

“I Am the Bread of Life!”
John 6:35 & 6:48

I. *When Jesus calls Himself “the Bread of Life” He is saying He is what we really NEED –*

³⁵ **And Jesus said to them, “I am the bread of life. He who comes to Me shall never hunger, and he who believes in Me shall never thirst. John 6:35 (NKJV)**

1. *Bread was and still is considered a staple, a food we NEED!*

Part of the Lord’s Prayer is - ¹¹ Give us this day our daily bread. Matthew 6:11 (NKJV)

2. *Bread is or at least has been so much a staple in our world that we have nick-named money after it, money we call bread, or dough.*

3. *When I was in school, we learned Maslow’s Hierarchy of Needs –*

On the bottom, the most basic of needs were food, water, a bit higher clothing and shelter, up higher companionship and achievement, and at the very top self-actualization, God-morality!

What is wrong with Maslow’s idea is what was on the bottom was considered basic and a real need, while a relationship with God was like the cherry on top of an ice cream cone, it was considered like an optional extra.

4. *Jesus is telling us that He is that ONE THING, the ONE PERSON that we NEED MOST!*

II. *When Jesus calls Himself “the Bread of Life” He is saying He is worthy of our best efforts –*

⁴⁸ **I am the bread of life. John 6:48 (NKJV)**

1. *They had made efforts after Jesus, SADLY, they were not really after Him – John 6:26*

²⁶ **Jesus answered them and said, “Most assuredly, I say to you, you seek Me, not because you saw the signs, but because you ate of the loaves and were filled. John 6:26 (NKJV)**

2. *Labor = Effort*

²⁷ **Do not labor for the food which perishes, but for the food which endures to everlasting life, which the Son of Man will give you, because God the Father has set His seal on Him.” John 6:27 (NKJV)**

A. *Some think “faith” means not laboring, not doing anything, SOMETIMES that is the case!*

B. *But that is not always the case, especially when it comes to seeking God or Christ –*

⁶ **But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him. Hebrews 11:6 (NKJV)**

C. *We are to seek “diligently” we are to seek “whole heartedly” –*

¹³ **And you will seek Me and find Me, when you search for Me with all your heart. Jeremiah 29:13 (NKJV)**

3. *Fact, Christ, God and Heaven are to be sought first and diligently, whole-heartedly, -*

A. *God's Kingdom is to have highest priority –*

³³ But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you. Matthew 6:33 (NKJV)

B. *We should aim to be spiritually athletic / disciplined –*

²⁴ Do you not know that those who run in a race all run, but one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may obtain it. ²⁵ And everyone who competes for the prize is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a perishable crown, but we for an imperishable crown. ²⁶ Therefore I run thus: not with uncertainty. Thus I fight: not as one who beats the air. ²⁷ But I discipline my body and bring it into subjection, lest, when I have preached to others, I myself should become disqualified. 1 Corinthians 9:24–27 (NKJV)

C. *We are told to set our minds and affections on things above –*

³ If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God. ² Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth. ³ For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. Colossians 3:1–3 (NKJV)

“There’s gold in them, there hills!” The gold-rush cry! Some dug in the dirt all their lives looking to strike gold ...

D. *But we have something better than gold –*

¹⁰ More to be desired are they than gold, Yea, than much fine gold; Sweeter also than honey and the honeycomb. Psalm 19:10 (NKJV)

E. *Heaven is taken by EFFORT / FORCE / DILIGENCE and even VIOLENCE –*

¹² And from the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven suffers violence, and the violent take it by force. Matthew 11:12 (NKJV)

Every once and a while you here a violent black Friday story, there is the pushing and the grabbing to get that thing you really want, at a great price!

Jesus is saying THAT (violent) is HOW we should be about Him, about God, about Heavenly things!!!

Jesus prayed like we should PRAY –

⁴⁴ And being in agony, He prayed more earnestly. Then His sweat became like great drops of blood falling down to the ground. Luke 22:44 (NKJV)

Good-Friday was a different kind of black Friday for Jesus, as He spent it on a cross for our salvation, if it required His efforts / might it also require ours? Not that our works save us, they do not ... but we are told –

⁵ But also for this very reason, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue, to virtue knowledge, ⁶ to knowledge self-control, to self-control perseverance, to perseverance godliness, ⁷ to godliness brotherly kindness, and to brotherly kindness love. ⁸ For if these things are yours and abound, you will be neither barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁹ For he who lacks these things is shortsighted, even to blindness, and has forgotten that he was cleansed from his old sins. ¹⁰ Therefore, brethren, be even more diligent to make your call and election sure, for if you do these things you will never stumble; ¹¹ for so an entrance will be supplied to you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. 2 Peter 1:5–11 (NKJV)

4. *About earthly things we are told to be MEEK –*

⁵ **Blessed are the meek, For they shall inherit the earth. Matthew 5:5 (NKJV)**

²⁷ **Do not labor for the food which perishes, but for the food which endures to everlasting life,...**
John 6:27 A

This verse does not mean we don't work at all for our "daily bread" but it is not our priority, it is not to receive our zealous, passionate efforts, in comparison to Christ / Heaven!

