will damn you. Your fathers ate that manna and they're dead. That manna could not save them but this manna is life, the manna of the Lord Jesus Christ.

"This is the bread which cometh down from heaven, that a man may eat thereof, and not die. I am the living bread which came down from heaven: if any man eat of this bread, he shall live for ever: and the bread that I will give is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world." It's himself. You've heard me say that many times, "Lord, reveal thyself. Lord, what we need is yourself. We need you. You are the substance of life. You are the way, the truth and the life. We don't know the way without you. We don't even know truth without you."

Have you ever noticed that about yourself, how quickly truth can be challenged? You might think you're rested in something and then all of a sudden you read something or you hear something and you're challenged on it, "Can that be true? Could that possibly be true?" The Lord says, "I am the truth." He must reveal and be the truth for all of his children.

"The Jews therefore strove among themselves, saying, How can this man give us his flesh to eat?" Physical. Do you see the death in it? Do you see the death? These men aren't going to come to Christ. All they see is, "Whoa, he wants us to eat of his flesh?"

"Then Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except ye eat the flesh of the Son of man, and drink his blood, ye have no life in you." And if Christ's body is not the substance of our life, if he is not the bread of life, if his blood is not the life-giving principle that cleanses us from all unrighteousness and cleanses us from sin, if there is no blood, if there is no partaking in the body and the blood of Christ, what are you partaking in? Death.

"Whoso eateth my flesh, and drinketh my blood, hath eternal life," all of him, "and I will raise him up at the last day." Mentioned again. Mentioned again, his faithfulness throughout all of life. Remember how we said about the manna in the wilderness? All the way, all 40 years. You and I, he's faithful to the end and beyond.

"He that eateth my flesh, and drinketh my blood, dwelleth in me, and I in him." I missed 55, "For my flesh is meat indeed, and my blood is drink indeed. He that eateth my flesh, and drinketh my blood, dwelleth in me, and I in him. As the living Father hath sent me, and I live by the Father: so he that eateth me, even he shall live by me." I am that bread of life. I wonder if that's ever on your mind or your heart if people in this world ask you, "Well, how do you live? How do you do this and that?" I live by the faith of the Son of

God. I live by Christ who is my life. Many times we give the worldly answer, "Oh well, I do this and I've done it this way." Really? And that's life?

"These things said he in the synagogue, as he taught in Capernaum. Many therefore of his disciples," this message went to his disciples, "when they had heard this, said, This is an hard saying; who can hear it?" Maybe there are some out here today who say the same thing.

"When Jesus knew in himself that his disciples murmured at it, he said unto them, Doth this offend you?" Does it offend you?

"What and if ye shall see the Son of man ascend up where he was before?" If you partook and saw the Son of God go up into the heavens, would that change your mind? No. No, it wouldn't, not without his power, not without his faith to believe.

"It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing." And have you seen that throughout this whole discourse? They kept going back to the flesh and going back to the physical and the Lord would give them the spiritual meaning that only his children by him could understand.

"The words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life. But there are some of you that believe not. For Jesus knew from the beginning who they were that believed not, and who should betray him. And he said, Therefore said I unto you, that no man can come unto me, except it were given unto him of my Father. From that time," you say, "Well, this is sad." No, this is sovereignty. "Well, didn't Jesus want to save them all?" No. If he did he would have saved them all.

"From that time many of his disciples went back, and walked no more with him." No, this is too hard. That's a surrender that I don't believe is needful. I believe in co-pilotship. I believe that I should work right next to the Lord for my salvation. I believe that God's given me a mind and that's put me on an equal par with him to choose him or to choose wickedness. I can't walk this way. And they went back.

"Then said Jesus unto the twelve, Will ye also go away? Then Simon Peter answered him," and may the answer of Peter be upon our soul right now in the power of the Holy Ghost, "Lord, to whom shall we go? thou hast the words of eternal life. And we believe and are sure that thou art that Christ, the Son of the living God." May that be our testimony today, that he is the bread of life, that he witnesses to us that saying, "I am the bread of life," every day that he is our sustenance to the praise and glory of him.

Dear heavenly Father, may you add thy power and thy clarity and search our souls and meet us, Lord, as only you can as the bread of life. To thee is all power and glory and honor. In Jesus' name I pray. Amen.