

# Sermon Outline

THE YEAR IN OUR LORD, 2010-2011

- Mar 27: The Lamb of God (Jn 1:19-29) • **April 10: The Bread of Life (Jn 6:22-35)**
- April 17: The Hour Has Come (Jn 12:20-26) • April 22: It Is Finished (Jn 19:16-30)
- April 24: Peace Be With You (Jn 20:19-23)

## THE BREAD OF LIFE: A LENTEN MESSAGE (JOHN 6:22-35)

- I. **Our Self-Giving God**
- II. **Jesus Rejects the People’s Vision of Kingship (John 6:15)**
- III. **The Crowd Seeks After Jesus (John 6:22-25)**
- IV. **Jesus: Do Not Labor for the Food that Perishes (John 6:26-27)**
  - A. Jesus gets to the heart of the issue: The people have failed to see the meaning of the signs (6:26).
  - B. Jesus tells the people not to give their lives solely for perishable food.
    1. Jesus is not asking people to ignore their physical needs and responsibilities (1 Tim 5:8).
    2. He is asking us not to be concerned solely with earthly food—food that will not last.
  - C. Jesus tells the people to labor for the food that lasts forever.
- V. **The Crowd: What Must We Do to Get This Food from God? (John 6:28)**
- VI. **Jesus: The Work that God Asks of Us Is Faith in Jesus (John 6:29)**
- VII. **The Crowd: Give Us a Sign (John 6:30-31)**
  - A. Why would the crowd ask for another sign, given that they have seen Jesus multiply the bread?  
—The clue is in 6:31: “Our fathers ate the manna in the wilderness...”

- B. The people already know that Jesus can multiply bread on his own. But in order for them to believe in Jesus for eternal life, they want to see Jesus re-create a miracle on the scale of the manna (Ex 16).
- C. If Jesus claims to give food that will last forever—food that is greater than bread, fish, and manna—then he had better prove himself.

### **VIII. Jesus: It Was God Who Gave the Manna, Not Moses (John 6:32-33)**

### **IX. The Crowd: Give Us This Bread Always (John 6:34)**

### **X. Jesus: I Am the Bread of Life (John 6:35)**

- A. Jesus gives the answer the people need to hear: He is the supreme and final Bread of Heaven—the Bread that gives immortality.
- B. If the people want proof that Jesus is the one they should believe in, Jesus himself is that proof. He is the sign greater than the manna.
- C. This teaching is so important that Jesus repeats it twice:
  - 1. “I am the bread of life” (6:48)
  - 2. “I am the living bread that came down from heaven” (6:51)
- D. How far reaching does this Bread go? How much will this Bread fill us?
  - 1. Jesus makes the following promises to those who come to him:
    - a. “whoever comes to me shall not hunger”
    - b. “whoever believes in me shall never thirst”
  - 2. This thirsting and hungering is for all things that give us satisfaction, a sense that life is whole and good:
    - a. This thirst and hunger is for food and drink.
    - b. But it is also for safety, a sense of belonging, purpose, and personal esteem.
  - 3. Jesus Christ promises to fulfill each of those needs with himself.
    - a. As our King, Jesus protects us from our enemies.
    - b. As our Brother, Jesus makes us a part of the Family of God.

- c. As our Lord, Jesus gives us a sense of purpose in life.
  - d. As our Representative, Jesus gives us new dignity.
  - e. As our Resurrection, Jesus will end our physical hunger forever.
4. Therefore, if we want a fulfilled life, we must “eat” Jesus (6:54-55).
  5. To “eat” Jesus is to depend on Jesus for total fulfillment the way we depend on earthly food to satisfy our hunger.  
—To “eat” Jesus is another way of saying, “Believe in Jesus.”

## **XI. “His Own Self for Heav’nly Food”**

*In our Lord Jesus Christ, God freely and generously offers himself to us as the Bread of Life. And God calls us to “eat” him for eternal life. To “eat” Christ is to depend solely on him for satisfaction the way we depend solely on earthly food to satisfy our physical hunger. It is to depend solely on Christ for eternal life and all that it entails, whether it be the forgiveness of our sins, or our reconciliation with God, or our new identity as God’s people, or the fulfillment of God’s Law, or our triumph over Satan and evil, or our future resurrection from the dead. Our Lord Jesus therefore fulfills everything that earthly food is meant to fulfill—and more. Let us go to Christ Jesus and receive him alone as our Heavenly Food. Let us go to Christ and take him as our All.*

“King of kings, yet born of Mary, as of old on earth he stood, Lord of lords,  
in human vesture, in the body and the blood,  
he will give to all the faithful his own self for heav’nly food.”  
(*Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence*, Arr. Ralph Vaughn Williams, 1906)