

8/9/2009

**THE PSALM AND THE CALL TO WORSHIP**

**Psalm 34:1-8**

Lay Minister: 1 I will [praise] the LORD at all times;

**People: His praise will always be on my lips.**

Lay Minister: 2 My soul will boast in the LORD;

**People: let the afflicted hear and rejoice.**

Lay Minister: 3 Glorify the LORD with me;

**People: let us exalt his name together.**

Lay Minister: 4 I sought the LORD, and he answered me; he delivered me from all my fears.

**People: 5 Those who look to him are radiant; their faces are never covered with shame.**

Lay Minister: 6 This poor man called, and the LORD heard him; he saved him out of all his troubles.

**People: 7 The angel of the LORD encamps around those who fear him, and he delivers them.**

Lay Minister: 8 Taste and see that the LORD is good;

**People: blessed is the man who takes refuge in him.**

Lay Minister: We come to worship the Lord who is good, who saves His people from their troubles.

**People: We begin our worship praising God the Father, and praising God the Son, and praising God the Holy Spirit. Amen.**

**CONFESSION OF SINS AND ABSOLUTION (*Psalm 34:3- 5 NIV*)**

Pastor: 3 Glorify the LORD with me;

**People: let us exalt his name together.**

Pastor: 4 I sought the LORD, and he answered me; he delivered me from all my fears.

**People: 5 Those who look to him are radiant; their faces are never covered with shame.**

Pastor: With the Psalmist, we confess our sin which causes our troubles. We go to the Lord so that we may receive His forgiveness and help.

(Silence for personal reflection and self-examination)

Most merciful and gracious God,

**People: we confess that we have sinned against You. Often we trust**

**ourselves, when we have no resources other than you that can deal with our sin and our lost-ness. Forgive us our pride, our foolishness, our sin, and turn our hearts continually to your love and forgiveness for us in Jesus. Help us to live for you, because in you is life.**

Pastor: Forgive us, we pray,

**People: for the sake of Jesus Christ.**

Pastor: God has Good News for us today. Though we have rebelled against Him, He calls us to His mercy. Though we have sinned, for Jesus' sake, we are totally forgiven. In the stead and by the command of our Lord, Jesus Christ, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**People: Amen. Thanks be to God!**

**THE PRAYER OF THE DAY** Gracious Father, Your blessed Son came down from heaven to be the true bread that gives life to the world. Grant that Christ, the bread of life, may live in us and we in Him, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

**THE OLD TESTAMENT LESSON** 1 Kings 19:1-8 page  
(*Elijah's flight is sustained by food supplied by an angel.*)

1 Now Ahab told Jezebel everything Elijah had done and how he had killed all the prophets with the sword. 2 So Jezebel sent a messenger to Elijah to say, "May the gods deal with me, be it ever so severely, if by this time tomorrow I do not make your life like that of one of them."

3 Elijah was afraid and ran for his life. When he came to Beersheba in Judah, he left his servant there, 4 while he himself went a day's journey into the desert. He came to a broom tree, sat down under it and prayed that he might die. "I have had enough, LORD," he said. "Take my life; I am no better than my ancestors." 5 Then he lay down under the tree and fell asleep. All at once an angel touched him and said, "Get up and eat." 6 He looked around, and there by his head was a cake of bread baked over hot coals, and a jar of water. He ate and drank and then lay down again. **7 The angel of the LORD came back a second time and touched him and said, "Get up and eat, for the journey is too much for you."** 8 So he got up and ate and drank. Strengthened by that food, he traveled forty days and forty nights until he reached Horeb, the mountain of God.

**THE EPISTLE LESSON** Ephesians 4:17---5:2 page  
(*God speaks through Paul to describe the new life of God's children.*)

**17 So I tell you this, and insist on it in the Lord, that you must no longer live as the Gentiles do, in the futility of their thinking. 18 They are darkened in their understanding and separated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them due to the hardening of their hearts. 19 Having lost all sensitivity, they have given themselves over to sensuality so as to indulge in every kind of impurity, with a continual lust for more.**

**20 You, however, did not come to know Christ that way. 21 Surely you heard of him and were taught in him in accordance with the truth that is in Jesus. 22 You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires;**

**23 to be made new in the attitude of your minds; 24 and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness.**

25 Therefore each of you must put off falsehood and speak truthfully to his neighbor, for we are all members of one body. 26 "In your anger do not sin": Do not let the sun go down while you are still angry, 27 and do not give the devil a foothold. 28 He who has been stealing must steal no longer, but must work, doing something useful with his own hands, that he may have something to share with those in need. 29 Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen.

