

THE GOSPEL FOR TODAY

GFT-14 "MY FLESH ... MY BLOOD"

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JOHN 6:51 *"I am the Living Bread that came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever. And the bread that I will give for the life of the world is My Flesh."*

WOW! Could Jesus have anything more inflammatory?

In Jesus' ministry, He did not look for controversy. His heart's desire, and 3 year mission was to minister to the people. He was to show them the "Love of the Father", and to bear witness to the Father's plan to bring Eternal Life to those who received Him, and Believed upon Him. On occasions, as directed by His Father, He would speak of the Cross and the Resurrection. His purpose was to draw people to Him. But those who opposed Him sometimes placed Him in a position to which He needed to respond. When confronted in this manner, often the response he gave was NOT what they wanted. Instead of "backing-down" to their supposed authority, He openly proclaimed things that "riled and offended" them. And that was on them... not on Him.

Our culture is so much the same as that of the "Jewish Leaders." They offer their ideas and their opinions as truth, but then are offended, even angered, by the response given by Believers who speak from the authority of Scripture.

And, like Jesus, we cannot... will not back-down.

This Lesson will focus on one of the most controversial and surprising proclamations Jesus made.

MY FLESH / MY BLOOD

⁵¹ **I AM THE LIVING BREAD** that came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever. And the bread that I will give for the life of the world is my flesh."

This will certainly lead to some of the most "outrageous" statements Jesus made:

- 7x's He spoke of "eating His flesh" ... 4x's of "drinking His blood" ...
- He didn't stop to explain... He didn't pause to let them think about it... He didn't tell them to go home and discuss it and they would come back to it the next day...

He just said it... and kept on saying it!

Jesus now moves from the analogy of the "Bread" that God gave them in the Wilderness.

From here on He speaks of the elements of "The Passover ... Flesh and Blood"

- By "The Bread" God sustained them in the Wilderness...
- By "Flesh and Blood" God Redeemed them from the Bondage of Death...
- The Bread He has declared is NOT Manna... it is NOT Loaves... **HE is the BREAD**
- And this **Bread** is NOT His teaching... NOR His works... **It Is His FLESH: HIS BODY**

JOHN 6:52-59 The Jews then disputed among themselves, saying, "How can this man give us his flesh to eat?" ⁵³ So Jesus said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of THE SON OF MAN and drink his blood, you have no life in you.

This, of course, didn't make sense ... PLUS it was totally appalling / disgusting / forbidden...

- Here Jesus enters in to a **“spiritual truth”** that must be understood from that perspective ...
- To **“Eat”** and to **“Drink”** are to believe in Him and to receive into your life All that the Son of Man is and has done...
- **“Believing and Receiving”** is as repulsive to some of the Jewish Leaders and people as **eating flesh** and **drinking blood**. But it is the ONLY way to have [Eternal] Life in you

We must refocus our attention from the “Bread of the Wilderness” to the “Flesh and Blood of the Passover”

BEFORE they needed “bread” they needed to be “Redeemed” from the bondage of Egypt (Death)

- The “Flesh” was the Lamb that was “Killed AND Eaten” on the night of The Passover – THIS was the “death of the substitute which was remove them from death”
- The “Blood” was that which was applied to seal the Door – This was the manner by which they would be preserved from death and live before God – They were “covered by the Blood”

⁵⁴ *Whoever feeds on my flesh and drinks my blood has Eternal Life, and I will raise him up on the last day.* ⁵⁵ *For my flesh is true food, and my blood is true drink.* ⁵⁶ *Whoever feeds on my flesh and drinks my blood abides in me, and I in him.*

Just as in the former analogy of the “True Bread” it is this “Flesh and Blood” that brings Eternal Life... and the promise of Resurrection to the Presence of God...

- These two elements, “Flesh and Blood,” are certainly a **“prophetic”** reference by Jesus to the Celebration that He would institute on the night of the **“LAST PASSOVER”**
 - **His Body [flesh] broken... “Take and eat...”**
 - **His Blood shed... “As often as you drink...”**
 - **BUT Notice...** When Jesus celebrated that “final Passover” with them He told them to use “Bread (not Flesh) and Wine (not Blood) –
- **LUKE 22:15** *And he said to them, “I have earnestly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer.*
- This is why it is referred to as “The LAST Passover” – No more Flesh... No more Blood...
- Jesus FOREVER changed the celebration of **“Looking Forward”** to **“Looking Back”**
- Both “Eats” and “Drinks” are plural - This is not just an **initial “partaking”** but an action that shows we are **“abiding” in Him**...