5. *How is effort for Christ seen in our lives today?*

A. *Diligence in study, in knowing God's Word –*

¹⁵ **Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth. 2 Timothy 2:15 (NKJV)**

¹⁵ **Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth. 2 Timothy 2:15 (KJV 1900)**

B. *Praying without ceasing, fervently –*

¹⁷ **pray without ceasing, 1 Thessalonians 5:17 (NKJV)**

¹⁶ **...The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much. James 5:16 B (NKJV)**

C. *Doing good -*

⁹ **And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart. ¹⁰ Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all, especially to those who are of the household of faith. Galatians 6:9–10 (NKJV)**

III. *When Jesus calls Himself "the Bread of Life" He is not referring to the Lord's Supper, but the Lord's Supper does point us to Him –*

¹⁹ **And He took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to them, saying, "This is My body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of Me." Luke 22:19 (NKJV)**

When Jesus says, ⁴⁸ **I am the bread of life. John 6:48 (NKJV)** *He is not claiming to be literal bread! He was telling His hearers, He not it (the bread He made) was what they should be seeking!*

1. *The Bread and the Wine in the LORD's Supper point to Jesus Christ, and to His cross, where He died to pay the penalty for our sin, and the price of our salvation.*

A. *His body was broken –*

²⁴ **and when He had given thanks, He broke it and said, "Take, eat; this is My body which is broken for you; do this in remembrance of Me." 1 Corinthians 11:24 (NKJV)**

B. *His blood was shed -*

²⁷ **Then He took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you.**

²⁸ **For this is My blood of the new covenant, which is shed for many for the remission of sins. Matthew 26:27–28 (NKJV)**

2. *In this the Lord's Supper tells us the SAME THING that Jesus tells us in John 6, He Jesus is our Life, our sustenance, all we really need, our salvation, it points to Him!*

It (the Lord's Supper) also REMINDS us of these things! We need to be reminded of what Jesus did! If Jesus died for our salvation, what should we do for it? Or because of it!

Look again at 2 Peter 1 --- We need to be reminded to be diligent ...

⁵ But also for this very reason, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue, to virtue knowledge, ⁶ to knowledge self-control, to self-control perseverance, to perseverance godliness, ⁷ to godliness brotherly kindness, and to brotherly kindness love. ⁸ For if these things are yours and abound, *you* will be neither barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁹ For he who lacks these things is shortsighted, even to blindness, and has forgotten that he was cleansed from his old sins.

¹⁰ Therefore, brethren, be even more diligent to make your call and election sure, for if you do these things you will never stumble; ¹¹ for so an entrance will be supplied to you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

¹² For this reason I will not be negligent to remind you always of these things, though you know and are established in the present truth. ¹³ Yes, I think it is right, as long as I am in this tent, to stir you up by reminding you, ¹⁴ knowing that shortly I *must* put off my tent, just as our Lord Jesus Christ showed me. ¹⁵ Moreover I will be careful to ensure that you always have a reminder of these things after my decease. 2 Peter 1:5–15 (NKJV)

²³ Then He said to *them* all, **"If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me. ²⁴ For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will save it. ²⁵ For what profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world, and is himself destroyed or lost? Luke 9:23–25 (NKJV)**

A. *Jesus gives us the Supper to remind us of what He did for us –*
...To Him who loved us and washed us from our sins in His own blood Revelation 1:5 (NKJV)

B. *However, as we are REMINDED of what He did for us, remember what our appropriate response to Him should be –*

- *Self-sacrifice, service, walking according to God's will, not according to the ways of an ungodly world -*

¹² I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, *which is* your reasonable service. ² And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what *is* that good and acceptable and perfect will of God. Romans 12:1–2 (NKJV)

- *Love for Christ, above the love for any other -*

³⁷ **He who loves father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me. And he who loves son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me. ³⁸ And he who does not take his cross and follow after Me is not worthy of Me. Matthew 10:37–38 (NKJV)**

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