

**BIBLE READING DAY 18, WEDNESDAY: MARCH 16**

**I AM the Bread of Life**

John 6:22–71

*The next day, people were still lingering on the other side of the lake. They had seen that there had been only one boat there, and that Jesus had not gotten into the boat with his disciples, but his disciples had gone away alone. However, boats from Tiberias landed near the place where they ate the bread, after the Lord had given thanks. So, when the people saw that neither Jesus nor his disciples were there, they got into the boats and went to Capernaum, seeking Jesus. When they found him on the other side of the lake, they said to him, “Rabbi, when did you come here?”*

*“I tell you truly,” replied Jesus, “you seek me, not because you saw miracles, but because you ate of the loaves and were satisfied. Do not labor merely for food that perishes, but for the food that endures to life eternal—the food which the Son of Man will give you; for he is the one on whom the Father, even God, has set his seal of approval.”*

*“What must we do if we are to do the works of God?” they asked.*

*“The true work and service of God,” replied Jesus, “is this: that you believe in him whom he has sent.”*

*“What will you do as a sign, that we may see and believe in you?” they said. “What work will you perform? Our fathers ate manna in the wilderness; as it is written, ‘He gave them bread from heaven to eat.’”*

*“I tell you truly,” said Jesus, “it was not Moses who gave you the bread from heaven; it is my Father who is giving you the true bread from heaven, for the bread of God is that bread which comes down from heaven and gives life to the world.”*

*“Lord, evermore give us this bread!” they said.*

*“I am the bread of life,” said Jesus. “He who comes to me shall not hunger, and he who trusts in me shall never thirst. But I told you that you have seen, but do not believe. All that the Father gives me will come to me, and I will not refuse anyone who comes to me. For I have come down from heaven, not to do my own will, but to do the will of him who sent me. And this is the will of him who sent me, that I should lose nothing of all that he has given me but should raise it up at the last day. For this is my Father’s will, that everyone who beholds the Son and trusts in him shall have eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day.”*

*Then the Jews began to find fault with Jesus because he said, “I am the bread which came down from heaven.” And they said, “Isn’t this Jesus, the son of Joseph, whose father and mother we know? How can he say, ‘I have come down from heaven’?”*

*“Stop finding fault with me among yourselves,” said Jesus. “No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him, and I will raise him up at the last day. It is written in the prophets, ‘And they shall all be taught of God.’ Everyone who has listened and learned from the Father comes to me. Not that anyone*

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Do you have an appetite? Are you hungry for the Lord Jesus? Jesus is the spiritual bread, the supernatural bread, the satisfying bread, and Jesus is sustaining bread.

**Jesus is Heaven’s Bread  
for Earth’s hunger!**

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Adrian Rogers

has seen the Father; only he who has come from God has seen the Father. I tell you truly, he who believes in him has life eternal.

*“I am the bread of life. Your fathers ate manna in the wilderness and died. This is the bread that comes down from heaven, that men may eat of it and not die. I am the living bread which came down from heaven; if anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever. And the bread I will give for the life of the world is my flesh.”*

*Then the Jews began to argue among themselves, saying, “How can this man give us his flesh to eat?”*

*Jesus therefore said to them, “I tell you truly, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you do not have life in you. He who eats my flesh and drinks my blood lives in me, and I in him. As the living Father sent me, and I live by the Father, so he who feeds on me shall live by me. This is the bread which came down out of heaven—not such as the fathers ate and died; he who feeds on this bread will live forever.”*

*These things Jesus said in the synagogue, as he taught in Capernaum. And when they heard it, many of his disciples said, “This is an offensive and intolerable doctrine! Who can accept it?”*

*But Jesus, knowing that many of his disciples were finding fault with his teaching, said to them, “Does this offend you? Then what if you were to see the Son of Man ascending to where he was before? It is the spirit that gives life; the flesh is of no profit. The words I have spoken to you are spirit and life, but there are some of you who do not believe.”*

*For Jesus knew all along those who did not believe, and who would betray him. And he said, “That is why I told you that no one can come to me unless it be granted to him by the Father.”*