⁵⁷ *As the living Father sent me, and I live because of the Father, so whoever feeds on me, he also will live because of me.*

- Our **“life”** is NOT in our act of **“doing”** ... nor even in our **“believing”**
- **We “Live” because HE LIVES!**

⁵⁸ *This is the bread that came down from heaven, not like the bread the fathers ate, and died. Whoever feeds on this bread will live forever.”*

- They ate bread and **“died”** – it was for their natural life...
- We eat **THE BREAD OF LIFE** and **“LIVE”**

Vs 51 *“And the bread that I will give for the life of the world is my flesh”*

That “Bread” is **His Broken Body** and **His Shed Blood**

6:59 **Jesus said these things in the Synagogue, as he taught at Capernaum.**

- Jesus said these things in the Synagogue... not hidden or secluded from potential opponents
- **And:** before the people who knew Him the best, even His family... many of whom were considered *“His Disciples”*
 - This Gospel is not meant to be concealed, hidden, or secret...
 - It is PUBLIC... meant to be proclaimed, and testified to... – **“Marturion”**
 - EVEN in the face of great opposition and threats... 2 TIM 3:12

WORDS THAT ARE SPIRIT & LIFE

JOHN 6:60-63 When many of his disciples heard it, they said, *“This is a hard saying; who can listen to it?”* ⁶¹ But Jesus, knowing in himself that his disciples were grumbling about this, said to them, *“Do you take offense at this?”* ⁶² Then what if you were to see the Son of Man ascending to where he was before? ⁶³ *It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh is no help at all. The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life.*

- *“Hard saying...”* – **“severe / extreme”** – difficult to **“accept”**
- *“Grumbling...”* – **“to murmur to others so as to undermine and confuse”**
- *“Take offense...”* – **To let something become a uncrossable line / to fall into the trap**
- *“What IF...”* – WELL, they ARE going to see this... And it will be more difficult to reason away than His words here
- *“The Spirit give life...”* – Intellect can NEVER come to “spiritual truth” – One cannot “know their way to salvation”
- *“They are spirit... they are Life...”*
 - In many ways, the Words that Jesus spoke are **“way too deep”** for us to understand from our intellectual basis... **AND they were never meant to be...**
 - His Words are not **“intellectual”** producing **“knowledge”** ... they are **“spiritual”** producing **“Life”**
 - **Spiritual truth** must be **“Believed / Accepted as Truth”** it CANNOT be reasoned... rationalized
 - The **“Life”** His words produce is like NO OTHER...
 - One cannot **“learn”** salvation... **BUT once accepted it can be experienced**

JOHN 6:64-65 *But there are some of you who do not believe.”* (For Jesus knew from the beginning who those were who did not believe, and who it was who would betray him.) ⁶⁵ And he said, *“This is why I told you that no one can come to me unless it is granted him by the Father.”*

The Father has granted that ONLY those who Believe should receive Eternal Life...

The way to Eternal Life is both:

- **“Inclusive”** – ALL are welcome... anyone can come... ALL can hear and Believe...
- **“Exclusive”** – Only those who BELIEVE will receive... there is NO other access to Eternal Life

JOHN 6:66-71 After this many of his disciples turned back and no longer walked with him. ⁶⁷ So Jesus said to the twelve, *“Do you want to go away as well?”* ⁶⁸ Simon Peter answered him, *“Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life, ⁶⁹ and we have believed, and have come to know, that you are the Holy One of God.”*

- *“Many of his disciples...”* –
- *“Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life...”* – Although they didn’t fully understand what Jesus was saying... they did know: HE had the words of Eternal Life...
- *“We have believed...”* – Your words and teachings... the witness of your life and ministry
- *“And have come to know...”* – by personal observation, and intimate friendship
- *“That you are the Holy One of God.”* – NO question... YOU are the Messiah

Vss 70-71 Jesus answered them, *“Did I not choose you, the twelve? And yet one of you is a devil.”* ⁷¹ He spoke of Judas the son of Simon Iscariot, for he, one of the twelve, was going to betray him.

- *“Choose you...”* –
 - Selected from others by purpose... –
 - ALL Twelve -
- *“A devil...”* – **“Diabolos”** - *applied to a man who, by opposing the cause of God, may be said to act the part of the devil or to take side with him, Satan (the accuser), the prince of the demons...*
- Certainly, Judas was going to do this... *Jesus knew it... expected it... accepted it...*
- Although *“known by God”* it was fully **Judas’ choice** when the time came...