

ESF Lord's day service message
8/3/2014

Food for Complete Satisfaction
John 6:25-25

²⁵When they found him on the other side of the lake, they asked him, "Rabbi, when did you get here?" ²⁶Jesus answered, "I tell you the truth, you are looking for me, not because you saw miraculous signs but because you ate the loaves and had your fill. ²⁷Do not work for food that spoils, but for food that endures to eternal life, which the Son of Man will give you. On him God the Father has placed his seal of approval."

²⁸Then they asked him, "What must we do to do the works God requires?"

²⁹Jesus answered, "The work of God is this: to believe in the one he has sent."

³⁰So they asked him, "What miraculous sign then will you give that we may see it and believe you? What will you do?" ³¹Our forefathers ate the manna in the desert; as it is written: 'He gave them bread from heaven to eat.'"

³²Jesus said to them, "I tell you the truth, it is not Moses who has given you the bread from heaven, but it is my Father who gives you the true bread from heaven. ³³For the bread of God is he who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world."

³⁴"Sir," they said, "from now on give us this bread."

³⁵Then Jesus declared, "I am the bread of life. He who comes to me will never go hungry, and he who believes in me will never be thirsty."

A story is told of two old friends who bumped into one another on the street one day. One of them looked forlorn, almost on the verge of tears. His friend asked, "What has the world done to you, my old friend?"

The sad fellow said, "Let me tell you. Three weeks ago, an uncle died and left me forty thousand dollars."

"That's a lot of money."

"But, two weeks ago, a cousin I never even knew died, and left me eighty-five thousand free and clear."

"Sounds like you've been blessed...."

"You don't understand!" he interrupted. "Last week my great-aunt passed away. I inherited almost a quarter of a million."

Now he was really confused. "Then, why do you look so glum?"

"This week... nothing!"

Like the man, many people today are unsatisfied with their lives when they keep looking for something that can satisfy them.

In today's text, Jesus shows us how we can live our lives with complete satisfaction.

Find the food that satisfies your soul

After Jesus performed the miracle of turning five loaves of bread and two fish into food which was more than enough to feed five thousand people, many of them started following Jesus. When Jesus quietly left the crowd, they looked for Jesus but could not find him for some time. When they finally found him, they asked, "Rabbi, when did you get here?"

Apparently, they followed Jesus. But the real reason they were looking for Jesus was to gain more bread. They thought that if they followed Jesus, they would receive more physical and material blessings.

Then Jesus said to them, *"You are looking for me, not because you saw miraculous signs but because you ate the loaves and had your fill. Do not work for food that spoils, but for food that endures to eternal life."*

Here, Jesus says that there are two kinds of food: food that spoils and food that lasts. Food that spoils means physical and material things. Food that lasts means Jesus Himself.

So by these words, Jesus encouraged them to follow Him, seeking not physical things, but to seek Jesus Himself. *"I am the bread of life. He who comes to me will never go hungry, and he who believes in me will never be thirsty."*

Until men find Jesus as the food for their soul, they can't find complete satisfaction. If people don't find Jesus as the right source of complete

satisfaction, they will search endlessly for satisfaction from other objects which may satisfy them only partially and temporarily. And their souls will remain thirsty.

There was a woman who sought happiness and satisfaction by trying to find the right husband. To find the right man, she divorced 5 different men and married six times. But she was unable to find a man who satisfied her heart. Her heart was thirsty. Then Jesus came to her and led her to find the right source of satisfaction. Jesus helped her to find that the only one who could satisfy her soul was Jesus Himself, as the Messiah, the Savior. When she found the Savior and accepted Him in her heart, her endless thirst was gone. Her heart was filled with complete satisfaction and joy. And she ran to the people in her town and testified that she met the Messiah, the one who filled her heart with full satisfaction.

There is a sister who used to search endlessly for the right source to fill her thirsty soul. She tried to find it through meditation in Buddhism and Taoism, by receiving strong spirits in Sedona, Arizona, and by learning several philosophical teachings. But she was unable to find full satisfaction from any of them. She ended up drinking alcohol heavily every day. One day, she came to see me and asked for counselling. It was the first time I encountered such a case, and I did not know how to counsel her. I prayed to God to show me what to do. And God touched my heart to talk directly to her about who Jesus is. She came back to see me again and again, and I kept telling her that Jesus is the answer. Several weeks later, she came to me and exclaimed that Jesus set her free from her addiction to alcohol. She found the Savior. She found the source that can satisfy her soul. This happened almost 5 years ago. Since then, she has never searched to find something else to fill her soul.

