

# Who is this Man Jesus?


Part 6

## The Feeding of the Five Thousand

# TALKINGPOINTS WALKINGPOINTS

2020.5.10



A publication of , the adult discipleship ministry of Triangle Community Church.

**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 and Discussion

- Read Exodus 20:18-21 and 24:9-11. Which passage better describes how you think you would react to being in the actual presence of Almighty God? How did Moses react (see Exodus 33:18-20)?
- Jesus said that he—personally—is “the bread of life”. Which of these false “breads” have you tried:
  - Trying to keep the Ten Commandments or the Golden Rule? **Who** told you that would bring life?
  - Being baptized, taking communion, prayer, and Bible reading? **Why** did you begin to question it?
  - Praying the rosary, asking saints for help, or attending mass? **How** did you learn that **Jesus** is life?
- Following is an extended quote (by C. S. Lewis) that Pastor Doug shared:

*“Most people, if they really learned how to look into their own hearts, would know that they do want, and want acutely, **something** that **cannot** be had in this world. There are all sorts of things in this world that offer to give **it** to you, but they never keep their promise. The longings which arise in us when we first fall in love or first think of some foreign country or first take up some subject that excites us, are longings which no marriage, no travel, no learning can really satisfy. I am not speaking of what would ordinarily be called unsuccessful marriages or trips, or so on. I’m speaking of even the **best** possible ones. There is always **something** we grasped at in that first moment of longing that just fades away in the reality. The spouse may be a good spouse. The scenery has been excellent. It has turned out to be a good job after all—but **it** has evaded us.”*

How have you found Lewis’ observation to be true **in your own** life? Give a **concrete** example.

**Creating "God Space":** "God Space" is where cynics, skeptics, and spiritually curious people can safely raise their questions, reservations, & doubts because we have listened well and demonstrated love in practical, authentic ways.

How might you use Lewis’ quote, and the story of your own experience of it, to create “God space”?

Should you post it to social media?

If so, what questions might you ask?

## Application-Challenge

- Every day, draw upon Jesus as your life. Like the manna, grace cannot be hoarded or stored up.
- In tough times—in “the wilderness”—God has manna for you: His name is Jesus.
- Place your trust in Jesus alone for eternal life.

**Need the true “bread of life”?**

Write to:

**BiblicalHopeAndHelp@gmail.com**

# Sermon Summary

*Key Text: John 6:1–14, 27–35*

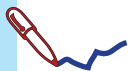
In this series we are looking at the “signs” in John’s gospel which point to who Jesus is, and why he came to earth. Today we look at one of Jesus’ most famous miracles—the only one recorded in all four gospels—the feeding of the five thousand (John 6:1-14, 27-35). John’s account of this miracle, unlike the other gospels, explains the meaning of this sign: “I am the bread of life; he who comes to Me will not hunger, and he who believes in Me will never thirst.” (v. 35).

**The meaning of bread in Jesus’ culture.** Meat was a luxury in Jesus’ day, and still is in much of the world today. Bread was the heart of the meal, and came to symbolize “life” itself. That’s why, in the Lord’s prayer, when it gets to the petition where we’re supposed to be asking God for our needs, all we have to say is, “Give us this day our daily bread,” because bread simply meant everything we need for life (Matthew 6:11). For the Israelites, two powerful historical references came to their mind when someone spoke about bread: [1] for forty years in the wilderness, God miraculously kept the Jews from starving by giving them “manna”—bread from heaven, and [2] a table in the tabernacle on which twelve loaves of fresh, hot, inviting bread were placed daily. This “altar of the showbread” was God’s invitation to fellowship with him (even today, asking someone to share a meal with you is a way of saying, “I want you to be my friend.”). In the Old Testament, enemies ratified a covenant of peace by sharing a meal (“breaking bread”) together (Exodus 24:8-11)—representing relational oneness.

**The bread “of life”—eternal life** (v. 27). At first glance, “eternal” life appears to simply be talking about life that extends forever, but it’s better than that. Eternal life is a different *quality* of life. The Greek word *bios* means physical existence. The Greek word used here is *zoe*, which refers to a quality of life (imagine the most delightfully perfect vacation you could experience). There is a huge difference between merely existing and vibrant living! Jesus says “I came to give you eternal *zoe*!” (The Bible has a word for mere eternal existence; it’s called “hell”.) *Zoe*-life begins the moment we trust Jesus as sin-bearer; we don’t receive it after we die (see John 3:36; 5:24; 6:47). Eternal life can be a present possession today; there is a hunger in the human heart which can move us from mere existing to true dynamic living (6:33-35). But *zoe* life requires that we trust God to provide for us. The Israelites didn’t trust God, so they hoarded manna—and it turned to worms! Jesus is saying: “There are a lot of great things in this world. But they’re gifts from God—and if they become your main joy, source of meaning, hope, security, and love, they’ll spoil, just like that manna in the wilderness. Anything that you elevate above Me”, God says, “will spoil.” Only Jesus is the true bread from heaven.

**Jesus personally is the bread of life.** Jesus did *not* say, “I *have* the bread of life,” he says, “*I am* the bread of life.” This is not open to subjective, individual interpretation; it is objectively true for all people. But Jesus also offers to be known subjectively by each of us. This is unique. Every other religious founder says, “This is *the way to* life.”—basically they are saying: “Salvation comes through works.” The only “work” we do is “believing in him” (v. 28-29). Jesus is the bread of life because he is God (“I am” cf. John 8:58 and Exodus 3:14). The Jews of Jesus’ day understood this, and therefore tried to kill him. Jesus rightly claims to be “the bread of life” because he’s the source of all life, and at the Last Supper Jesus broke bread and said, “This is my body broken for you.” Jesus is the source of *zoe* life.

**Take One Step:** What is one small, concrete step of obedience you will put into practice this week?



## 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

**"Five Question Bible Study" (see page below) is a simple way to study any passage. We can use it to explore the nature of zoe life...**

**Monday**—Read John 17:3. How is “zoe life” **relational**?

**Tuesday**— Read Luke 23:43. How is it relational **and** pleasant?

**Wednesday**— Read Romans 2:6-7. Eternal life is the culmination of **which quest**?

**Thursday**— Read John 4:14. Have you experienced **this** sort of refreshment?

**Friday**— Read Romans 8:32. Explain the implications of this “argument from greater to lesser”.

**Saturday**—***In preparation for worshipping your risen Lord tomorrow with your church family,*** study John 6:14-25.

Bible Text: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_



What idea particularly strikes me from this text? [Note in which verse(s) is it found.]



What question does this text raise in my mind—and how would **this text** answer it?



What about Jesus Christ—his character and/or his redemption—relates to this text?



What action must I take as a result of this text? Be concrete and specific.



With whom will I share what I learned from this text?