30 And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. 31 Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice. 32 Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.

5:1 Be imitators of God, therefore, as dearly loved children 2 and live a life of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

## **THE GOSPEL LESSON**

John 6:35-51

*(True life comes from Jesus, the living Bread from heaven.)*

35 Then Jesus declared, "I am the bread of life. He who comes to me will never go hungry, and he who believes in me will never be thirsty. 36 But as I told you, you have seen me and still you do not believe. 37 All that the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never drive away. 38 For I have come down from heaven not to do my will but to do the will of him who sent me. 39 And this is the will of him who sent me, that I shall lose none of all that he has given me, but raise them up at the last day. 40 For my Father's will is that everyone who looks to the Son and believes in him shall have eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day."

41 At this the Jews began to grumble about him because he said, "I am the bread that came down from heaven." 42 They said, "Is this not Jesus, the son of Joseph, whose father and mother we know? How can he now say, 'I came down from heaven'?" 43 "Stop grumbling among yourselves," Jesus answered. 44 "No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him, and I will raise him up at the last day. 45 It is written in the Prophets: 'They will all be taught by God.' Everyone who listens to the Father and learns from him comes to me. 46 No one has seen the Father except the one who is from God; only he has seen the Father. **47 I tell you the truth, he who believes has everlasting life. 48 I am the bread of life.**

**49 Your forefathers ate the manna in the desert, yet they died. 50 But here is the bread that comes down from heaven, which a man may eat and not die. 51 I am the living bread that came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever. This bread is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world."**

## THE SERMON

## “God’s help when we Feel Empty”

## John 6

35 ei=pen auvtoi/j o` Vlhsou/j\ evgw, eivmi o` a;rtou th/j zwh/j\ o` evrco,menoj pro.j evme. ouv mh. peina,sh|( kai. o` pisteu,wn eivj evme. ouv mh. diyh,sei pw,pote

Jesus said to them, “I am the bread of life. The one coming to me and not be hungry, and whoever believes in me shall not thirst anymore.

36 VAIIV ei=pon u` mi/n o[ti kai. e`wra,kate, îmeĐ kai. ouv pisteu,ete

But I say to you also that you have seen me and you do not believe.

37 pa/n o] di,dwsi,n moi o` path.r pro.j evme. h[xei( kai. to.n evrco,menon pro.j evme. ouv mh. evkba,lw e;xw(

All which the father gives me will come to me. And to the ones coming to me I shall not cast away.

38 o[ti katabe,bhka avpo. tou/ ouvranou/ ouvc i[na poiw/ to. qe,lhma to. evmo.n avlla. to. qe,lhma tou/ pe,myanto,j me

Because I have come down from heaven not in order to do my own will, but the will of the one who sent me.

39 tou/to de, evstin to. qe,lhma tou/ pe,myanto,j me( i[na pa/n o] de,dwke,n moi mh. avpole,sw evx auvtou/( avlla. avnasth,sw auvto. îevnĐ th| evsca,th| h`me,ra|

And this is the will of the one who sent me that all whom he gave to me shall not be lost / destroyed from him, but the same shall rise up on the last day.

40 tou/to ga,r evstin to. qe,lhma tou/ patro,j mou( i[na pa/j o` qewrw/n to.n ui`o.n kai. pisteu,wn eivj auvto.n e;ch| zwh.n aivw,nion( kai. avnasth,sw auvto.n evgw. îevnĐ th| evsca,th| h`me,ra|

And this is the will of my father, that all who behold the son and believe in him shall have eternal life, and I shall raise him up on the last day.

41 VEgo,gguzon ou=n oi` Vloudai/oi peri. auvtou/ o[ti ei=pen\ evgw, eivmi o` a;rtou o` kataba.j evk tou/ ouvranou/(

VEgo,gguzon mutter, complain, speak in a low voice,

The Jews muttered therefore concerning him because he said, “I am the bread which comes down from heaven.”

42 kai. e;legon\ ouvc ou-to,j evstin Vlhsoi/j o` ui`o.j Vlwsh,f( ou- h`mei/j oi;damen to.n pate,ra kai. th.n mh te,raE pw/j nu/n le,gei o[ti evk tou/ ouvranou/ katabe,bhkaE

And they said, "Is this not Jesus, the son of Joseph? Do we not know the / his brothers and mother. How now does he say that he comes down from heaven?"

