

Title: WHAT'S FOR DINNER? JOHN 6:22-35.
(Chatham, NJ; 08/02/09, AM) [E – Topical]

Theme: By his redemptive sacrifice and by his teaching Jesus satisfies our hunger for spiritual food that nothing else can satisfy.

Purpose: To demonstrate that only Jesus is our true sustenance, and to encourage us to see that physical food is less important.

Introduction:

1. Today's title is a common question, one driven obviously by hunger.
2. Physical appetite is the one of strongest urges for survival—not to mention pleasure.
3. It controls some people to an inordinate degree, Philippians 3:19.
4. I like to eat everyday!!
5. Ecc. 5:18 suggests that it is one of the legitimate enjoyments of life, but this was before the true bread came from heaven.
6. Manna was central to the desert experience: it was placed in the Ark as a remembrance, and Deut. 8:3 reveals that it provided just enough to sustain Israel; apparently having just enough focused them on spiritual formation. (Contrast humility and pride, verses 12-14.)
7. The New Covenant's answer to hunger is another gift from heaven: Jesus, the true bread.
8. Jesus' message in John 6 is that only he satisfies our hunger.

I. Food Given by the Son of Man (27).

A. Provision of the loaves.

1. Jesus multiplied the loaves.
2. The crowd was impressed.
3. They wanted to make him king, 6:15.
4. They followed him, 6:26, because they wanted more.
5. Not the best motive in Jesus' eyes

B. Different food needed – Jesus diverts attention from physical hunger.

1. Do not labor for food that perishes, 27.
2. Labor for food that endures to eternal life.
3. The Son of Man gives this food, and God has approved it.
4. As Jesus supplied the food for physical sustenance, he provides also the more important food for spiritual sustenance.
5. Jesus is himself our food.

II. Food that endures (27).

A. Food that doesn't spoil.

1. The Word of God endures forever, 1 John 2:17.
2. Store up treasures where nothing fades or corrodes, Mt. 6:20.
3. We are urged to sustain ourselves by that which does not deteriorate.

B. Jesus promises this food.

1. Israel learned this through discipline: Deut. 8:3.
2. By disciplining physical satisfaction, Israel learned that God sustains life.
3. One of the great paradoxes of faith is that self-denial produces self-fulfillment.

4. The reason society and government continue to borrow on the backs of the next generation is because we are drunk with the notion that we can maintain a way of life without experiencing the consequences.
5. This is a direct consequence of spiritual shallowness and ignorance.
6. The idea of imposing limits on ourselves now for the sake of the future has become foreign to us, yet it is a harder but better way.
7. Our faith gives us the true means of life; only God and his Word endure; only God and his Word give life.
8. We have fallen prey to Satan's lie: take what I can give you now; Jesus asserts God's truth: feed on the Word of God for this alone gives life.

III. Jesus is the true bread (32).

A. Our darkened souls have blinded us.

1. The disciples are oblivious to the food that drives Jesus, John 4:27-33.
2. Jesus addresses our misdirected sight by urging us not to give in to anxiety but to seek the kingdom first, Mt. 6:25-33.
3. Our desires have darkened our souls and hardened our hearts.

B. Jesus is our true bread.

1. He reconciles us to God by his blood.
2. In him is life—he created it and he gives eternal life.
3. We live by every word that comes from his Father, and thus we must partake of his teachings to sustain us.
4. Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness.
5. This sets aside physical hunger to focus on spiritual satisfaction.
6. With him we will never hunger and thirst, John 6:35.

Conclusion:

1. You must partake of Jesus in order to sustain life.
2. True life is found not in physical food but in the spiritual food we receive from him.
3. Never confuse the two and never let the physical get in the way of the spiritual.