

John 6:56-69
“Jesus the Bread of Life”

The lockdown continues. Thank God for being safe and healthy during the Covid Pandemic. You can't go out, so you can't meet people, and you can't buy delicious food. Nevertheless, I hope you be overflowing with joy and gratitude.

Many people are struggling in Afghanistan right now. We are in a difficult situation. However, compared to them, our situation is much better. The value of pain cannot be compared numerically. Nevertheless, I hope that your hearts will overflow with compassion to pray for others.

One of the most important things in human life is food. In order to survive, food is essential. Those who can eat will live, and those who can no longer eat will die. So needing food is proof that you are alive.

Today's text is talking about two kinds of food. It would be more accurate to say that the various foods were divided into two categories.

The first food is manna.

Let me explain a little bit about manna. Israel escaped from Egypt. Their destination is the land of Canaan. However, they had to pass through the wilderness to enter the land. The wilderness is a barren land without food. When there was no food, the Israelites complained to God. God answered their cry. So, manna is what God has given.

God provides what we need to live. The God who supplies the sun and rain to the righteous also provides sun and rain to the wicked. Just as He grants family and community to the righteous, He grants family and community to the wicked. Even when the righteous fail, sometimes the

wicked succeed. Manna can be said to be God's general grace that provides for the needs of all creatures living on this earth.

Another food mentioned in the text is Jesus.

Jesus described himself as food. It's unimaginable. Food is meant to be eaten. It is the greatest honour to be eaten deliciously. Jesus calls himself that kind of food.

Who is Jesus? He is the Son of God, God. He is the one who created the world with a single word, the one who runs the world according to his own will, and the one whom all creation bows down and praises. He is the King of kings and the Lord of lords. Such a person calls himself food. He says he came into this world to be eaten. He says he came to sacrifice himself to give freedom and restoration to the world and people. Where else in the world could there be such a person? Are there other foods of this kind? If there are two kinds of food, there are two kinds of people in the world.

The first is a person who only eats manna.

Manna means what we need to live. We need money, and we need family, friends, and community. We need honour, and sometimes we need to be recognized by others. We need a good job, and we need a home. In a pandemic situation like now, vaccines are also needed.

In order for us to live, these needs must be met. However, verse 58 says, "Your ancestors ate manna and died." Manna is temporary. It is only necessary while living on this earth. So, if people cling to manna and fix their thoughts on it, they will unknowingly become short-sighted. People who have no tomorrow and no future spend all their lives to eat today's

manna. When this need is not met, they become desperate. Because they have no future and no other option.

The other kind of person is a person who eats and drinks Jesus.

This person knows that Jesus is the word of eternal life and believes in it. This person knows that eternal life is believing in the only God and the Son he has sent. This person has discovered eternity in the present through Jesus. This person sees the kingdom of heaven in the land of despair through Jesus. This person sees the light of life in the shadow of death through Jesus. This is the person who sees heaven and earth, male and female, the power and the powerless, the rich and the poor, white and coloured, master and slave in the world of division reconcile through Jesus. This person sees perfect freedom even in lockdown through Jesus.

Those who eat the temporary manna lived temporarily, disappeared, and will disappear again. However, those who eat and drink Jesus as food will live forever with the eternal Lord. No one stands at the edge of the Grand Canyon and thinks about how great they are. No one stares into the billions of the stars in the sky and considers their own importance.

Anyone whoever had a steak at an upscale restaurant won't drool over McDonald's burgers. Those who have tasted eternal life in Jesus do not miss other foods.

Loving brothers and sisters,

The energy the Lord supplies can be given to you no matter where you are or what your circumstances are.

In the olden day, Apostle Peter once confessed “Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. We have come to believe and to know that you are the Holy One of God.” When this confession becomes yours, Jesus will come to you as the Bread of Life.

May this grace be with you in the name of Jesus.

Everybody say!!

Amen~~~