43 avpekri,qh Vlhsoi/j kai. ei=pen auvtoi/j\ mh. goggu,zete metV avllh,lwnA

Jesus answered and said to them, "do not grumble among yourselves."

44 ouvdei.j du,natai evlqei/n pro,j me eva.n mh. o` path.r o` pe,myaj me e`lku,sh| auvto,n( kavgw. avnasth,sw auvto.n evn th/| evsca,th| h`me,ra|A

No one is able to come to me except the father who sent me draws him, and I shall raise him on the last day.

45 e;stin gegramme,non evn toi/j profh,taij\ kai. e;son tai pa,ntej didaktoi. qeou^ pa/j o` avkou,saj para. tou/ patro.j kai. maqw.n e;r cetai pro.j evme,A

It has been written in the prophets and you shall all be taught of God. All who have from the father and learn come to me.

46 ouvc o[ti to.n pate,ra e`w,rake,n tij eiv mh. o` w'n para. tou/ qeou/( ou-toj e`w,raken to.n pate,raA

Because no one has seen the father except the one from God. This one has seen the father.

47 avmh.n avmh.n le,gw u`mi/n( o` pisteu,wn e;cei zwh.n aivw,nionA

Truly, truly I say to you, whoever believes has eternal life.

48 VEgw, eivmi o` a;rtoj th/j zwh/jA

I am the bread of life.

49 oi` pate,rej u`mw/n e;fagon evn th/| evrh,mw| to. ma,nna kai. avpe,qanon\

avpe,qanon\ decays

Your fathers ate in the wilderness the manna which decays.

50 ou-to,j evstin o` a;rtoj o` evk tou/ ouvranou/ katabai,nwn( i[na tij evx auvtou/ fa,gh| kai. mh. avpoqa,nh|A

This is the bread which comes down from heaven, in order that anyone may eat from it and have

life.

51 evgw, eivmi o` a;rtou o` zw/n o` evk tou/ ouvranou/ kataba,j\ eva,n tij fa,gh| evk tou,tou tou/ a;rtou zh,sei eivj to.n aivw/na( kai. o` a;rtou de. o]n evgw. dw,sw h` sa,rx mou, evstin u`pe.r th/j tou/ ko,smou zwh/jÅ

I am the bread of life which comes down from heaven. I anyone eats from this bread he shall live eternally. And the bread which I shall give on behalf of the life of the world is my flesh.

1 Kings 19:7-8 **7 The angel of the LORD came back a second time and touched him and said, "Get up and eat, for the journey is too much for you." 8 So he got up and ate and drank. Strengthened by that food, he traveled forty days and forty nights until he reached Horeb, the mountain of God.**

Ephesians 4:19-24 **19 Having lost all sensitivity, they have given themselves over to sensuality so as to indulge in every kind of impurity, with a continual lust for more.**

**20 You, however, did not come to know Christ that way. 21 Surely you heard of him and were taught in him in accordance with the truth that is in Jesus. 22 You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires;**

**23 to be made new in the attitude of your minds; 24 and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness.**

John 6:47-52 **47 I tell you the truth, he who believes has everlasting life. 48 I am the bread of life. 49 Your forefathers ate the manna in the desert, yet they died. 50 But here is the bread that comes down from heaven, which a man may eat and not die. 51 I am the living bread that came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever. This bread is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world."**

INTRO - On Friday Kathy and I were driving to the airport in Minneapolis so we could come home from our son, Andrew's, wedding. We passed a truck that sold coffee. I didn't recognize the brand name, "Steep and Brew." I was however drawn to the slogan on the side. The slogan read, "More is Better." I guess they were wanting you to not just have a cup, but to have more. Even if more and more coffee isn't necessarily good for the one drinking it, more and more of the Steep and Brew coffee is probably good for the bottom line of the company.

I. What do you think of that slogan, "More is Better?"

A. That is actually a pretty common philosophy of life today.

1. We've all heard commercials saying, "Size Matters."

2. It can seem that if a little coffee is good, more is better; if some money is good, more is better; if a little a little house is good, bigger is better; if a boat or snowmachine are good, more are better."

