

of life, now will feed their bodies. Whence shall we buy bread, where shall we get the money from to do it.

V.6 In Verse 6, He tries Philip's faith for he himself knew where he would get the money from.

V.7 Verse 7, Philip gives his answer. Why he says, we have perhaps \$34 and that is not sufficient money. That will neither feed this bunch, neither would it be fair to get the money from the crowd to buy food for all of these people.

This showed somewhat of a weakness of Philip, something like an ordinary person who would seek an ordinary supply in an ordinary way. Many Christians today are apt to look at the church and its need for money in this same way, the ordinary way as though God were not able to provide for the needs of the church.

Now it was Andrew who made a sensible suggestion that he was willing here to search around and see what he could find. Here was a little lad, he did not conceal his five barley loaves and his two fishes. The provision was of course was ordinary. Just the barley loaves.

We might say that it was very small, one lad carrying them all. Now we find in 2 Kings 4:42 that 20 barley loaves with some other provisions to help out would not dine a 100 men without a miracle. And however, here is a situation where there are but two fishes, small ones at that, and this

## "THE SIGNIFICANT BREAD"

John 6

### INTRODUCTION:

When the first prisoners of the Korean War were returned, many of them were in critical physical condition, and needed extended periods of rest, good food, and medical treatment in order to bring them back to physical health.

The entire nation was shocked by something more serious still, the minds and the spirits of some of these men had been for a long time without the proper information. And they had been subjected to so much vicious propaganda and mental persecution, that their minds and spirits were as sick as their bodies. Some of them needed a considerable mental and spiritual orientation in which their minds and spirits were fed with true information, and their attitudes brought back to normal.

No body criticized these men, everybody realized they were victims of one of the Hellish devices of modern war.

This incident which so shocked our nation should speak to all of us of a truth which we often miss. Everybody recognized the need for physical food, but so few seemed to realize the absolute necessity that our spiritual natures be

fed also. Spiritual food sustains, and as long as there is physical food, there will be that health. But without it the human spirit is helpless, it is handicapped.

And in our message tonight, we speak of Jesus, the bread of life....the significant bread. I should like to present this to you under three heads. First, the physical bread. Verse 1-14. Second, the departure of the bread ticket. Verse 15-33. Third, the spiritual bread. Verse 35-71.

Hence we discover the truths of this great chapter under these three heads.

### I. The Physical Bread - Verse 1-14.

v.1 - This chapter begins in Verse 1 by saying after these things, after the return of the twelve from their mission, after the death of John the Baptist, after Herod had expressed his guilty fear about John the Baptist being risen from the dead, we find that Jesus has crossed the sea of Galilee to the Northeastern side.

v.2 In Verse 2 a great multitude followed because they beheld his signs. Now the place and the time is certainly of great evidence and great truth. For here this sea of Tiberias from a city adjoining which Herod had lately enlarged was beautiful. And Christ did not go directly across this inland sea, but made a coasting voyage. Now it is not tempting as

somebody has said, tempting God to choose to go by water. Or either today we would say by air.

The company that he was attending was by a great crowd that they were there, some of them to trouble him, some to give him honor. And his miracles brought many of them after him. v.3 He was seeking (rest) in Verse 3, he went up into the (mountains) and there was sitting with his disciples in this opportune time to entertain them. He was somewhat of a field preacher.

v.4 In Verse 4, it was the (passover) season. It was very near and the size of the crowd perhaps increased.

v.5 In Verse 5, we find the (miracle) itself. And Christ lifting up his eyes, saw this great company coming to Him. There were poor, ordinary people from the remote corners of the countryside. And they were coming making inquiry. And Jesus put out a (testing) question. He said, the people need to be fed and he asked Philip about it. And we would ask you tonight, can He furnish a table in the wilderness. Whence shall we buy bread that these may eat. He takes it for granted that they must all eat with him. One would think that when he had taught and healed them, he had done his part. But some of these people perhaps were rich and we are sure that some of them were poor. Christ, having fed their souls with the bread

This lad had just a few 5 barley loaves and 2 small fishes.

That's fine, you say, but you would throw up your hands and ask, but what are they among so many.

