

Woodland Baptist Church
 December 8, 2013 - Morning Worship
 John 6:52-59 - Bread of Life, Part 4

1) INTRODUCTION

2) READ JOHN 6:52-59

3) Verse 52 The Jews MISINTERPRET Christ's teaching about his FLESH

- i) The first thing we need to do is go back to the end of this passage so we can know the context of this discussion - look at verse 59 and tell me what it says.
- ii) So when this exchange happens, it is clear that Christ is having a dispute with Jews in the synagogue - so this makes it a little more tense than having it out in the open - we are with Jesus within the confinement of the synagogue with some smart, knowledgeable Jewish leaders.

b) 52 The Jews then disputed among themselves, saying, "How can this man give us his flesh to eat?"

- i) Again, we have to ask ourselves - "why this confusion?" What is it about his teaching that caused them such distress?
- ii) This "man" - Problem # 1 - Christ was not only a man!
- iii) Problem # 2 - Listen to this passage straight out of the Law of Moses:

(1) **Leviticus 17:10-12** - 10 "If any one of the house of Israel or of the strangers who sojourn among them eats any blood, I will set my face against that person who eats blood and will cut him off from among his people. 11 For the life of the flesh is in the blood, and I have given it for you on the altar to make atonement for your souls, for it is the blood that makes atonement by the life. 12 Therefore I have said to the people of Israel, No person among you shall eat blood, neither shall any stranger who sojourns among you eat blood. [Gen. 9:4]

(2) Now obviously, this law is speaking about animal blood, but if animal blood was forbidden...how much more human blood?

- iv) Interesting fact - as the early church spread, one of the many accusations that was brought against Christians was cannibalism. Many point to this passage as the source of the misunderstanding.

(1) **Andrew Kostenberger, DTS** - as in the previous case Jesus provided an abundance of wine, so he here provides an abundance of bread. Bread and wine, in turn, are symbolic of the eschatological messianic banquet.

c) This teaching from Christ completely and totally disgusted them and overwhelmed them; they could hear no more.

4) Verses 53-54 **FEEDING** on Jesus **BRINGS** eternal life

a) **53 So Jesus said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you. 54 Whoever feeds on my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day.**

i) Now follow this closely - notice what Christ says, "unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you."

(1) What did we just read in **Leviticus 17:11 - 11 For the life of the flesh is in the blood...**

b) **Whoever feeds on my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and will raise him up on the last day...**

i) Have you ever heard someone say, "that man, eats, drinks and sleeps football?" "That woman eats, drinks and sleeps shopping."

ii) What do we mean when we say that? Whoever we are talking about is consumed with football...shopping...or whatever else it is that they do.

c) Christ is saying that the only way to participate in his life, is to eat and drink Jesus - to be completely and totally consumed in his character, so deeply that if you bled, you would bleed Christ.

i) I have an old high school friend named Michael McGuire and his father, Bill McGuire, played for the Mississippi State Bulldogs and won the game for them in the Sun Bowl back in the 60's with Rocky Felker - my parents used to say if Bill McGuire bled, the colors would be maroon and white.

ii) Scripture:

(1) **Matthew 16:17 - 17** And Jesus answered him, "Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father who is in heaven.

- (2) **1 Corinthians 15:50** - 50 I tell you this, brothers: flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable.
 - (3) **Ephesians 6:12** - 12 For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places.
 - (4) **Hebrews 2:14** - 14 Since therefore the children share in flesh and blood, he himself likewise partook of the same things, that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil,
- d) That's where Christ is coming from - **54 Whoever feeds on my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day.**
- i) Feeding on Jesus brings eternal life - and one of the indicators that Christ is speaking of eternal life is when he says, "I will raise him up on the last day."
 - (1) The last day would be the final day of judgment, when Christ returns and consummation of the age begins.
 - (a) **2 Peter 3:11-13** -11 Since all these things are thus to be dissolved, what sort of people ought you to be in lives of holiness and godliness, 12 waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set on fire and dissolved, and the heavenly bodies will melt as they burn! 13 But according to his promise we are waiting for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells.
 - e) On that day, what you have been eating spiritually is going to determine where you spend eternity. If you have been eating and drinking Christ you will be ready to be raised up to life...if you have been eating and drinking football, shopping, hoping for nirvana, eating and drinking the teaching of Joseph Smith, or anyone else...you will be raised only to die the second death.
- 5) **Verses 55-57 - FEEDING on Jesus is the only way to ABIDE in Him**
- a) **55 For my flesh is true food, and my blood is true drink. 56 Whoever feeds on my flesh and drinks my blood abides in me, and I in him. 57 As the living Father sent me, and I live because of the Father, so whoever feeds on me, he also will live because of me.**

- i) We have a couple of key words used here we need to look at for a moment. First, let's look at "feeds," second, let's look at "abide," as Christ uses abide continually, especially, in chapter 15.

(1) **Feed** - [trogo] - Christ is using a literal verb form referring to himself metaphorically. Obviously he does not mean to literally eat his physical flesh, as cannibals would, although the reason for the spiritual practice of cannibalism is to consume the personality of the person...but we know that practice has its roots in witchcraft, sorcery and divination as it does not work, as knowledge and intelligence is not transferred that way.

(a) Strong's lexicon - to gnaw, bite or chew

(b) Lou Nida - to consume solid food

(2) **Abide** - [meno] - Christ is using a verb of location - if we feed on his flesh and blood, he will abide in us.

(a) Strong's - to remain in a place, to dwell

(b) Lou Nida - to continue in an activity or place, to remain in or keep on

- b) **56 Whoever feeds on my flesh and drinks my blood abides in me, and I in him. 57 As the living Father sent me, and I live because of the Father, so whoever feeds on me, he also will live because of me.**

- i) The results of partaking of him - mutual indwelling - we hear and learn [feed on his flesh and blood], the Father draws us to Christ [we believe in the Son of Man], Christ therefore abides in us, and therefore since Christ abides with us, we are therefore brought into trinitarian fellowship with God.

(1) **2 Peter 1:3-5** -3 His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of him who called us to his own glory and excellence, 4 by which he has granted to us his precious and very great promises, so that through them you may become **partakers of the divine nature**, having escaped from the corruption that is in the world because of sinful desire.

- 6) Verses 58-59 - His flesh is **SUPERIOR** to the **MANNA** from the wilderness
- a) 58 **This is the bread that came down from heaven, not like the bread the fathers ate, and died. Whoever feeds on this bread will live forever.** 59 **Jesus said these things in the synagogue, as he taught at Capernaum.**
- 7) **CLOSE**
- a) "Believe and you have eaten"