

## Message 6

**The Need of the Hungry – Life's Feeding**

Scriptural Reading: John 6:1-71

**I. The hungry world and the feeding Christ – John 6:1-15**

- A. A contrast to the previous case in chapter 5
  - 1. In the holy city with a sacred pool for man's healing vs. in the wilderness with a secular sea for man's livelihood
  - 2. A person by a pool vs. people around a sea
  - 3. An impotent in need of healing and life's enlivening vs. hungry people in need of life's feeding
- B. The sea signifying the Satan corrupted world – v.1.
  - 1. While the land signifies the earth, which was created by God for man to live on, the sea signifies the world, which has been corrupted by Satan and in which fallen mankind lives.
  - 2. In this world, mankind is hungry, has no satisfaction; mankind is troubled and has no peace – v.18.
- C. The mountain signifying the transcendent position – v.3.
  - 1. A mountain signifies a transcendent position above the land and the sea – Exo. 24:12; Matt. 17:1-2; Rev. 21:10.
  - 2. To enjoy Christ's feeding, people must go with Christ to the mountain.
- D. The Passover signifying Christ as the redeeming Lamb of God – v.4.
  - 1. In the Passover, people slay the redeeming lamb, sprinkle its blood, and eat its flesh; therefore this typifies Christ as our Passover – 1Cor. 5:7.
  - 2. He is the redeeming Lamb of God slain for us that we may eat His flesh and drink His blood, taking Him in as our life supply that we may live by Him – John 1:29, 36.
- E. Five barley loaves signifying the generating aspect of Christ's life – 4:9.
  - 1. Barley loaves are of the vegetable life and signify the generating aspect of Christ's life.
  - 2. In the Jewish land barley ripens earliest and is the first of the harvest; hence, it typifies the resurrected Christ – Lev. 23:10; cf. 1Cor. 15:20.
  - 3. The number *five* signifies *responsibility*, indicating that Christ bears the responsibility to be our life supply.
- F. Two Fishes signifying the redeeming aspect of Christ's life – John 4:9.
  - 1. Fish are of the animal life and signify the redeeming aspect of Christ's life.
  - 2. Just as fish live in the sea but are not salty, Christ lived in the Satanic and sinful world but without sin to redeem us.
  - 3. Before man fell, he ate only of the vegetable life, but after man fell, he also ate of the animal life because redemption requires of shedding of blood – Gen. 1:29; 4:3-5; 9:3.
  - 4. The number *two* signifies *testimony*, testifying that Christ is our life supply.
- G. Both loaves and fishes signifying the smallness of Christ being the life supply to us
  - 1. People who sought miracles considered Him the promised Prophet and would have forced Him to be King – vv. 14-15.
  - 2. Jesus would not seek to be a giant in religion; rather, He preferred to be small loaves and little fish that people might eat Him – cf. Matt. 15:27.
- H. Twelve baskets signifying the overflow of the riches of Christ's life supply – John 6:13.

**II. The troubled world and the peace-giving Christ – vv.16-21**

- A. The stirred-up sea and the blowing wind signifying the troubles in human life.
- B. Jesus walked on the sea signifying His overruling all the troubles of human life.
  - 1. He can walk on the troubling waves of human life, and all the unrest is under His feet.
  - 2. When the disciples took Him into their boat, immediately the boat was at the land to which they were going – v.21.