It causes me to want to say to you that there are lots of you who throw up your hands and say, well, I just have one little old talent of mine, so I might as well waste it. Well, you have one, that's enough to get started with. I wish somehow that we knew more about this little boy and what became of him. I wonder how he felt when he was asked to give up his lunch. But when Christ asked for all the loaves and fishes he had, he gave them. And that's a marvelous thing, that he was willing to give all for Christ and you can't get people today who are willing to give even a part of their income, to Christ.

10. One of the marvelous things about this whole story is in Verse 10, it tells us about Jesus sitting down and giving thanks. He recognized the need, the people were hungry, he looked around for the resources that were available, and he took what he had and gave thanks. That is simply marvelous. So many times we do not have time to give thanks, for the little things that we have, but we see Jesus here giving thanks.

If somehow we could see people like Paul on board the ship in the storm and 226 people for 14 days they were in the

bread which was little, and they were going to feed hundreds, and even thousands.

We see the weakness of their faith, but what is this among so many. Philip did not actually consider the power of Christ at this point, who had fed the camp of Israel in the wilderness. Well, had they come here just to eat. Were they here just to hear the report of the 70 who had returned.

Or were they here because Jesus was teaching and talking. They were here in his presence and he determined to give them something to eat. Now Philip could not figure it out but Andrew did a little better than Philip, because he took an inventory of the cupboard and he found this little food. Now some people might have laughed this off. But here was a lad, and perhaps they made fun of his confidence, here is just a scrap of food, and a scrap of faith.

Now the boy did not do so bad. He did not hide his lunch. He must have been hungry but he was generous. And I think perhaps his Mother must have packed that lunch for him that morning, and that was one of the best dinners ever packed in history. As some of you carry off a lunch to work every day, or on a picnic. And here were 5 rolls, very small, two smoked fish, and what a lunch box. And Jesus said, make them all sit down, sit down by 50's. That seems so simple and yet there would have been a traffic jam otherwise. They spread out

6 Bible - today and for me = The students were waiting on the tables!  
on the green grass and when he has given thanks, he began to distribute the fish and the rolls, and there is instant food. And when they had all eaten, we will find that Jesus gives some instructions that they were to collect the pieces left over and nothing was to be lost. More precious than the piece of wedding cake you might have saved. And here is a lesson, that they filled 12 baskets with the pieces left uneaten, of the 5 barley loaves. There was one basket for each disciple but there was none for Christ. And certainly the disciple that was afraid that there would not be anything left, or anything to eat, no one needs to be afraid of giving. When you give, God gives back. And when you are afraid, then perhaps you are the one that may lose. But after dinner we see here the King of Kings had provided enough in this miracle, and certainly there were those who wanted to take advantage of this wonderful outdoor kitchen. And we'll see later on, that they wanted to hang on and follow Jesus. Now his disciples were tired and they were off resting awhile, they were relaxing, but here is a great crowd of people and these people have come in great numbers. They gathered by thousands. Jesus always loved to respond to them and I like this scripture here when he said, he knew what he would do. Christ knew what he would do. Now some of the disciples were thinking about sending him away because there was no money,

7 and no food. Now that is a very human situation and that's the way a lot of people today face the situation in the world. They just, as we call it, "pass the buck".

Sometimes if we cannot put the responsibility on someone else, we seek to escape it by running away ourselves. And we say with the psalmists, "oh, that I had wings like a dove, for then would I fly away and be at rest." Sometimes people become so anxious to escape a situation in life that they are ready to destroy somebody or to get away from it all.

The most common practice is not to face up to a great responsibility which we have today and those that are waiting for us tomorrow, and we put things off for a convenient season. One thing the disciples overlooked, they were correct in feeling they were up against it, they had a great need. But they failed to consider their own resources and they failed also to consider the power of God.

In the face of this hungry multitude, it never occurred to Christ to send them away. John tells us he himself knew what he would do. God always has a plan to meet every need. No emergency in your life takes God by surprise. He knows even before hand what he will do about meeting your needs.

So Christ is anxious to know how many loaves you have. That is, before you give up, take stock of your resources. You may not see or realize that you have enough to start on.

will pass away.

We should at this point consider the paral of bread.

Now the physical bread we have discussed, the departure of the bread, but these people were still following. They felt that the abundance of things were the things which they needed.

