

Manna Messiah

I. Slide1 **Announce:**

- A. Slide2-4 Greg: Mens & Video & Mens (me). **New Bulletin.**
- B. Slide5 Prayer Tonight: 6:30-7:30pm.
- C. Slide6 Children at Risk: Next Sunday. *Run2Rescue presenting.*
- D. Slide7 Children's Musical: *Musical auditions, 4pm Mercy Room.*
- E. Slide8 Marriage: 2 Day Conf (video next week). Paul Tripp. **We** are all still a work in progress, **marriages** are also a continuous work in progress, **and** it's God's desire to use us as *his tools of grace* to help each other **grow and create** God honoring marriages.
- F. Slide9/10 This Wed Night: How Do I Do Devotions. How do I Protect my Children...
- G. Prayer Intro: *Oh, taste & see that the Lord is good; Blessed is the man who trusts in Him.*
 1. Speaks of **Him Satisfying us**. Some of the experiences of life *tastes sour*. Sometimes the cup handed to us is not one of **sweetness** but of *bitterness*. **Jesus had to drink a bitter cup.**
 2. But do you know what makes **a bitter cup** satisfying & sweet? It's tasting **the Lord** in it. When you taste the Lord *in the experiences of life*, they become *sweet in Him*. [Note: **not taste & see if the Lord is good...but that He is**]
 3. **An atheist cannot find God for the same reason that a thief cannot find a policeman. Taste & see that the Lord IS Good.** Ps.34:8
 4. Prayer: *Lord, open our mouth and help us **taste**, open our eyes so we may see - **how good You are. We are a blest people when we hunger/thirst for You. Lord, when You make our cup sweet...may we drink it w/grace. When You make our cup bitter...may we drink it in communion w/You.***

II. Slide11,12 **Intro: Manna Messiah**

- A. Slide13,14 1st note, where Jesus is in vs.59, in the *synagogue in Capernaum*.
- B. Also Note, *give us this bread always* (34)...**now** Jesus can reveal Himself as *the food they sought*.

C. This long chapter is dominated by *1 theme* from the **Passover**... *God feeding His children in the wilderness, with bread from Heaven.*

1. Last week **Jesus** gave His own provision of food for a large crowd out in a wilderness area, across the sea of Galilee and away from towns where food might have been found.

a) **In the OT story we have** God **protecting** Israel on 1st **Passover** (Ex.12).

Protecting Israel during the **Red Sea Crossing** (Ex.14).

Then Providing Manna/bread from heaven in the wilderness (Ex.16).

b) **Here in John 6 we have Jesus** on the *Passover*, **providing** for His children in the wilderness (out of town). **Then Jesus crossing the Sea of Galilee/walking on water.**

Then presenting himself as *the bread from Heaven.*

D. **Slide15** What matters is not just *what Jesus can do for you*; what matters is **who Jesus is.**

1. I admit walking through painting gallery's/museums & *reading about them more than gazing at them.* [the printed notes are there to *lead the eye/mind/heart* to appreciate the painting]

2. **The bread and the fish** that Jesus had distributed to the crowds were there to **lead the eye/mind/heart** to the *true gift of God, Himself*...right then and there.

adapted from N.T.Wright

III. **Slide16a I AM THE BREAD FROM HEAVEN (30-33)**

A. (31) Jewish tradition looked for *the Messiah* to provide manna as **Moses** had. (Rabbah 1.9)

B. (33) The **manna** came only to the **Jews** & sustained **physical life**, **but Jesus** came for **the whole world** & gives **eternal life**.

1. **Slide16b** The *bread of God* was *a gift from the Father*, whether it was shaped into **Manna** or the **Messiah**.

