

***“Eat To Live”***  
***John 6:52-59***

**Introduction:**

1. There Are Some:
  - Who Eat To Live!
    - But - There Are Others:
      - Who Live To Eat!
  - You’ve Probably Heard:
    - This Expression Before:
      - And May Even Be Able To:
        - Identify With:
          - One Or The Other!
2. But - Either Way - Its Not Just:
  - ***That*** You Eat - That Is Important!
    - It Is ***What*** You Eat:
      - That Is Important!
  - And - As We Head Back This Morning:
    - To John 6 - Jesus Himself:
      - Has Been Telling Us Just:
        - ***What*** We Need To Eat:
          - To Really Live!
  - And That Is:
    - A Bread - That He Describes In This Chapter:
      - In Various Ways!
    - In 6:32 - It Is:
      - The “True Bread From Heaven!”
    - In 6:33 - It Is:
      - The “Bread Of God!”
    - In 6:35 - It Is:
      - The “Bread Of Life!”
  - And Then - Jesus States:
    - In Both 6:35 & 6:48:
      - “I Am The Bread Of Life!”
    - And Even More:
      - In 6:51 - “And The Bread That I Will Give Is My Flesh, Which I Will Give For The Life Of The World!”
3. Jesus Was Telling The Jews:
  - In This “Dialog At The Synagogue” - That:
    - ***What*** They Needed:
      - To Eat To Live:
        - Was A ***Who!***
          - It Was Him!
  - And This Was A “Hard Saying” - Not Just:
    - For The Jews - But - Even For:
      - The Disciples Of Jesus!
        - As We Will See In 6:60!
  - It Was A “Hard Saying” - Because - They Were Still:
    - Natural Men - Thinking About:
      - Spiritual Truths:
        - In Natural Ways!
4. And So - In This Sixth & Final Exchange:
  - Between Jesus & The Jews:
    - In The Synagogue Of Capernaum:
      - The Crowd Took Offense At Jesus’ Words!
        - So Much So - That We’re Told:
          - In 6:52 - “The Jews therefore strove among themselves, saying, How can this man give us [his] flesh to eat?”
  - That Jewish Crowd:
    - Thought That Jesus Was Speaking:

- In A Crassly Literal Way!
  - To “Eat” Of His “Flesh” As:
    - Cannibals!
- 5. However - They Failed To Grasp:
  - That Jesus Was Speaking:
    - Spiritual Truth:
      - In Human Language:
        - Which Includes Using:
          - Figures Of Speech:
            - Like Metaphors!
    - A Metaphor Is A Way:
      - To Describe One Thing:
        - In Terms Of Another!
          - Some Examples From Shakespeare:
            - “All The World’s A Stage!”
            - “Sea Of Troubles!”
      - For Jesus - Eating His Flesh - And:
        - As We Will See:
          - Drinking His Blood:
            - Were Metaphors Of:
              - The Way Of Salvation!
- 6. Back In 6:35 - Jesus Himself:
  - Gave The Key To Understand:
    - His Words!
      - There - He Said - “I am the bread of life: he that cometh to me shall never hunger; and he that believeth on me shall never thirst!”
    - So - Jesus Says:
      - If You Come To Him:
        - You Will Never Hunger!
          - So - To Eat His Flesh:
            - Means To Come To - And:
              - To Turn To Him!
      - And - He Also Says:
        - If You Believe In Him:
          - You Will Never Thirst!
            - So - To Drink His Blood:
              - Means To Believe In - And:
                - To Trust In Him!
        - This Is The Meaning:
          - Of Jesus’ Words!
            - But - Without God’s Intervention & Illumination:
              - Still - 6:52 - “The Jews therefore strove among themselves, saying, How can this man give us [his] flesh to eat?”
      - 7. Well - Instead Of Explaining His Terms Again:
        - In 6:53-59 - Jesus Continues To Speak:
          - In This Metaphorical Language!
            - “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. / Whoso eateth my flesh, and drinketh my blood, hath eternal life; and I will raise him up at the last day. / 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. / This is that bread which came down from heaven: not as your fathers did eat manna, and are dead: he that eateth of this bread shall live for ever. / These things said he in the synagogue, as he taught in Capernaum!”
          - When It Comes To Eating Food:
            - Some Eat To Live - While:
              - Others Live To Eat!
            - But - When It Comes:
              - To Eating The Bread Of Life:
                - You Need To Do Both!

