

## Jesus, The Bread of Life

John 6:35 - And Jesus said unto them, **I am the bread of life**: he that cometh to me shall never hunger; and he that believeth on me shall never thirst.

- When Jesus says, “I am the bread of life” He is using “bread” as a metaphor.

met·a·phor

1. a figure of speech in which a term or phrase is applied to something to which it is not literally applicable in order to suggest a resemblance, as in “A mighty fortress is our God.”
  2. something used, or regarded as being used, to represent something else; emblem; symbol.
- Other similar metaphors that Jesus used to describe Himself:  
John 8:12 – I am the light of the world.  
John 10:9 – I am the door.  
John 15:5 – I am the true vine.
  - Other names used to describe God, or Christ, are literal in meaning, such as  
Son of David – Luke 20:41  
Son of God – 1 John 5:13  
Savior – Phil 3:20  
The Almighty – Revelation 1:8  
King Eternal – 1 Timothy 1:17
  - Notice the metaphors or figures of speech in this parable told by Jesus. Pay attention to the verb “is” which means “is represented by or signifies.”  
Matthew 13:19-23 - When any one heareth the word of the kingdom, and understandeth it not, then cometh the wicked one, and catcheth away that which was sown in his heart. This is [represented by] he which received seed by the way side. But he that received the seed into stony places, the same is [represented by] he that heareth the word, and anon with joy receiveth it; Yet hath he not root in himself, but dureth for a while: for when tribulation or persecution ariseth because of the word, by and by he is offended. He also that received seed among the thorns is [represented by] he that heareth the word; and the care of this world, and the deceitfulness of riches, choke the word, and he becometh unfruitful. But he that received seed into the good ground is [represented by] he that heareth the word, and understandeth it; which also beareth fruit, and bringeth forth, some an hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty.
  - The word “bread” is used elsewhere in scriptures as a metaphor.  
Ps 80:5 Thou feedest them with the **bread of tears**; and givest them tears to drink in great measure.

Ps 127:2 - It is vain for you to rise up early, to sit up late, to eat the **bread of sorrows**: for so he giveth his beloved sleep.

Pr 31:27 - She looketh well to the ways of her household, and eateth not the **bread of idleness**.

Pr 4:17 - For they eat the **bread of wickedness**, and drink the wine of violence.

Pr 20:17 - **Bread of deceit** is sweet to a man; but afterwards his mouth shall be filled with gravel.

Mt 16:8 - *Which* when Jesus perceived, he said unto them, O ye of little faith, why reason ye among yourselves, because ye have brought no bread?

Mt 16:11-12 - How is it that ye do not understand that I spake *it* not to you concerning bread, that ye should beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and of the Sadducees? Then understood they how that he bade *them* not beware of the **leaven of bread**, but of the doctrine of the Pharisees and of the Sadducees.

- What does “bread” represent in all of these examples? What is bread for? What happens to bread when we eat it?
  1. The bread is consumed within
  2. The bread is digested, broken down to become useful
  3. The bread is absorbed in the blood
  4. The bread nourishes and strengthens the body
- Jesus used the word “bread” in a way that offended the Pharisees and others, but was intended to prepare the disciples for the Passover and help them understand that He is going to give His life that we might be redeemed and live. Like bread, Christ Himself and salvation, must be received within in order for its life sustaining properties to be realized.

John 6:31-35 - Our fathers did eat manna in the desert; as it is written, He gave them bread from heaven to eat. Then Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Moses gave you not that bread from heaven; but my Father giveth you the true bread from heaven. For the bread of God is he which cometh down from heaven, and giveth life unto the world. Then said they unto him, Lord, evermore give us this bread. And Jesus said unto them, I am the bread of life: he that cometh to me shall never hunger; and he that believeth on me shall never thirst.

Joh 6:41 The Jews then murmured at him, because he said, I am the bread which came down from heaven.

Joh 6:48 I am that bread of life.

Joh 6:50-58 This is the bread which cometh down from heaven, that a man may eat thereof, and not die. I am the living bread which came down from heaven: if any man eat of this bread, he shall live for ever: and the bread that I will give is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world. The Jews therefore strove among themselves, saying, How can this man give us his flesh to eat? Then Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except ye eat the flesh of the Son of

man, and drink his blood, ye have no life in you. Whoso eateth my flesh, and drinketh my blood, hath eternal life; and I will raise him up at the last day. For my flesh is meat indeed, and my blood is drink indeed. He that eateth my flesh, and drinketh my blood, dwelleth in me, and I in him. As the living Father hath sent me, and I live by the Father: so he that eateth me, even he shall live by me. This is that bread which came down from heaven: not as your fathers did eat manna, and are dead: he that eateth of this bread shall live for ever.

- Bread is a symbol of Christ's broken body and the grape juice a symbol of His blood that was shed for our sins. When we partake of the Lord's supper we look back to the cross and forward to His second coming. (1 Cor. 11:26) The bread and grape juice are a symbol of life. (The life is in the blood...Lev. 17:11 both figuratively and literally)

Luke 22:19-20 And he took bread, and gave thanks, and brake it, and gave unto them, saying, This is my body which is given for you: this do in remembrance of me. Likewise also the cup after supper, saying, This cup is the new testament in my blood, which is shed for you.

- Jesus is called the "Word" – John 1:1 and the Word is symbolized by "bread." Isa 55:2 Wherefore do ye spend money for *that which is* not bread? and your labour for *that which* satisfieth not? hearken diligently unto me, and eat ye *that which is* good, and let your soul delight itself in fatness.

Am 8:11 Behold, the days come, saith the Lord GOD, that I will send a famine in the land, not a famine of bread, nor a thirst for water, but of hearing the words of the LORD:

De 8:3 And he humbled thee, and suffered thee to hunger, and fed thee with manna, which thou knewest not, neither did thy fathers know; that he might make thee know that man doth not live by bread only, but by every *word* that proceedeth out of the mouth of the LORD doth man live.

Mt 4:4 But he answered and said, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.

- Both Job and Jeremiah use the "food or bread metaphor to describe the necessity and satisfying properties of the Word of God.

Job 23:12 Neither have I gone back from the commandment of his lips; I have esteemed the words of his mouth more than my necessary food.

Jer 15:16 Thy words were found, and I did eat them; and thy word was unto me the joy and rejoicing of mine heart: for I am called by thy name, O LORD God of hosts.