C. **Note**, in vs.41 this phrase (*bread coming down from heaven*) is what they got mad at.

IV. **Slide17a I AM THE BREAD OF LIFE (34-40)**

A. (35) **I am the bread of life** - *i.e.* Jesus satisfies our deepest spiritual needs.

1. This is the 1st of 7 **I am** statements in the gospel of John. [23 in all]

- B. Jesus picks a *common staple* all can relate to & relate to daily & throughout the day /each meal
1. **Bread** is found on the **rich & poor** man's table, **king & peasant**.
 2. **Slide17b** In **Mexico** it might be *I am the **pan dulce/bolillo** of Life*. In **India** it might be *I am the **Naan/chapati** of Life*. In **Belize** it might be *I am the **Fry Jacks** of Life*. In **China** it might be *I am the **Bao/Baozi** of Life* (pork steamed buns)
 - a) Whatever is that countries main **food staple** (for sustaining life).
- C. If we take the **1st commandment** from the neg to the poss, **from Thou shall have no other gods before me to Thou shall have Me**. *That's what Jesus is saying here*.
- D. **Slide18** (37) There is a giant **Welcome mat** in front of Jesus' house. Which reads, *Wipe your sins on the mat & come on in*.
1. The original reads, *I will not, not cast out, or I will never, never cast out*.
 - a) The text means, that Christ will **not at first** reject a believer; **and** that as He will not do it at first, **so** he will **not to the last**. (Spurgeon; Evening, July 30)
- E. (39) **Lose nothing** - Jesus believes in the assurance of the believer. **Take his word for it**.
1. **This is Eternal security**. (i.e. God **preserves** us) Ps.145:20 **The LORD preserves** all who love Him **But** all the wicked He'll destroy.

V. **Slide19 I AM THE LIVING BREAD (41-59)**

- A. **Just as** you take **food** into your body, **so** you take **Christ** into your life & He becomes *one with you*.
- B. (44) **No one can come to the Father through Christ except the Father draws him**.
1. **Slide20a** I picture **Gods Rip-Tide**: Slowly drawing you out to Him (you often don't notice your being pulled out). You keep swimming to shore **away from Him**. You finally give up & turn to Him. Yet under the surface He's been drawing you all the time.
- C. We're **chosen** then drawn; **drawn** then saved; **saved** then 1 day to be resurrected; when **resurrected** comes the fulfillment of **eternal life**.
- D. **Do we really make decisions for Christ?** I believe our decisions is in **response** to what God has done & is doing. We could explain it like C.S.Lewis, *God had closed in on him*

and he couldn't escape (though at the time he had badly wanted to). Or, his more more Slide20b evocative phrase: *His compulsion is our liberation.*

1. One of the hard lessons the children of Israel had to learn in the wilderness was that **their God, yhwh**, was not at their *beck and call*. He wasn't obliged to them. He hadn't decided to rescue them from Egypt because they were *a great nation, more powerful and numerous than others*. He certainly hadn't discovered that they were a particularly moral or godly people. There was nothing in them, as they stood, to commend them to him. It was simply that **in His loving choice** he had decided to make them his own people, so that they would be the nation through whom His purposes and love would be made known to the world. N.T.Wright
- E. (45) Jesus quotes Isa 54:13 in support of His assertion that *true disciples will recognize Him in the teachings of Scripture*. (i.e. His teaching of Scripture)
- F. Slide21 (51-55) What is meant by eating his flesh & blood?
1. *This is non-Kosher talk*...it sure sounds like **cannibalism & blood drinking**.
 - a) Sounds like *a bad vampire movie filmed at Donar pass*.
 2. He wasn't literally **bread**, anymore than He was literally **a lamb or a lion**.
 3. Slide22a It means nothing **more nor less** than **believing in Christ**. (Mathew Henry)
 4. **Jesus' physical death** is the price for the world's *spiritual life*.
- G. (53) **Eat the flesh** - As if to show the absurdity of their confusion, Jesus presses the metaphor further, using the *literal imagery* of **eating and drinking** that they had assumed as the context.
- H. Slide22b (54-58) **Eats or feeds on My flesh** - τρώγω / *trogo*, 4 of 6 x's used in NT used right here.
1. **To eat or chomp**. *to eat with loud chewing sounds* (as in nuts or crunchy vegetables).
 2. Next time He uses it at *the last supper* (**whoever eats this bread**).
- I. You receive **bread** into your body and it **sustains life**, but receiving **Jesus** into your heart by faith gives you *eternal life*.
1. Slide22c To **eat** something means to assimilate it and make it a part of your **physical being**. Language uses *metaphors* like, "*Well, I'll have to digest what*

you just said” or “I can’t swallow that” or “That’s food for thought.” “Now, here’s something you can sink your teeth into.” “I really devoured that book.”