- You Need To Eat Christ:
- To Live! And:
- You Need To Live:
- To Eat Christ!

\* And So - The First Thing We Find In These Verses Is:

**1. A Great Consequence:**

- If You Don't Eat Christ To Live!
  - Even As We Read In 6:53:
    - In Jesus Response To Those:
      - Murmuring & Arguing Jews:
        - "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!"
  - So - For The 11th Time In His Gospel - And:
    - The 6th Time In This Chapter:
      - John Records Jesus Making:
        - Another Essential Truth!
          - And - This Truth Was Even More Shocking:
            - To Those Naturally Minded Men!
  - If You Don't Eat His Flesh - And:
    - If You Don't Drink His Blood:
      - You Have No Life In You!
      - You're Dead!
    - Now - If Eating Human Flesh:
      - Was Offensive To Those Jews:
        - Drinking Human Blood:
          - Was Even More So!
  - But - Jesus Wants Them & Us:
    - To Think About:
      - All The Different Things:
        - They Could Eat!
  - Back In The First Part Of This Chapter:
    - 6:5-27 - We Learned About:
      - The Bread Broken By Jesus!
        - Which He Miraculously Used:
          - To Feed Thousands Of People!
    - But - When The Crowd:
      - Ate That Bread:
        - It Was - 6:27 - "Meat / Food Which Perisheth!" (Food With A Shelf-Life)
          - And - They Became Hungry Again!
  - Then In The Middle Part Of This Chapter:
    - 6:28-51 - We Learned More About:
      - The Bread Pointing To Jesus!
        - The Manna That God Rained From Heaven To His People:
          - In The Wilderness!
    - But - Even Though They:
      - Ate That Bread:
        - They Still Died!
          - 6:49 - "Your fathers did eat manna in the wilderness, and are dead!"
  - But Here - In 6:52:
    - When It Comes To:
      - The Bread Offered By Jesus!
    - If They Would Just:
      - Eat Of It - They Would "Have Life!"
        - Real Life! Everlasting Life!
        - Even The Fulness Of Life:
          - God Intended For Them At Creation!
    - But - If They Won't:
      - They Are Dead:
        - Even While Living!

- **IE:** Spiritual Zombies!

- So - When It Comes:
  - To Eating The Flesh Of Jesus - And:
    - Drinking The Blood Of Jesus:
      - It Is Essential!
        - You Must Eat Him:
          - To Live!
- But - Don't Make The Same Mistake:
  - As The Jews Made!
    - Listen To What Jesus Really Means!
  - To Live:
    - You Must Turn To Him:
      - And The Strength Of His Flesh!
        - And:
          - You Must Trust In Him:
            - And The Shedding Of His Blood!
- This Is What It Means:
  - To Eat To Live:
    - In A Spiritual Way! Even In:
      - The Gospel Way!
  - Is This True For You Today?
    - In His Own Flesh:
      - Jesus Lived For You!
    - In His Own Blood:
      - Jesus Died For You!
  - And - When You:
    - Come To Him & Believe In Him:
      - As Your Savior From Sin:
        - You Have Life!
- Otherwise - From 6:53:
  - Remember This Great Consequence:
    - "Ye Have No Life In You!"

\* But Then - Jesus Adds - If You Do:

- Turn To & Trust In Him - You Will Then Experience:

2. ***A Great Change!***

- That Is - If You Eat To Live:
  - You Will Then:
    - Live To Eat!
  - If You Eat Christ - By Faith:
    - To Live - You Will Then:
      - Live To Eat Christ!
- **IE:** The Greatest Example Of "Living To Eat" I Can Think Of Is Our Dog, Willow! Food Is Pretty Much All She Thinks About! She Will Even Eat Herself Sick!
  - But What Is Bad For Her - And Anyone - When It Comes To Physical Food! Is Actually Good For You, When It Comes To Christ & His Spiritual Food!
    - Don't Just Be Content:
      - Eating To Live Spiritually!
        - Live To Eat Of Christ!
- Because - In 6:54-55 - Jesus Says:
  - "Whoso eateth my flesh, and drinketh my blood, hath eternal life; and I will raise him up at the last day. / For my flesh is meat indeed, and my blood is drink indeed!"
  - The First Thing We See From These Verses Is:
- A Proposal From Christ!
  - He Says - "Whoso Eateth My Flesh, And Drinketh My Blood!"
  - The Benefits Of Spiritual Communion With Christ:
    - Is Open To Anyone:
      - Who Eats His Flesh:
        - By Turning To Him!
      - And - Who Drinks His Blood:

- By Trusting In Him!
- Now - There Are A Couple Of Interesting Shifts:
  - In This Verse - 6:53!
    - First - The Underlying Word John Used For “Eating” Is An Entirely Different Word:
      - Than He Used Already Through This Chapter!
        - The Word Can Also Be Translated “Chew!”
      - It’s A More Graphic Word:
        - Than Just “To Eat!”
      - Perhaps Jesus Wanted To Show Us That Its Not Just About:
        - A One-Time Bite, But A Savoring Of Him That Leads To The Fullest Life He Has To Give! **IE:** Aunt
    - The Other Shift Is That:
      - “Eat” In 6:53 Is Put As A One-Time Act!
        - But Here In 6:54 - It Is In The Present Tense - As An Ongoing Activity!
- So - This Is Jesus’ Proposal To You & To Me!
  - Come To & Believe In Him:
    - Not Just One Time - But:
      - All The Time!
    - Because This Is What Will Nourish You:
      - Through All Eternity!
        - 6:54 - “Whoso eateth my flesh, and drinketh my blood, hath eternal life!”
    - But Then - Again - John Records:
- A Promise From Christ!
  - 6:54b - “And I will raise him up at the last day!”
    - This Is The 4th Time Jesus Says This:
      - In This Chapter!
    - In 6:39 - Jesus Describes The Certainty:
      - Of His Promise!
        - “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!”
    - In 6:40 - Jesus Describes The Completion:
      - Of His Promise!
        - “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!”
    - In 6:44 - Jesus Describes The Coordination:
      - Of His Promise - With His Father!
        - “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!”
  - And Then - Here - 6:54 - Jesus Describes His Commitment:
    - To His Promise!
      - If You Just Take Him At His Word!
        - “Whoso eateth my flesh, and drinketh my blood, hath eternal life; and I will raise him up at the last day!”
  - What An Encouragement:
    - To Keep Eating & Drinking:
      - What Christ Has To Give!
        - To Keep Turning To & Trusting In Him!
    - And - Its All Because Of:
- The Properties Of Christ:
  - And His Flesh & Blood!
    - In 6:55 - “For my flesh is meat indeed, and my blood is drink indeed!”
  - Here - Jesus Says That:
    - His Real Human Flesh:
      - Is A Real Kind Of Food! And:
    - His Real Human Blood:
      - Is A Real Kind Of Drink!
  - His Actual Body & Blood:
    - Is What Makes Spiritual, Eternal, Resurrection Life:
      - Even Possible!

- If Jesus Did Not Have:
  - A Real Body - Or - Real Blood:
    - None Of This Could Be True:
      - For You!
- So - The “Flesh & Blood” Of Jesus:
  - Is Real Spiritual Food:
    - For Real Spiritual Life!
      - But - You Can Only Partake Of It In A Spiritual Way!
        - By Faith!
- But -When You Do:
  - You Will Find That The:
    - Body & Blood Of Jesus:
      - Is Energizing:
        - To Your Soul!
  - Because - Not Only Must You:
    - Eat Him To Live!
      - You Must Eat Him:
        - To Live & Labor:
          - For Him!
    - **IE:** Food Is What Strengthens & Sustains Your Body For Living! Christ Is What Strengthens & Sustains Your Soul For Service!
      - So - Keep “Eating His Flesh” & “Drinking His Blood!”
  - To “Eat His Flesh” Means:
    - To Keep Going To Him:
      - When You Need To Be Revived:
        - To Live For Christ!
  - To “Drink His Blood” Means:
    - To Keep Believing In Him:
      - When You Need to Be Refreshed:
        - In Your Labors For Christ!
  - So - When It Comes To Jesus:
    - Don’t Just Eat To Live!
      - Live To Eat!