Now the Devil never means well by any suggestion he makes.

He is set out to destroy the soul, the wreck lives, to side-track our holy intention. Even the Devil suggested to Christ that he turn (stones) into bread for his own use. It would not have been long until the Devil would have said, now turn the bread into stones for my use.

Do not mistake, now bread is necessary. Physical needs must be met but much dependence upon what one does to get

bread as Satan said, command these stones to be made bread.

Now we know that the earthly life, the physical things, the material things, are necessary for us to be sustained but

there is a paral in that we shall live for bread alone.

There shall be the temptation that we shall walk in the wilderness and this will dwarf our souls. Our putting bread

in the cupboard will not meet the need of the soul. The soul must have more than Gold, and houses, and land, and

position. These things will not nourish the immortal spirit.

Living by bread alone will provide us with the means of living but it will leave us short on the true purpose of life.

storm and Paul took bread and gave thanks. Acts 27:35.

If we could somehow look back and see America in her early days, a few families left, some of the loved ones had died in the winter during that New England winter that was hard, savages were all about them. They had a small harvest. They knelt down to thank God for their blessings.

I wish that every person who complains could see such pictures, I wish that they could see how individuals today are giving up....giving up resources, things that they need themselves. I wish that they could see those that are in trouble. There is marvelous power in giving thanks, waiting for the bread that Jesus is able to multiply, and even offer 12 baskets of food left over. In Verse 14, the influence of this miracle, they said this is a prophet.

Widow's - Meat Barrel - Elijah

## II. The Departure Of The Bread Ticket - Verse 15-33.

In Verse 15 the people made an attempt or Jesus figured they wanted to make him a king. Now this was something of the zeal of some of the followers, they wanted to honor Christ. But it was a mistake concerning the nature of His kingdom as if he were to be in this world only, and it was the idea that he might gather an army about him and march across the land and they wanted a king who could feed them and provide them with this bread, physical bread, which they had experienced

here. They wanted him to help them to get rid of the Roman yoke, and to shake it off. And it was contrary to the mind of our Lord, for they would take him by force whether he would go or not.

Now Christ will not have anything of this description as making him the head of a party, take him by force, make him a king contrary to his own mind. For he was a humble individual and they were thinking about making him the head of their kingdom.

v. 16-17 Now in Verse 16 and 17, his disciples went down to the sea, they enter a ship, they were going toward Capernaum. And it was now dark and Jesus was not come to them.

There was a stormy wind and they were Christ's disciples. And the apparel and the afflictions seem to be too much. Because the Scripture just inserts, it was now dark. And that made the storm more dangerous and Jesus was not with them. (Story)

The sea arose by the reason of the wind and these people were trying to move on across but certainly there was darkness and the fear that had set in.

v. 20 In Verse 20, however, Christ comes and says, it is I. And certainly this was a welcome word from Christ.

It is like today Christians who are in the ship, the church, the disciples of Christ that are out in the storms of life. We may be distressed at times. The disciples rode

hard, they worked, but there was the Christ who could speak to them.

He had sent the disciples across the lake, he dismissed the multitudes in Verse 22, and he had gone to the mountains to pray in Verse 23. Now the disciples you will remember were sailing alone but then in the fourth watch about 3 o'clock and 6 A. M., Jesus came. And he brought this message of cheer Verse 27, he identifies himself. And the Master is on board and no longer do they have fear. But there is comfort.

v. 26 They were much at a loss for him, for they knew not what was become of him. We find that they had good intentions but want of being persecuted, they left by ship to cross the other side. But there were others who would cross over and follow them. In Verse 26 he discovers their corrupt principle, he sees why they were following him. And he searched their hearts and he knew why they were following him. It was because their bread, physical bread, had departed. They were thinking only of being filled with material bread. Many follow Christ for loaves, not for love. Thus those who aim at secular advantage in their profession of religion and follow it because of their craft, they feel that this is wonderful.

Now Jesus tried in Verse 27 to direct them to a better principle, which is everlasting life, the thing that they are trying to follow after is going to perish, he said. And it

spiritual bread.

I Corinthians 10:3,4.