*From that time, many of his disciples turned back and walked no more with him. Then said Jesus to the twelve, “Will you also go away?”*

*“Lord,” replied Peter, “to whom shall we go? You alone have the words of eternal life. And as for us, we believe and are sure that you are the Holy One of God.”*

*“Did not I myself choose you as the Twelve?” said Jesus. “Yet even of you, one is a devil.”*

*He was speaking of Judas, the son of Simon Iscariot. For he, one of the Twelve, was even then thinking of betraying him.*

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“My concern is that many of our churches in America have gone from being sanctuaries to becoming stadiums. And every week all the fans come to the stadium where they cheer for Jesus but have no interest in truly following him. The biggest threat to the church today is fans who call themselves Christians but aren’t actually interested in following Christ.”

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Kyle Idleman  
Not a Fan

### Approximate Timeline of Jesus’s Public Ministry

EARLY LIFE	EARLY MINISTRY	1 <sup>st</sup> Feast of PASSOVER	SUMMER	1 <sup>st</sup> Feast of BOOTHS	WINTER	SPRING	SUMMER	FALL	WINTER	SPRING	SUMMER	FALL	WINTER	FINAL PASSOVER
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## DEVOTIONAL DAY 18 (WEDNESDAY MARCH 16)

Eat, Drink, BELIEVE!

*Based on John 6:22-71*

Today's teaching is a hard lesson! In fact, that's exactly what the supporting characters in John 6 were saying as Jesus gave them this challenge. *"This is very hard to understand. How can anyone accept it?"*

Here in the red letters of John 6, Jesus gives this charge: *"Unless you eat my flesh and drink my blood, you cannot have eternal life."* Uh, say again, Jesus? *"My flesh is true food, and my blood is true drink."* I'm sorry, I'm just not getting it. It sounds like... *"Anyone who feeds on me will live because of me."*

So, ok, there's a lot to unpack here. Let's look at the entire lesson in context. As this passage unfolds on the day after the miraculous feeding of the 5,000, awed and adoring crowds press in on Jesus demanding to see Him validate His claims by performing more miracles. Jesus's response is simple: *"Believe"* (v. 29).

They petition Him a second time, reminding Him that God had miraculously (and, to their point, daily) fed the Jewish people in the wilderness with bread from heaven. Jesus's second response is phrased differently (*"I AM the Bread from Heaven"*), but His intent is the same: *"Believe"* (v. 36).

At this, the people become indignant. *"Isn't this the guy from the other side of town with the carpentry side hustle?"* One can only imagine the natural frustration that Jesus felt at this insult and so His third response took on a dramatic flair, but it had the same intent. To a consumerist people who only come to God for what they can get out of Him, Jesus says, *"I am the Bread you seek. If you are looking for what you can get out of God, here I am!"*

Jesus's direction for the people to consume Him was in line with what a consumer-driven people were asking of God at that moment. If I can borrow from Matthew 11 and Luke 10, *"All of the prophets wished they could see what you see now!"*

Unfortunately, humanity's approach to God hasn't changed much in 2,000 years. We still approach God with what we can receive from Him without first asking what He requires of us. Is God the Lord of our prosperity or is He the Lord of our life? The answer, even the command, from Jesus is simple: *"Believe"*.

And for those of you that do believe, don't stop there – consume it all: feed on His Word daily, spend time in prayer, seek His will in all things. And at those times when God's voice seems silent, questioning why He doesn't answer, remember how He has already answered through the One Who stands before you in Jesus Christ.

**Father, forgive me for when I have come to You as a consumer rather than as a servant. Teach me to grow daily, feeding on the blessings of a rich relationship with You made possible by the One Who came down to live amongst us.**

--By Rief Kessler

**WRITE DOWN YOUR THOUGHTS IN RESPONSE TO WHAT YOU HAVE READ:**

**WHAT DID GOD SAY TO ME?**

**PRAYER: WHAT DID I SAY TO GOD?**

**ACTS OF PRAYER: ADORATION, CONFESSION, THANKSGIVING, SUPPLICATION** (How God Can Supply Needs)

**A**

**C**

**T**

**S**