

Eternal Nourishment

Series: *The Eternals*

John 6:35-40

March 7, 2021

Welcome again to worship. I invite you to grab your journal if you are at home or turn to page 4 in your bulletin.

GOING TO THE HOLY LAND. TWO WEEKS OF DIFFERENT FOOD. WHEN WE CAME HOME, THERE WAS ONLY ONE THING I WANTED TO EAT.

During Lent, we are looking at what we are calling “The Eternals.” We are looking at the words and concepts that are eternal in a relationship between God and us and the understanding of our faith.

Two weeks ago, we talked about the Eternal Word.

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God... The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.¹

Last week, it was Eternal Life.

For God loved the world so much that he gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life.²

Today’s Eternal: Eternal Nourishment.

Today’s Scripture passage comes from John 6:35:

Jesus replied, “I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry again. Whoever believes in me will never be thirsty.”³

In this one verse, we learn five things.

First, write down “Ego eimi.”

Now, this is not a breakfast food. It is Greek and is translated “I am.” Two simple words, but as we learned a few years ago, in Jesus’ world, *ego eimi* was the equivalent of the name for God: Yahweh.

Let me remind you what Jesus said when He used *ego eimi*. He used it to say that He was:

- a) Bread of life (John 6:41,48,51).
- b) Light of the world (John 8:12).
- c) Gateway to heaven (John 10:7,9). “I am the gate.”
- d) Good shepherd (John 10:11,14).
- e) Resurrection (John 11:25).
- f) Way, truth, and life (John 14:6).
- g) Vine (John 15:1,5). He is the connection to God.

By saying *ego eimi*, Jesus was equating Himself to God, and thus He is the eternal Bread of life, eternal Light of the world, eternal Gateway to heaven, eternal Good shepherd, eternal Resurrection, eternal Way, truth, and life, and finally, eternal Vine or connection to God. He is God, and He is eternal.

Second, He is the thing we are searching for.

¹ John 1:1,14 (NIV)

² John 3:16 (NLT2)

³ John 6:35 (NLT2)

Back to John 6:35. He said He is the bread of life. Let me give you the background here.

On the previous day, Jesus had miraculously fed 5,000 men, not counting the women and the children. The next day, the crowd came to Him, why? For more free food. That's when He said. "I am the bread of life."

Later in His discussion with the crowd:

*Jesus said, "I tell you the truth, Moses didn't give you bread from heaven. My Father did. And now he offers you the true bread from heaven. The true bread of God is the one who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world." "Sir," they said, "give us that bread every day."*⁴

Without really knowing it, the crowd stumbled on an eternal. When Jesus said, "I am the bread, the true bread come down from God," they said, "Give us this bread," the very thing they were searching for.

Without Christ, you and I will search for nourishment for our souls in things of this world that are temporal and unsatisfying, like our meals, that are good for only a short time. It might be power or sex or drugs or fame.

It might be an achievement. I don't know if you have seen in the last few weeks that a number of athletes who have accomplished great things killed themselves. The latest, one of the players on the miracle ice hockey team that beat the Soviets in the 1980 Olympics. He died in a mental institution.

Bono of U2 said it poignantly: "I still haven't found what I'm looking for." That's what so many people are saying, when for 2,000 years, we have known exactly Who we have needed: Jesus. Nothing more. Nothing less. Nothing else but Jesus.

Third, We must come to Jesus.

John 6:35:

*Jesus replied, "I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me..."*⁵

Christianity is not a religion that you inherit, whether it is from your family or friends. You are not a Christian simply by being in church.

One day, Jesus was in the synagogue on the Sabbath. From Mark 1, we read:

*Suddenly, a man in the synagogue who was possessed by an evil spirit began shouting, "Why are you interfering with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are—the Holy One sent from God!" Jesus cut him short. "Be quiet! Come out of the man," he ordered. At that, the evil spirit screamed, threw the man into a convulsion, and then came out of him.*⁶

Here's the thing: where was the man? He was in church, and he was demon possessed. You can't be a Christian just by being in church as you can't be a lion if you are in the Lion's Club or a spare tire if you are in your trunk. You must come to Jesus.