There was manna (enough for all) so in Christ the fullness of grace for all believers. He that gathers much of this manna will have none to spare when he comes to use it. Manna was to be gathered in the morning, and those that would find Christ must seek him early. Manna was sweet, agreeable, and those who believe Christ certainly are precious.

We remember that the memorial manna was stored up in the ark. And so Christ, through the Lord's Supper speaks to us of this Heavenly manna. Verse 34, when they heard such things, they said give us this bread. They called upon him, they desired to share this bread. Some have taken this as a general confusion that perhaps it was like Balaam, who made a wish to die the death of the righteous. But we think that

A mother took her small son to the grocery store. The grocer invited him to take a handful of cherries. However, he seemed hesitant. "Don't you like cherries?" ask the grocer. "Oh, yes," answered the boy with zest. Then the grocer reached his hand in and put a generous portion into the boy's waiting cap. Later his mother asked him why he hadn't taken the cherries himself, why he waited until the grocer gave them to him. "Because," answered the boy, "HIS HAND IS BIGGER THAN MINE." When we commit our lives into His hands our lives will be filled with awe, wonder and power. BUT THE DECISION IS OURS.

47. But they shall have everlasting life, as those who will eat this manna. And the manna in the wilderness died, but

Belshazzar thought that bread was first when he raveled in the splendor of Babylon and feasted a thousand of his Lords when God's judgment was, "thou art weighed in the balances and art found wanting."

Living by bread alone certainly is tragic for nations because the nation that lives mainly by commerce or war or wealth gaining are seeking to be first upon the nations is doomed to failure. And I wonder, does this fate await America. Are we trying to live by bread alone. We are at a crisis because the things which we set as a goal and which we imagine would be our salvation, perhaps may break down at any time. And we will find these things of war and of space to bewilder us. In these days of speculation, decay of moral character, the collapse of personal integrity, the decline of religious faith, the throwing over board of all standards of right and wrong, feeling that all that we need is bread. This you will remember brought the collapse to Solomon's reign. He had a great time of prosperity and this is the thing that is tragic today. When their meal ticket departed, then they were disturbed, they were distressed, and Christ having told them that they must work for their meat, they must labor. Verse 28. Then they said, what shall we do, that we may work the works of God. What work of God can we do better than the obedience to the laws of Moses.

What shall we do. Verse 29. This is the work of God that ye believe, the work of faith is the work of God.

They were inquiring for a sign. Moses having confirmed his missions by signs. Now they had over looked many of the miracles of Jesus, they had an abundant amount of proof, but it was a time that they thought Moses had signs to prove. So they felt that Jesus should also give some signs.

31 In Verse 31, they said, did not our fathers eat manna in the wilderness. He gave them bread from Heaven. What a good use might be made of this story, to which they here refer. It was a wonderful instant of God's power and God's goodness. But people will pervert even that which is good. And Christ reproved them for their fondness of that miracle bread.

Christ fed 5,000 men with 5 loaves. And he had given them a sign that he had been sent from Heaven. Now Moses fed his hundreds of thousands, Christ fed them and they were still wanted Him to feed them yet. Moses fed them for 40 years and these people were following him for the barley bread and the fishes.

Now we are apt to over look the appearance of the power of God. And Christ talked to them about the true manna, the manna from Heaven. It was not Moses, but it was God. And we find that God was the one who sent this true manna down

Three Times Ejected Declared Bread as Staff of Life  
from Heaven to them. 14:13 I will break the Staff of  
Keep Jerusalem alive. Bread & send Famine -  
In Verse 31, Christ having spoken of himself as the true

bread, he here shows that he is the true bread, that Christ is the bread, that the soul needs this. It is the staff of life. And so was Christ. He was born at Bethlehem - the house of bread, and typical of the show bread. That he is the bread of life. A bread of God. Verse 33.

That he is the bread of God's family, His children's bread. Verse 32.

Verse 35. That He is the bread of life. Again of the life in the midst of the garden which Adam and Eve has forfeited.

### III. The Spiritual Bread - Verse 35-71.

In these last verses we come to discuss with you the spiritual bread. That he gives life to the world, eternal life. The manna did only preserve and support life, it did not preserve and perpetuate life, much less restore it. Now Christ gives life to those that were dead in sin. And that He is the bread which came down from Heaven, this is often repeated here.

558 In Verse 58 it says that he is that bread of which the manna was a type and a figure as the rock they drank from Christ in the wilderness. So the manna, they ate of the



Now this has to do with the peace offering. They were to take the flesh of the victim in the Old Testament as described in Leviticus 3 and 7. With the burnt offering it was otherwise. And there the whole had to be consumed. But here in the peace offering, the priest was allowed to partake. A special portion was set aside for him. Christ is our peace offering, the place of fellowship with the father. Part of the victim was consumed on the altar. But the other part was to be eaten. And this speaks to us of the indwelling presence.

Did not Paul say concerning this secret, he found that Christ liveth in me. And the life I now live in the flesh, I live by faith in the son of God who loved me and gave himself for me. Faith in a crucified Christ. Christ can only consciously live within us and we consciously by faith take him into our hearts.

57 Verse 57, We shall live eternally by him as our bodies live by our food, (we live by him.)

Now this has to do with the sin offering. Now the burnt offering was wholly consumed. The peace offering was partly consumed and partly eaten. The sin and trespass offerings were partly offered on the altar and partly eaten, and partly consumed outside the camp. We see in this that the blood was shed and was carried into the holiest place. And there the

those who eat the bread which Christ gives will never die. Verse 49. So he is a type of this and those that eat this bread, will not die. That is, they will not perish short of Heaven or Canaan. That they through faith will reach that land. And if any man eateth this bread in Verse 51, he shall live forever. He shall pass through death, he shall not be condemned to Hell, but he shall live a happy life forever.

"I am the bread of life, there is an ancient proverb that contains the thought that a thing grows by what it feeds on. Those a Christian is to feed on Christ. Again he says, I am come that they might have life and have it more abundantly. And a man who feasts upon this will never hunger.

In Verse 37 he said, him that cometh unto me, I will in no wise cast out.

Consider the mutterer, David was an example. His was a sin of adultery, murder, deceitful, willful, deliberate, daring, persistent sin. But he said, have mercy upon me oh God, according to thy living kindness. And God saved him out of all his troubles.

The meanest person in all the world that you might say, such as the prodigal son, he thought two or three things while he was there among his poverty and his father's wealth, and he was welcomed back home.

He will not turn away those who are in habitual sin. The heart may run back for 20, 40, or 60 years. It is hard. Consciences harden. But the promise is, he is able to save you and the example is a chief on the cross.

If you are burdened with doubt, he says he will not turn you away. Thomas cried, my Lord, and my God. A sinner may wonder but God will receive him. A man's heart may grow cold, he may neglect, he may forget to pray, but God still would like to have him return. It is not for man to limit God's willingness.

53 In Verse 53, what is meant by flesh and blood. Instead of the life of the world which is forfeited by sin, Christ gives his own flesh a ransom, he purchased by his own blood, by shedding his own blood.

He has been compared himself to bread which is necessary food and which is delicious. Therefore, eating and drinking, Christ is what he is saying here. It implies an appetite for Christ, a hungering for Christ. It means we must nourish ourselves upon it, delight in His salvation. And we must feed upon Him.

Except you eat, he says here. It is a certain sign that you have no spiritual life in you, if you have no desire toward Christ nor delight in him. If the soul does not hunger and thirst, certainly it does not live. It is a sign that you

are dead.

It is certain that you can have no spiritual life unless it is derived from Christ by faith. And you separate from Him, then you are nothing.

54 I think this 54th Verse means that we are bidden in the same way as they were in Exodus, as they were leaving Egypt, the lamb had been slain, the blood sprinkled on the door posts, the slave in bondage all ready packed, ready to travel was bidden to eat of the lamb, roast with fire. To eat it with unleaven bread and bitter herbs, to eat it in haste, and thus be sustained on his journey. And he fled from bondage suffering in death.

The eating was of the flesh, the victim whose blood had been sprinkled.

The very same victim was the one that provided the flesh. And they were to feast upon it. By faith we too may feed upon him, he is our life. This is our commandment and this is the contrast which John is drawing here. That we might see that Jesus Christ is the Lamb put on the cross, and he is the one that we are to partake of. And we partake of this by faith and we do so now.

56 In Verse 56, we shall be one with Christ. He that eats my flesh and drinks my blood and lives by faith in the crucified Christ, shares with him in life.

My spirit pants for thee, O Living Word.  
 Beyond the sacred page, I seek thee Lord.  
 As thou didst break the loaves beside the sea,  
 Bread thou the bread of life, best Lord to me.  
 O that somehow we could make the lessons words of the  
 the significant bread of life, Jesus Christ.  
 work as its fruits. We find that the great exchange will be  
 of the kingdom of God, in that heavenly realm, faith and good  
 various good natural qualities but these are not the coins  
 generosity, their prompt payments of their debts, their  
 better than the Indian beads. They are counting on their  
 are carrying with them to offer at the judgment what is no  
 city, they are worthless. There are thousands of people who  
 worthless. The wampum beads were money in the woods. In the  
 the great stores to buy supplies, his money would have been  
 wampum, beads, which are Indian money. But when he went into  
 the wilderness to New York City with his horse loaded with  
 wonderful. A century ago an Indian might have come out of  
 If we could just see this son through faith -- how

So. My. Feb. 13, 1966 P.M. WXRI

individual sinner or for the ruler of the congregation,  
 then the priest was bidden to take part of the offering  
 and consume it. Aaron's sons were to eat some of this sin  
 offering.

Instead of sharing and trying to help our brothers who  
 are in sin, we condemn them, we judge them. But in the Old  
 Testament, they were to partake and help to live.

The show bread means literally translated, the bread  
 of the face, the bread of the presence. Therefore, it was  
 also called the present bread, continually before the face  
 of God.

The memorial feast which we take today is in the face  
 of God when we come to his table, till he comes, meeting him  
 there with freshness. His almighty power, his never dying  
 love. We thank God and take courage for this wonderful  
 Saviour.

Many centuries ago there lived a lame man who sat at a  
 king's table. His name was Mephibosheth, his father Jonathan,  
 a friend of David's king. Jonathan was killed at the battle  
 of Gilboah and the nurse took this young boy, 5 years old,  
 picked him up and sought to hide him. But as she fled she  
 dropped him and the child became lame the rest of his life.

A few years passed, and David asked if there was someone left  
 of the house of Saul that he might show kindness too. And he

sent for this young man and brought him to his house. And there he gave him words of welcome. And at the king's table he sat as one of the king's sons. He was lame in both feet.  
2 Samuel 4:4, 9:1-13.

And nearly 2,000 years ago God looked for some to whom he might show kindness for the sake of another, for Jesus sake. He loved us with an everlasting love. He sought us, we were lame, helpless, and we had enemies. And he invited us to come to the king's table and to eat with the sons of God. With all of our imperfections, what grace, what love.  
What a marvelous invitation.

Man shall not live by bread alone but by every word that proceeds out of the mouth of God.

A man's life consists not in the abundance of things which he possesses. Luke 12:15.

Blessed are they that do hunger and thirst after righteousness, for they shall be filled. Matthew 5:6.

Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good. Blessed is the man that puts his trust in Him. Psalm 34:8.

Where fore do you spend money for that which is not bread and your labor for that which satisfies not. Isaiah 55:2.

"I am the bread of life. Ye that cometh to me shall never hunger. And he that believeth on me, shall never thirst

John 6:35.

" " " " " "  
I am the living bread which came down from Heaven. If any man eat of this bread, he shall live forever. John 6:51.

If we could just see this son through faith -- how wonderful. A century ago an Indian might have come out of the wilderness to New York City with his horse loaded with wampum, beads, which are Indian money. But when he went into the great stores to buy supplies, his money would have been worthless. The wampum beads were money in the woods. In the city, they are worthless. There are thousands of people who are carrying with them to offer at the judgment what is no better than the Indians beads. They are counting on their generosity, their prompt payments of their debts, their various good natural qualities but these are not the coins of the kingdom of God, in that Heavenly realm, faith and good work as its fruits. We find that the great exchange will be the significant bread of life, Jesus Christ.

Oh that somehow we could make the famous words of the old hymn our daily prayer.

Bread thou the bread of life, dear Lord to me.

As thou didst break the loaves beside the sea.

Beyond the sacred page, I seek thee Lord.

My spirit pants for Thee, O Living Word.

The Bread of Life Never becomes staled