Nobody takes this literally.

- J. Also, Christ is **not** talking about the **bread** and **cup** of *the Lord’s Supper*. [up North, not So]
1. The Lord’s Supper had not even been instituted, **and** when it was, Jesus clearly stated that it was a **memorial**. It did not impart life.
 2. **Jesus** manifest in the **flesh**, is **our bread of life**.
 3. **Jesus bleeding** on the cross a substitute for sinners, is **our soul’s drink**.

VI. Slide23a I AM THE STUMBLING BREAD (60-66)

A. **DEFECTION** (60-66)

B. This is the **1st group**. *Unbelievers who choked on the bread going down.*

1. Did you know...Many **sharks** have the ability to turn their stomachs inside out **and evert it** out of their mouths in order to get rid of any unwanted contents.
 - a) This is what **the Jews** seem to do here.
 - b) They were like **stray dogs**, that if you *feed them* they’ll stick around, **not** because they love you, **but** because you have food. *Stop feeding them & they’re gone.*
 - c) Don’t seek God for **what** He can **do** for you, **but** for **who He is**.

C. (60) **Hard saying** - Yes, very difficult.

1. Not hard to *understand*, **but hard to accept**.
2. This **fresh bread** from heaven just became **stale & crunchy** in their mouth fast.

D. (62) Maybe you’ll believe *I came down* **if** you see me **go back**? [A forecast of His Ascension]

E. (63) **Spiritual words** (Jesus offers **spiritual life** through union with **Himself**)

F. (65) People are so ensnared in the *quicksand* of **sin & unbelief** that **unless God draws them** they are hopeless.

1. **Illustration** (w/magnet/paperclip): We spiritually lay dead as a **paperclip** & don’t move **until** we feel *His magnetic love drawing us* to **rise up & come to Him**.

G. (66) **No longer walked with Him** - They are no longer willing to *walk alongside Jesus* & no longer committed to Him & His Mission.

H. So, here Jesus *thins out the ranks*. At the *1st shadow* of the cross...they left Him.

1. They say the test of an army is *how it fights when it's tired*.
2. Like **Gideon's** *mandated military cut backs* [from 32,000 to 10,000 to 300], Jesus sends home those who were **fearful & afraid** of the battle.

VII. Slide23b,24a **I AM THE MANNA MESSIAH (67-71)** *you are the Christ/Messiah*

A. Slide24b **DETERMINATION** (67-69)

B. This is the **2nd group**. Thinning crowds did nothing to thin the disciples determination.

C. (67) The choice is always to *follow the crowd* or *follow Jesus*.

1. Right now do **you** feel like *going away*? Is it **too hot** in your **kitchen**?
Too stinky in your **nursery**? **Too dry** in your **marriage**?
Too quiet in your **relationship w/God**? **Do you** also want to go away?

D. (68,69) Peter comes up with **3 reasons** they can't.

E. Slide24c **DECEPTION** (67-69)

F. This is the **3rd group**. Standing right *in* the band of chosen men, was one who **looked & sounded** like the most sincere disciple...*but was a devil*.

G. Today you fall into 1 of these 3 categories: Like the **crowd** (open defection).
Or like **Judas** (subtle deception). **Or** like the **disciples** (firm determination).

H. Slide25a Illustration: Imagine a **book** on a shelf, never read. As long as it remains *unread*, it is external to you. **One day** you take it down & **read it**. You're thrilled, fascinated, moved. The story sticks to you. The great lines remain in your memory. **Now**, when you desire you can take that wonder *out from inside you* & remember it, think about it, feed your mind & heart on it. Once the book was **outside** you & now that its **inside**, you can feed upon it. (adapted from William Barclay; Gospel of John; pg.224)

1. **If you've** never taken Jesus *into your life*, assimilated His being into yours, **then** He is **outside** of your life.
2. Slide25b You are **like a small child**, with nose pressed up against a **bakery window**. Smelling bread, seeing bread, knowing it's there **but never tasting it**.
3. Slide25c Oh, **taste** & see that the Lord is good; Blessed is the man who **trusts** in Him.

I. There is a giant *Welcome mat* in front of Jesus' house. Which reads, *Wipe your sins on the mat & come on in.*

J. **Communion:**

1. Bread:
2. Cup: