Are You Eating the Bread of Life?

Intro:
- Jesus’ teaching in John 6, some of the most difficult in the Bible
  - He’s the bread of life – we must eat His flesh and drink His blood to have eternal life
  - Jn. 6:60b many of Jesus’ disciples responded to this teaching, “This is a difficult statement; who can listen to it?”

Jesus is the bread of life
- Jn. 6:1-27 overview Jesus’ teaching
  - vs. 10 Jesus fed 5,000 men (+ women and children)
  - vs. 15-21 Jesus sent apostles to other side of the sea to Capernaum, storm, walked on water, saved them
  - vs. 26-27 next day, people seek Jesus because He had filled them with physical bread, teaches them about spiritual bread

- Jn. 6:33-35 Jesus is the bread from heaven, the bread of life, resulting in eternal (spiritual) life
  - spiritual bread, from heaven – must eat Jesus’ bread to have eternal life

  - illus.: #355 Break Thou The Bread Of Life
    - all 3 verses: relate Jesus as bread of life, word, truth, eat and live with Thee above

Jesus is the bread of life, because His word is life
- Jn. 6:63, 67-68 Jesus’ words spirit and life, Jesus has the words of eternal life
  - Jn. 1:1 Jesus is the Word
  - 1 Jn. 1:1 Jesus is the Word of Life
  - Jn. 5:24 hear Jesus’ word, and believe in God, has eternal life, has passed out of death into life
  - Jn. 12:48 the word Jesus spoke will judge us in the last day

- 1 Pet. 2:2 as newborn babies desire the milk of the word
  - illus.: What desire does a baby have for milk? (not starve - cry, beg, insist, persist)
    - story: when I was a baby, doctor put on diet, cried, dad finally told mom to feed me
  - illus.: food necessary to live - die if not eat
    - type of food eat makes significant difference in our life
    - all junk food / cancer linked to obesity / eating breakfast improves mental health and test scores
    - different spiritual food: church, humanism, paganism, Satanism

- We must eat the proper spiritual food to be spiritually healthy – food from Jesus.
  - take in the word of God and digest it
What does it mean to eat Jesus’ flesh and drink His blood?

- Jn. 6:51-58 we must eat Jesus to live forever – eat His flesh, drink His blood
  - vs. 52 Jews, “How can this man give us His flesh to eat?”

- What does it mean to eat Jesus – eat His flesh, drink His blood?
  - Matt. 4:4 not live by bread alone, but every word that proceeds from the mouth of God
  - figuratively speaking:
    - we must eat the word of God (bread of life) – take into minds, digest, becomes part of us, changes us, effects us
    - since Jesus is the word, we must figuratively eat Him

- figurative context: obeying Jesus relates to eating, resulting in life (Heb. 5:9)
  - Jn. 6:35 not hunger or thirst if go to Jesus

- figurative context tied to the literal context:
  - Jn. 6:51 Jesus’ flesh
    - figurative: Jesus living bread from heaven must eat of the bread to live forever – word
    - literal: Jesus’ flesh is the bread He gave for the world – cross

- meaning of the figurative and literal context together: What does it mean to eat Jesus? – partake of Jesus
  - 1 Cor. 1:18 word of cross – foolish to perishing, power of God to people being saved
    - Jesus’ “word” and “cross” together = word of the cross

- When we obey the word of the cross, we eat Jesus’ flesh and drink His blood, which were sacrificed on the cross for our sins.
  - Gal. 2:20 “I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me.”
  - Gal. 3:27 “For all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ.”

We have to “work” for the food that gives us eternal life – bread of life - spiritual food – obey the word
- illus.: have to work for food
  - garden, farm – work for money to buy – 2 Th. 3:10
  - we also have to work for spiritual food

- Jn. 6:26-27, 28-29 people were working for physical food after Jesus fed them, He tells them to work for spiritual food – believe – last lesson: believe = obey, follow God fully

- We must work for spiritual food: find, eat, digest, grow.
  - Matt. 6:33 main mission in life: seek first God’s kingdom and righteousness, physical necessities (food) given

- Are you working for spiritual food, so you can live forever? – take in the word, digest it
  - personal study and meditation
  - faithfully attend Bible study and assembly – prepared: lessons, physically, mentally
  - apply God’s word to your life: repenting, changing, improving
  - believe: obey God in all things – follow fully
- Are you eating the bread of life? – inv.