3. It can seem that way. Is it true for life that "More is better?"

B. Before we get to the Gospel lesson for today, I want you to look with me at the epistle lesson.

1. Paul tells the people in Ephesus to turn away from their former way of life, and He describes that life, the life of Gentiles who live in sensuality.

2. **17 So I tell you this, and insist on it in the Lord, that you must no longer live as the Gentiles do, in the futility of their thinking. 18 They are darkened in their understanding and separated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them due to the hardening of their hearts. 19 Having lost all sensitivity, they have given themselves over to sensuality so as to indulge in every kind of impurity, with a continual lust for more.**

3. This implies that a life the Bible describes as a life of the flesh, a life of seeking pleasures in this life only, includes a continual lust for more. We might also call this greed. But, this lust for more and more and more (remember the slogan - "More is Better") indicates futility of thinking and separation from God.

C. You need to know that this description does not just fit those who forsake the Lord, but follow the ways of this world.

1. My wife has accused me more than once of living like, 'If some is good, more is better.'

2. And, who of us has not been affected by the way of thinking in this world that "More is Better," and "Size Matters" and whatever other way this is put?

3. Are we letting *ourselves* be fooled by the ways of the world around us?

D. Let me tell you one other truth. More and more of anything really doesn't really give the joy and happiness we think?

1. Do you know that studies show that a huge majority of lottery winners end up bankrupt and say their life is worse than when they won the lottery.

2. You see, joy, and fulfillment are NOT found in the THINGS or possessions of life.

3. When someone gets everything they want, they often find themselves empty because they have what they thought they wanted, but meaning and happiness don't come from things.

II. Jesus tells us where to find real meaning and joy and fullness of life. **49 Your forefathers ate the manna in the desert, yet they died. 50 But here is the bread that comes down from heaven, which a man may eat and not die. 51 I am the living bread that came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever. This bread is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world."**

A. Jesus is not just talking of himself as the way to eternal life. Jesus is saying that He is the nourishment that empty, hungry, thirsty lives need TODAY.

1. The Israelites had manna, food they didn't work for that God sent from heaven and they picked up every morning. Imagine a life of free food!
2. But, this bread did not last. They died!

B. Jesus is **the bread of life**.

1. In His love we find we are valuable to God Himself.
2. When He laid down His life, we find we are so cherished that God Himself died to save us.
3. In knowing and believing that God loves us and died for us we find joy, and fulfillment, and happiness that nothing in this world can give. The things of this world perish.
4. The love of Jesus does not leave when tragedy happens, when economies crumble, when loved ones pass away.

**5. Jesus is the Bread of life.**

C. And, we can think we have lost the joy of life, or lost the love of God when we have done something foolish, something selfish, something that hurts others and in turn returns to hurt us.

1. Jesus gives his life for the world, because we are sinful, disobedient, often ugly, because we believe the lies of this world.
2. When we have done things that ruin our life, Jesus forgives. He continues to give love and joy and meaning when everything else is gone.

**3. Jesus is the bread of life.**

III. We stayed at the home of Andrew's in-laws on Thursday night, in the room of his new 15 year old sister in law. On her wall she had a number of Bible verses. One of the verses was 1 Corinthians 13. Below the words about love being patient and kind, never rude, but protecting and forbearing, was a question. "What is your love?"

A. That is a good question. If Jesus is the bread of life, if he is the source of meaning, and love, and joy, and life, not only eternally but in this world, "What is *your* love?" What do you spend your life seeking?

B. Maybe another question is, if Jesus is the bread of life, how do you spend your time?

1. Do you spend your life in prayer? In worship?
2. Do you spend your life trying not to hold a grudge, but to share the undeserved love we have received from God?
3. Do you spend your life seeking to serve and obey God because of His love in Jesus, rather than following your own desires?

CONCLUSION - I read about a couple that looked back at their married life. They started out poor, but ended up well off. Yet, when they looked back at their life, they were happiest, when they were focusing on things of love, and family, and faith. What do you pursue with your life, the things of this life which can leave emptiness, or Jesus, who is **the bread of life?**

THANKS

GRIEVING

ILL            Don Petrie  
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                 Ron McNeese  
                 Pat Mills Mary C.'s mom  
                 Mary Richards  
                 (Charlie Keyser)  
                 traveling

CHURCH      Show the world Jesus is he bread of life, by our lives

Elders' Meal  
Church Picnic

Country

Serving  
Peter  
Justin Gallegos  
Zach  
Augie

Children