**III. The Bread of Life – vv.22-71**

- A. Seekers after the perishing food – vv.22-31
  - 1. Regardless of the kind of food people are seeking, they all are seeking satisfaction.
  - 2. These people were seeking signs and miracles, trying to do something and to work for God; the principle of the tree of knowledge of good and evil – v.28.
  - 3. The Lord's answer to the seeking after the perishing food is to receive Him as life and life supply by believing into Him; the principle of the tree of life – v.29.
- B. Food abiding to eternal life (steps He took to be "food" to all) – v.27; vv.32-71.
  - 1. Coming to man by being incarnated to give life to man – vv.32-51a.
    - a. He "came down from heaven" by incarnation – vv. 33, 38, 41-42, 50, 58; Heb. 2:14.
    - b. The bread of life is the life supply in the form of food which is also "good for food" – 6:35; Gen. 2:9.
    - c. Bread of life refers to the nature of the bread, which is life; living bread refers to the condition of the bread, which is living – v.51a.
  - 2. Being slain to be eaten by man – vv. 51b-55.
    - a. He was slain by being crucified on the cross as the Jews slew the lamb during the Passover.
    - b. He is the lamb of God who died for us, shed His blood for the redemption of our sins, and offered His flesh for us to eat as our life.
    - c. *And the bread which I will give you is my flesh* – 51b.
      - 1) At this point the bread becomes the flesh.
      - 2) Bread is of the vegetable life and is only for feeding; flesh is of the animal life and is not only for feeding but also for redeeming.
    - d. The blood is added, which is necessary for redemption – v.53; 19:34; Heb. 9:22; Matt.26:28; 1Pet.1:18-19; Rom.3:25.
    - e. A separation of blood and flesh indicates death – v.54.
    - f. To eat His flesh and drink His blood is to receive Him, in His redemption, as life and the life supply by believing in what He did for us on the cross – v.47.
  - 3. Resurrected to indwell – vv. 56-59d.
    - a. The Lord had to be resurrected so that He could abide in us as our life and life supply – v.56.
    - b. To eat is to take food into us that it may be assimilated organically into our body – v.57.
      - 1) To eat the Lord Jesus is to receive Him into us that He may be assimilated by the regenerated new man in the way of life.
      - 2) Then we live by Him whom we have received; it is by this that He, the resurrected One, lives in us – cf. 14:19-20.
  - 4. Ascended – 6:60-62; Heb1:3.
  - 5. Becoming the life-giving Spirit – 6:63-65.

- a. After the resurrection and through the resurrection, the Lord Jesus, who had become flesh, became the Spirit who gives life, as is clearly mentioned in 1Cor. 15:45.
  - b. It is the life-giving Spirit that He can be life and the life supply to us.
  - c. We receive the Lord Jesus, but we get the Spirit who gives life.
6. Embodied in the Word of life – 6:66-71.
- a. Although the Spirit is wonderful, it is too mysterious; we need something solid, visible, tangible, and touchable—the Word of life.
  - b. The Greek word for ‘words’ here is *rhema* which denotes the instant and present spoken word; it differs from *logos* which denotes the constant word – v.63, 68; cf. 1:1.
  - c. The Lord has been incarnated, crucified, resurrected, ascended, has been transfigured from the flesh into the Spirit, and has been embodied in the Word.
  - d. When we receive His words by exercising our spirit, we get the Spirit, who is life.