He said in Matthew 11:28:

*"Come to me, all of you who are weary and carry heavy burdens, and I will give you rest."*⁷

You must come to Jesus.

Fourth, He banishes hunger.

⁴ John 6:32-34 (NLT2)

⁵ John 6:35 (NLT2)

⁶ Mark 1:23-26 (NLT2)

⁷ Matthew 11:28 (NLT2)

John 6:35:

*Jesus replied, "I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry again..."*⁸

The Greek literally says, "The one coming to me no never hungers." It is a double negative.

Now, I have told you before that unlike in English where if you have a double negative, it becomes a positive, in Greek, a double negative is exactly that: double the negative.

If I say in English, "Myra, you are not never beautiful," I will score some serious brownie points. But if I said that in Greek, well, let's forget about doing that.

Jesus was telling the people that if they come to Him, He not only gets rid of hungry; He gets rid of it doubly. He banishes it. Jesus not only satisfies, but He satisfies completely.

Finally, in John 6:35, we learn that Trust leads to life.

*Jesus replied, "I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry again. Whoever believes in me will never be thirsty."*⁹

We have already talked about this several times, that Jesus is life and brings life. He says, "Whoever believes in me will never be hungry or thirsty."

John records in Revelation 7:15-16 what he saw in heaven:

*That is why they stand in front of God's throne and serve him day and night in his Temple. And he who sits on the throne will give them shelter. They will never again be hungry or thirsty; they will never be scorched by the heat of the sun.*¹⁰

Eternal life comes from trusting in Christ.

I was leading a Zoom meeting yesterday for leaders of the Mountaineer Christian Ashram. In my devotional, the Lord gave me Colossians 3:1-3, and I want you to think about this in light of our current circumstances in the world:

*Since you have been raised to new life with Christ, set your sights on the realities of heaven, where Christ sits in the place of honor at God's right hand. Think about the things of heaven, not the things of earth. For you died to this life, and your real life is hidden with Christ in God.*¹¹

And I asked the group, "What are the realities of heaven?" They listed several off, and I said, "The realities of heaven are far greater than the circumstances of earth, so focus on heaven and not only what's going on down here. For we have died to this life, and our real life is in Christ."

Yesterday, I had breakfast and did some work. I had lunch and took a nap. I had dinner and watched some TV. I did one recurring thing: I ate. Myra's breakfast was coffee. Her lunch was coffee. Her dinner was chicken and some nasty vegetables.

The thing is that I kept eating. I will today. And as pleasurable eating is, it is even more necessary for us. We need food to survive.

What would happen if we only ate once a week? Well, we wouldn't be very healthy. We wouldn't have any strength or stamina. The least little thing would knock us down. We would not grow. And we would not be what we were intended to be.

⁸ John 6:35 (NLT2)

⁹ John 6:35 (NLT2)

¹⁰ Revelation 7:15-16 (NLT2)

¹¹ Colossians 3:1-3 (NLT2)

And just like our physical bodies need nourishment, so too our spiritual lives. Without proper nourishment, we are unhealthy Christians. We have no strength to fight off Satan and his evil ways. The least little thing that happens in our life knocks us down. We don't grow spiritually. And we are not the Christians God wanted us to be.

Not only that, when we are living on a starvation diet, whether physically or spiritually, we cannot eat normal things when we have enough food. It will make us sick. We've got to slowing work our way back to what we are supposed to be.

Folks, people eat bread to satisfy physical hunger and to sustain physical life. We can satisfy spiritual hunger and sustain spiritual life only by a right relationship with Jesus Christ. No wonder he called himself the bread of life. But bread must be eaten to sustain life, and Christ must be invited into our daily walk to sustain spiritual life.¹²

Jesus said:

*The true bread of God is the one who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world.*¹³

¹² Life Application Study Bible, John 6:35

¹³ John 6:33 (NLT2)