Marriage is a wonderful gift from God, but your marriage partner cannot fully satisfy you. There are great teachers and philosophers whose teachings are noble and excellent. There are religions that promise happiness and hope for eternal life. There are many wonderful things that make our lives pleasant and joyful. But none of them can completely satisfy our souls.

Even if you come to Jesus, you cannot find satisfaction if you seek material things or physical blessings through Him. Complete satisfaction comes when you accept Jesus as your Savior.

Believe the one God has sent

When Jesus told the people to work for food that endures to eternal life, they asked "What must we do to do the works God requires?" They were asking, "How can I be right with God? What works should I do to please God?" It is a very important question.

Throughout human history people have been asking the same question. If you examine all religions, you will find that this question is at the core of all religions. People try to know, to please, to be approved by, and be blessed by their gods by working hard, by doing good deeds.

But Jesus gave them an unexpected answer, "*The work of God is this: to believe in the one he has sent.*" Jesus says that the way to be right with God is to believe. It is the one truth we find repeated again and again in the scriptures, that the work of God is not in man's effort or doing good deeds, but faith in Christ.

Galatians 2:16 says, "*a man is not justified by observing the law, but by faith in Jesus Christ. So we, too, have put our faith in Christ Jesus that we may be justified by faith in Christ and not by observing the law, because by observing the law no one will be justified.*"

Ephesians 2:8-9 says, "*For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— not by works, so that no one can boast.*"

Hebrews 11:6 says, "*And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him.*"

The next question then, is "what is faith?" Jesus said that faith is to believe in the one God has sent. Whom was he referring to by "the one God has sent?"

He was referring to himself. Why? Why is he the one God sent and the object of faith? There have been many prophets and servants of God who have helped men to believe in God. But Jesus is different from all prophets and servants.

In the history of God's people, the nation of Israel, Moses was the greatest prophet. Through him, God delivered Israel from slavery by Egypt, the most powerful nation at that time. Through him, God parted the Red Sea and let the people cross over the sea. Through him God sent manna, the daily bread for the people of entire nation for 40 years. So the crowd tried to compare Jesus with Moses, asking, "Are you greater than Moses?" Jesus' answer was "Yes."

Of course, Moses was a great servant of God, but Jesus is the son over God's house (Hebrews 3:1-6). The bread which fell in the days of Moses could only feed and satisfy the body. The Son had come to feed the soul. The manna fell every day except the Sabbath day for forty years. Then it stopped. The true bread from heaven, which is Christ, lasts forever. The bread which fell in the days of Moses was only for the one nation of Israel. The Son had come to offer eternal life to the world.

Moses was a great man of God. But he was only a channel of God's blessings. It is great to be a funnel for God's blessings. It is great to be a tool in His hands. But man cannot be the source of blessings. Any man, including Moses, cannot be same as God. Even the greatest man on earth can only be a servant of God.

But Jesus is different from all great servants of God. He is the one who participated in the creation. John chapter 1, verses 1-3... In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by him; and without him was not anything made that was made." Everything that exists today can be traced back to either the earth or to mankind, both of which God created.

He is the only person who died, was buried in a tomb for three days and rose again from the dead. By His resurrection, He has destroyed death and removed our condemnation. He has made us alive--born again!--not in a fleshly sense, but by the Spirit of God. He has washed us in our baptism, giving us life anew, and removing every spot of death. As Paul says in Romans: *“As many of us as were baptized into Christ were baptized into His death; therefore, we were buried with Him through Baptism into death, so that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also might walk about in newness of life.”*

He has raised us--even now!--from spiritual death, and has freed us from eternal condemnation. He has made us alive...alive to bring glory to His name through our words and actions.

He is the author and perfecter of our faith (Hebrews 12:2).

It is like a ship which was returning from an overseas voyage entering the St. Lawrence River. A heavy fog enveloped the ship on all sides, completely concealing the shores and all objects from the view of the passengers. Much to their amazement, the ship continued at full speed. They became frightened, considering such speed as extremely reckless on the part of the captain.

Finally, one of the passengers expressed concerns to a crew member, demanding that the ship be slowed down. The mate listened, then replied with a smile: “Oh don’t be afraid, the passengers need not be uneasy in the least. The fog extends up only a short way above the water, and the captain is at the masthead, and is up above the fog and it is he who is directing the vessel.”

In the same kind of way, Jesus is asking us to believe and trust in Him as the captain of our ship, directing us above all the foggy situations of life that we cannot understand. Jesus is directing our ship of life because as captain He loves us and wants us to have a life that is abundant with all of his blessings.

In him and through him we can have faith, and we can gain all God’s spiritual blessings that completely satisfies our souls.