## Message Six

## Reference Scriptural verses

## John 6

1 After these things Jesus went away across the Sea of Galilee, *which is the Sea of Tiberias*. 2 And a great crowd followed Him, because they saw the signs which He did on those who were sick. 3 And Jesus went up to the mountain and sat there with His disciples. 4 Now the Passover, the feast of the Jews, was near. 5 Jesus then lifting up His eyes and seeing that a great crowd was coming toward Him, said to Philip, Where shall we buy bread that these may eat? 6 But this He said to test him, for He Himself knew what He was about to do. 7 Philip answered Him, Two hundred denarii worth of bread is not sufficient for them, that each one may take a little. 8 One of His disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, said to Him, 9 There is a little boy here who has five barley loaves and two fish; but what are these for so many? 10 Jesus said, Have the people recline. Now there was much grass in the place. So the men reclined, in number about five thousand. 11 Jesus then took the loaves, and when He had given thanks, He distributed to those who were reclining; likewise also of the fish, as much as they wanted. 12 And when they were filled, He said to His disciples, Gather the broken pieces left over that nothing may be lost. 13 So they gathered *them* and filled twelve handbaskets with broken pieces from the five barley loaves which were left over among those who had eaten. 14 The people therefore, seeing the sign which He did, said, This is truly the Prophet who is to come into the world. 15 Then Jesus, knowing that they were about to come and take *Him* by force to make Him King, withdrew again to the mountain, Himself alone. 16 And when evening fell, His disciples went down to the sea, 17 And they got into a boat and began crossing the sea to Capernaum. And it had already become dark, and Jesus had not yet come to them. 18 And because a strong wind was blowing, the sea was churning. 19 Then, when they had rowed about twenty-five or thirty stadia, they saw Jesus walking on the sea and coming near the boat, and they became frightened. 20 But He said to them, It is I. Do not be afraid. 21 Then they were willing to take Him into the boat; and immediately the boat was at the land to which they were going. 22 The next day the crowd which stood on the other side of the sea saw that there had been no other small boat there except one, and that Jesus had not gotten into the boat with His disciples, but *that* His disciples had gone away alone. 23 But other small boats from Tiberias came near to the place where they ate the bread after the Lord had given thanks. 24 So when the crowd saw that Jesus was not there, nor His disciples, they themselves got into the small boats and came to Capernaum, seeking Jesus. 25 And when they found Him on the other side of the sea, they said to Him, Rabbi, when did You get here? 26 Jesus answered them and said, Truly, truly, I say to you, You seek Me not because you have seen signs, but because you ate of the bread and were filled. 27 Work not for the food which perishes, but for the food which abides unto eternal life, which the Son of Man will give you; for Him has the Father, *even* God, sealed. 28 Then they said to Him, What shall we do that we may work the works of God? 29 Jesus answered and said to them, This is the work of God, that you believe into Him whom He has sent. 30 They said then to Him, What sign then will You do that we may see and believe You? What work will You do? 31 Our fathers ate the manna in the wilderness, as it is written, "He gave them bread out of heaven to eat." 32 Jesus therefore said to them, Truly, truly, I say to you, Moses has not given you the bread out of heaven, but My Father gives you the true bread out of heaven. 33 For the bread of God is He who comes down out of heaven and gives life to the world. 34 They said therefore to Him, Lord, give us this bread always. 35 Jesus said to them, I am the bread of life; he who comes to Me shall by no means hunger, and he who believes into Me shall by no means ever thirst. 36 But I have said to you that you have also seen Me, and yet you do not believe. 37 All that the Father gives Me will come to Me, and him who comes to Me I shall by no means cast out. 38 For I have come down from heaven not to do My own will but the will of Him who sent Me. 39 And this is the will of Him who sent Me, that of all which He has given Me I should lose nothing but should raise it up in the last day. 40 For this is the will of My Father, that every one who beholds the Son and believes into Him should have eternal life, and I will raise him up in the last day. 41 The Jews therefore murmured concerning Him because He said, I am the bread that came down out of heaven. 42 And they said, Is not this Jesus, the son of Joseph, whose father and mother we know? How does He now say, I have come down out of heaven? 43 Jesus answered and said to them, Do not murmur among yourselves. 44 No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him; and I will raise him up in the last day. 45 It is written in the prophets, "And they shall all be taught of God." Every one who has heard and learned from the Father comes to Me. 46 Not that anyone has seen the Father, except Him who is from God, He has seen the Father. 47 Truly, truly, I say to you, He who believes has eternal life. 48 I am the bread of life. 49 Your fathers ate the manna in the wilderness, and they died. 50 This is the bread which comes down out of heaven, that anyone may eat of it and not die. 51 I am the living bread which came down out of heaven; if anyone eats of this bread, he shall live forever; And the bread which I will give is My flesh, *given* for the life of the world. 52 The Jews then contended with one another, saying, How can this man give us His flesh to eat? 53 Jesus therefore said to them, Truly, truly, I say to you, Unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink His blood, you do not have life within yourselves. 54 He who eats My flesh and drinks My blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up in the last day. 55 For My flesh is true food, and My blood is true drink. 56 He who eats My flesh and drinks My blood abides in Me and I in him. 57 As the living Father has sent Me and I live because of the Father, so he who eats Me, he also shall live because of Me. 58 This is the bread which came down out of heaven, not as the fathers ate and died; he who eats this bread shall live forever. 59 He said these things in a synagogue as He taught in Capernaum. 60 Many therefore of His disciples, when they heard *this*, said, This word is hard; who can hear it? 61 But Jesus, knowing in Himself that His disciples were murmuring about this,