- \* Because - Then - If You Keep:
  - You Will Be Able To Experience And Enjoy:

### 3. ***A Great Connection!***

- A Great Connection:
  - With The Lord!
    - Even As He Tells Us In:
      - 6:56-67 - “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!”
    - **IE:** Another Familiar Expression - When It Comes To Food Is - “You Are What You Eat!”
      - And - What Is True Physically Is Also True Spiritually!
        - As Jesus Describes In These Verses:
          - The Effects Of:
            - “Eating His Flesh & Drinking His Blood!”
        - The Main Effect Is:
  - A Special Communion With Christ!
    - Because - When You:
      - Eat Jesus’ Flesh:
        - By Coming To Him! And When You:
          - Drink Jesus’ Blood:
            - By Believing In Him!
      - You Now Dwell In Him - And:
        - He Now Dwells In You!
          - Jesus Will Tells Us More About What This Dwelling & Abiding Means:
            - In John 15!
    - But Here - He Wants To Assure You:

- That There Is An Ever-Abiding Communion:
  - Between Christ & Christians:
    - When You Just Turn To & Trust In Him!
- And Now - You Derive All The Benefits:
  - In Your Life:
    - From His Life! As Well As:
      - The Benefit:
        - Of His Death:
          - At Your Death!
    - Now - 6:57:
      - You Live By Him!
  - Isn't This What Paul Had In Mind:
    - When He Wrote:
      - Galatians 2:20 - "I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me!"
- But - This Special Communion:
  - That You Now Have With Christ:
    - Is Based On Another Connection!
      - And That Is:
- The Special Communion Of Christ:
  - With God The Father!
    - As He Said In 6:57 - "As the living Father hath sent me, and I live by the Father: so he that eateth me, even he shall live by me!"
  - So - The Kind Of Fellowship:
    - That Jesus Has & Has Always Had:
      - With God The Father - Who Is:
        - "The Living Father!"
    - Is Now - The Same Kind Of Fellowship:
      - He Offers To You & To Me:
        - By Faith I Him!
    - And - The Fuel:
      - For This Fellowship:
        - Is "The Power Of An Endless Life!"
      - The Endless Life Of God The Father & God The Son:
        - Who Now Dwells In You!
          - **IE:** Better Than Any Vitamin You Might Take!
- This Is What Makes:
  - The Body & Blood Of Jesus:
    - So Effective For:
      - Those Who Partake Of Him:
        - By Looking To Him:
          - In Faith & Trust!
  - Not Only:
    - Is Jesus Christ:
      - The Food For:
        - Your Life In Him!
  - Not Only:
    - Is Jesus Christ:
      - The Food For:
        - Your Labor For Him!
  - Jesus Christ:
    - Is Also:
      - The Only Food:
        - That Will Last!
          - Nothing Else Will!

**Conclusion:**

1. And That Is Why:
  - In 6:58 - Jesus Finishes His:

- “Dialog At The Synagogue” - With This Summary:
    - “This is that bread which came down from heaven: not as your fathers did eat manna, and are dead: he that eateth of this bread shall live for ever!”
  - When Jesus Says:
    - “This Is That Bread!”
      - He Refers To Everything:
        - He Has Taught Us:
          - About That Bread!
    - And - If You Combine All That He Said:
      - You Will See That:
        - He Alone Is:
          - The “True, Living Bread Of God From Heaven!”
2. I Find It Interesting:
- That Back In 6:31:
    - It Was The Jews:
      - Who Brought Up The Topic:
        - Of The “Bread From Heaven!”
    - But Then - In The 6 Different Exchanges:
      - Between Jesus & Those Jews:
        - He Clarifies:
          - Their Understanding About:
            - That “Bread From Heaven!”
        - And Then - He Concludes:
          - With The Truth:
            - About The “Bread From Heaven!”
      - That - If You Eat:
        - Of “This Bread!”
          - If You Eat Him:
            - By Coming To Him & Believing In Him!
              - You “Shall Live Forever!”

3. So - Because:

      - Jesus Is The “Bread Of Life!”
        - First & Foremost:
          - Go To Him:
            - To Eat - To Live!
              - You Must Turn To & Trust In Him In Order For:
                - You To Receive Life From The Dead!
        - But - Then:
          - Keeping Going To Him:
            - And Live - To Eat:
              - His Spiritual Food!
                - For Salvation! Lost!
                - For Service! Weary!
                - For Strength! Weak!
                - For Solace! Weighed Down!

4. In Your Relationship With Christ:

        - Don’t Just Be Content:
          - To Eat To Live! Live To Eat!

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