


Radical Faith:  
The Hard Sayings of Jesus  
Part 5: Radical Relationship

# TALKINGPOINTS WALKINGPOINTS

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**Talk** together about the glory of God's kingdom. —*Psalm 145:11*  
Love the Lord your God and **walk** in all his ways. —*Joshua 22:5*

## Questions for Reflection

- Tell us about the most satisfying meal you can remember. What made it so refreshing?

Read Psalm 34:8. Why do you think experiencing God is spoken of in terms of a meal?

Tell us about the most satisfying *spiritual* meal you can remember. What made it so refreshing?

- Read John 6:47-51. Try and put yourself in the shoes—well, "sandals" I guess—of Jesus' audience. In v. 49, Jesus appealed to a real historical event. Why do you think he then chose to speak to them in figurative language (v. 51)? Didn't this run the risk of confusing them? What is **gained** by it?

What resulted from Jesus' hard saying about "eating his flesh and drinking his blood" (John 6:66)?

Do you think Jesus was threatened or disturbed by their departure? Why or why not?

- Notice the two categories of people described in John 6:37 and 6:65. Now, with those categories in mind, observe the two reactions to Jesus' hard saying: "many of his disciples" (v. 66) contrasted with "the twelve" (v. 67-69). What should we conclude? What does v. 44 add to our understanding?

- Read John 6:27. What does Jesus command us **not** to do? What does he command us **to do**?

What does it mean that we both **work for** food that endures to eternal life, and that Jesus **gives** it?

How does John 6:29 clarify this for you?

What will you do about it?

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## Application-Challenge

- Stop looking for purpose and meaning through human success and accomplishments.
- The abundant life—a life of purpose and joy, is tied to a person—the Lord Jesus. Trust in Him.
- Experience this abundant life by communing with Christ all throughout the day.

# Sermon Summary

As we continue our series on the Hard Sayings of Jesus, we come across a saying so hard that it caused many of Jesus' followers to walk away. The passage is John 6:53-55, 66 in which Jesus speaks of his followers "eating the flesh of the Son of Man and drinking his blood." It is still a stumbling block today. To understand what Jesus meant, we must take a step back and look at the broader context in which this saying is found. Earlier in this chapter, we read about the miracle of the feeding of the 5,000. Jesus performed this miracle to help us realize that he is our provider. But this miracle points to an even deeper spiritual meaning: Jesus not only provides bread for our stomachs, he provides bread for our souls! In other words, not only does he provide for our physical needs, he also provides for our spiritual needs (John 6:35).

Jesus is the bread of life: only he can satisfy the deep thirst within your soul. God knows you fully and still loves you completely. Jesus died for all your deep, dark secrets...because he loves you. But to experience this love and the eternal life, you must place your trust in Jesus, the Son of God. That is why Jesus says in John 6:47, "I tell you the truth, anyone who believes has eternal life. Yes, I am the bread of life!" In other words, "Only I can meet your deepest spiritual needs...the need to be fully loved and fully forgiven."

- When Jesus says, "I am the bread of life," he means that he is the source of our spiritual life. Apart from him, we are spiritually dead. We are guilty of sin and alienated from God.
- When Jesus says that we must "eat that bread," he means that we must place our trust in him.

While it is true that Jesus is the bread of life, that bread will do us no good if we refuse to partake of it. The same is true in the physical realm. You could be surrounded by a veritable buffet, but if you refuse to eat, you will starve to death.

What about the statement in verse 21? "... and this bread, which I will offer so the world may live, is my flesh." He is just saying, "The bread I am offering is me! I am the Messiah! I am the Savior! I am the lamb of God. I am the perfect sacrifice." This flesh and blood imagery is used in the Lord's Supper. The bread represents Jesus' sinless body and the blood represents his death on the cross. Together, the bread and the cup represent Jesus and his saving work on the cross. When we partake of the Lord's Supper, we are proclaiming, in a figurative way, our faith in Christ. What implication does this hard saying have in our lives?

**First**, you can't earn God's favor through human efforts (John 6:60-63). You could never do enough good works to earn God's favor. You need mercy. Only Jesus can offer you that. Christians seek to live godly lives not to earn God's favor, but as response of gratitude for the mercy and grace He has shown us in Christ.

**Second**, we can only come to God through faith in Jesus. In John 14:6, Jesus says, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me." Jesus' disciples affirmed this belief (Acts 4:12). But of course, not everyone will accept this Biblical truth. Jesus knew that, and that's why after uttering this hard saying, he added, "But there are some of you who do not believe" (John 6:64).

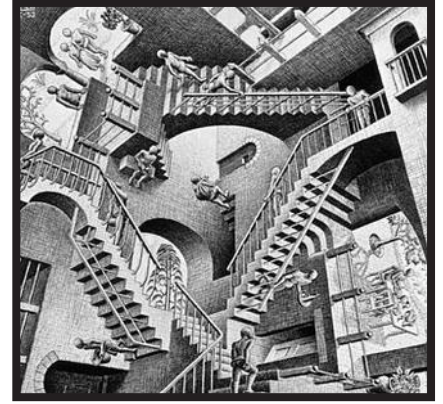
Which group are you in? Are you in the receiving group or in the rejecting group? Have you embraced the light or are you hiding in darkness? Are you a child of God or a child of the devil? According to Jesus, you are one or the other. Jesus invites us to come to him in faith (Matthew 11:28-29). You will never find life outside of Christ. You won't find it in human success or wealth. The human soul was created for more than that. Those things will never satisfy. We always want more. Jesus is the bread of life. Jesus comforts us with this precious promise: "He who comes to me will not hunger, and he who believes in me will never thirst" (John 6:35).

## Talking To Others About This Week's Message

If a neighbor or friend at work asked you, "*What kind of stuff do they talk about at your church?*", how would you summarize the most important elements of this week's sermon and the key lessons you intend to apply to your life? Can you explain it in **plain language** anyone could understand?

## Digging Deeper in Your Daily Quiet Time

*We all remember the first time we encountered M. C. Escher's drawing, "Relativity", marveling at impossibly connected stairwells. Escher diagrammed something that just cannot happen in reality. The Bible, however, teaches that Jesus really is in us, we really are in him, Jesus really is in the Father and the Father really is in Jesus! Not even Escher could diagram that! This is the marvelous doctrine of our "union with Christ". We can't fully understand it, but we can explore this wonderful, comforting reality. Are you ready?*



**Monday**— Read Colossians 1:26-28.

- What is the mystery? How is the mystery described?
- What relevance does the mystery have to you personally?
- Do you "hope for glory" (v. 27) on a daily basis? Why or why not? Do you lack anything (v. 28)?

**Tuesday**—Read Ephesians 1:1-14.

- How are believers ("saints") referred to in v. 1? "...who are \_\_\_\_\_ in Christ Jesus".
- According to v. 3, how many spiritual blessings do you have and in whom are they found?
- According to v. 6, what is free bestowed on you, and in whom is it bestowed?
- According to v. 7, what do you have "in him" (Christ)?
- According to v. 9, in whom is God's kind intention toward you purposed?
- According to v. 12, in whom is our hope?
- According to v. 13, in whom are we sealed with the promised Holy Spirit?

**Wednesday**—Read Ephesians 2:1-13.

- What in the world does v. 6 mean?!
- According to v. 7, in whom does God show us "the surpassing riches of his grace in kindness"?
- According to v. 10, in whom are we created for good works? What does that mean?
- According to v. 11-12, what used to be true of us? How does v. 13 say those problems are resolved?

**Thursday**—Read Ephesians 3.

- What promise do we partake of "in Christ" (v. 6)?
- According to v. 12, what two things do we have "through faith in Christ"?
- What do you think that it means that "Christ dwells in your heart" (v. 17)?

**Friday**—In each of the following passages, what do we experience by virtue of our union with Christ?

- Galatians 2:20
- Colossians 2:20
- Romans 6:4
- Ephesians 2:5
- Colossians 3:1
- Romans 8:17

**Saturday**—Read John 15:1-12.

- According to v. 1, what is Jesus? What is God the Father?
- According to v. 2, what are believers?
- As a result of your union with the vine, how does v. 3 describe you?
- What is commanded in v. 4a?
- What is promised (negatively) in v. 4b? How is that same thing phrased in v. 5b?
- What is promised (positively) in v. 5a? According to v. 8, what results from fruitfulness?
- According to v. 11, what is promised to those who abide in Christ?
- Are you abiding in Christ? How do you know?