said to them, Does this stumble you? **62** Then what if you saw the Son of Man ascending to where He was before? **63** It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing; the words which I have spoken to you are spirit and are life. **64** But there are some of you who do not believe. For Jesus knew from the beginning who were the ones who did not believe and who was the one who would betray Him. **65** And He said, For this *reason* I have told you that no one can come to Me unless it has been given to him from the Father. **66** From that time many of His disciples went back to what *they left* behind and no longer walked with Him. **67** Jesus therefore said to the twelve, Do you also want to go away? **68** Simon Peter answered Him, Lord, to whom shall we go? You have words of eternal life, **69** And we have believed and have come to know that You are the Holy One of God. **70** Jesus answered them, *Was it not I who* chose you, the twelve? Yet one of you is a devil. **71** Now He spoke of Judas, *the son* of Simon Iscariot, for he, one of the twelve, would betray Him.

I.C.1.

**Exo. 24:12** And Jehovah said to Moses, Come up to Me at the top of the mountain, and be there; and I will give you the tablets of stone with the law and the commandment, which I have written for their instruction.

**Matt. 17:1-2.** **1** And after six days Jesus took with *Him* Peter and James and John his brother, and brought them up to a high mountain privately. **2** And He was transfigured before them, and His face shone like the sun, and His garments became as white as the light.

**Rev. 21:2** And I saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.

I.D.

**1Cor. 5:7** Purge out the old leaven that you may be a new lump, even as you are unleavened; for our Passover, Christ, also has been sacrificed.

**John 1:29** The next day he saw Jesus coming to him and said, Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!

**John 1:36** And looking at Jesus walking, he said, Behold, the Lamb of God!

I.E.2.

**Lev. 23:10** Speak to the children of Israel, and say to them, When you come into the land which I am giving you, and reap its harvest, then you shall bring the sheaf of the firstfruits of your harvest to the priest;

**1Cor. 15:20** But now Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep.

I.F.3.

**Gen. 1:29** And God said, Behold, I have given you every herb yielding seed that is on the surface of all the earth and every tree which has fruit yielding seed; it shall be for you as food.

**Gen. 4:3-5.** **3** And in the course of time Cain brought an offering to Jehovah from the fruit of the ground. **4** And Abel also brought an offering from the firstlings of his flock, that is, from their fat portions. And Jehovah had regard for Abel and for his offering. **5** But for Cain and for his offering He had no regard. And Cain became very angry, and his countenance fell.

**Gen. 9:3** Every moving thing that lives shall be food for you; just as I gave you the green herb, so I have given you everything.

I.G.2.

**Matt. 15:27** And she said, Yes, Lord, for even the little dogs eat of the crumbs which fall from their masters' table.

III.B.1.b.

**Gen. 2:9** And out of the ground Jehovah God caused to grow every tree that is pleasant to the sight and good for food, as well as the tree of life in the middle of the garden and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

III.B.2.d.

**John 19:34** But one of the soldiers pierced His side with a spear, and immediately there came out blood and water.

**Heb. 9:22** And almost all things are purified by blood according to the law, and without shedding of blood there is no forgiveness.

**Matt. 26:28** For this is My blood of the covenant, which is being poured out for many for forgiveness of sins.

**1Pet. 1:18-19.** **18** Knowing that *it was* not with corruptible things, with silver or gold, *that* you were redeemed from your vain manner of life handed down from your fathers, **19** But with precious blood, as of a Lamb without blemish and without spot, *the blood* of Christ;

**Rom. 3:25** Whom God set forth as a propitiation place through faith in His blood, for the demonstrating of His righteousness, in that in His forbearance God passed over the sins that had previously occurred,

III.B.3.b.2)

**John 14: 19-20.** **19** Yet a little while and the world beholds Me no longer, but you behold Me; because I live, you also shall live. **20** In that day you will know that I am in My Father, and you in Me, and I in you.

III.B.4.

**Heb. 1:3** Who, being the effulgence of His glory and the impress of His substance and upholding and bearing all things by the word of His power, having made purification of sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high;

III.B.5.a.

**1Cor. 15:45** So also it is written, "The first man, Adam, became a living soul"; the last Adam *became* a life-giving Spirit.

III.B.6.b.

**John 1:1** In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.