

Sunday School Lesson – Gospel of John 6:32-59  
February 9, 2008

Jesus tells them to work for [focus on] the things that *last forever!*

How do we do this work?

Believe on Him whom the Father sent. I am authorized by Him to give you eternal life.

You've got to do more than just what you've been doing for us to believe you've been sent by God. Something on the order of what Moses did with the manna and millions of Jews being fed for 40 years in the wilderness.

Manna was not true bread from heaven. What God is doing right now is offering you *the true* bread from heaven; it comes from heaven and is the source of life eternal.

That sounds great! Let us have that bread.

Listen, *I* am *that* bread. I am the very bread of life. I came down from heaven and I offer eternal life to those who come to me and believe in me. But I know you can't believe unless the Father sent you to me. You know, it is the Father's will that all who come to me will have eternal life and I will raise them up on the last day. And I will not send any away that the Father gives to me, nor will I lose them.

How can you say you came down from heaven? We've known you all your life. You're from Nazareth the son of Joseph and Mary. What do you mean by this?

[Jesus uses the beautiful analogy of eating food to make his point:

- ↪ Food is useless unless eaten
- ↪ Eating is prompted by hunger
- ↪ Food becomes a part of us
- ↪ Eating involves trust
- ↪ Eating is a personal activity]

Listen. Understand this. Unless the Father draws you and teaches you these things, you can't understand them. He who has learned and heard from the Father will come to me and he will believe. Your fore fathers ate manna and still died; if you eat this true bread the Father has sent from heaven, you will not die. I am that living bread from heaven. You need to eat this bread to live forever. My flesh, this flesh we're talking about, will be sacrificed for you all that you may live.

You want us to eat your flesh? We are not cannibals! That is so wrong in the Jewish Law and mind!

[Jesus uses extreme hyperbole to drive away unbelievers and drive home his point with seriousness.]

Do you think I am telling you to break out your knives and forks and cups and start carving off pieces of me to eat and to drink my blood? What I am saying is that I am the true bread from heaven sent to give life. My flesh is true food. My blood is true drink. I am the real article, the truth. Unless you eat this flesh and drink this blood, you will perish. If you eat my flesh and drink my blood you will have eternal life and I will raise you on the last day. If you eat my flesh and drink my blood I am in you and you are in me. And as I live by the power of the Father, you will live because of me. Your fore fathers ate manna and died. If you eat the true bread from heaven, Me, you shall live forever!

#### Questions:

What does Jesus call Himself throughout these verses?

Where does He say He came from and why did He come?

What are we supposed to do in response?

What is the result?

Do these verses support the Roman Catholic belief in transubstantiation?

Is this a reference (foreshadow) to the Lord's table?

Is eternal life gained by taking communion? Why do we take communion?

What is meant by the phrase "last day"? [This phrase is only used in the gospel of John in the NT.]