

## Thursday, October 9

Read John 6:56-69. What do you think about these words of Jesus, as he spoke of himself as bread and encourage you to feed on him? Is it a bit weird for you? To you, like the disciples in Jesus' day find this teaching difficult? If you do find it difficult and hard to accept, why? We read that many walked away from Jesus as his followers when Jesus shared this concept with them. It is a difficult concept to accept. The crucial question each of us must answer is why? Is it just creepy, thinking about eating Jesus? Is it difficult because to accept Jesus as the answer to our deepest needs is so exclusive? Is it because it involved a certain investment of time and energy? Pray to God for courage to honestly answer these questions. Know that God loves you and wants to be the answer to your deepest needs. Write your reflections here.

## Friday, October 10

Read Acts 2:42-47 and John 6:56-69. Today, be encouraged to begin a plan of action toward incorporating some of the actions described in the Acts passage into your life. Think about the words used to describe the sharing of good in Tuesday's devotion: forethought, sacrifice, intimacy, effort. Work out a plan of incorporating some of the disciplines from Acts into your life. Take your time, this is not a race; so pace yourself and work toward growing spiritually and in connection with God and Christ as well as other followers of Jesus. As you contemplate these ideas and work toward a plan of action, know that Jesus wants to be the answer in your life; he loves you and wants to be your companion on this journey which is your life. Praise God and record your ideas here!

## Message Notes October 5, 2025

### *We Gather...To Recognize our Common Need\**

- I. Mike Ferretti is the \_\_\_\_\_ of the Great Harvest Bread Company, and the franchised stores are doing very well.
  - A. Mike says that they don't give out \_\_\_\_\_, they give out "\_\_\_\_\_" – full slices of bread.
  - B. Great Harvest boasts, "Our breads taste so good our customers ask if we hired their \_\_\_\_\_."
- II. Jesus said, "I am the \_\_\_\_\_ that came down from heaven. Whoever eats of this bread will live \_\_\_\_\_."
  - A. Jesus isn't interested in making bread for simple \_\_\_\_\_; he is the Bread of Life — the "true bread from \_\_\_\_\_."
    - 1. The "\_\_\_\_\_ bread" that Jesus offers is the kind that brings people into a \_\_\_\_\_ relationship with God.
    - 2. Breaking bread with someone was a sign of true \_\_\_\_\_; a sign that those who participated in the meal were \_\_\_\_\_ for life.
  - B. Remember the bumper stickers that proclaimed "Jesus is the \_\_\_\_\_?"
    - 1. It is fair to ask, "What is the \_\_\_\_\_?"
    - 2. Jesus' \_\_\_\_\_ can generate many questions to which Jesus is the answer.
    - 3. Jesus offers himself to the world as "\_\_\_\_\_" — the means through which \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ become bonded for abundant and eternal life.
    - 4. "\_\_\_\_\_" on Jesus is a means of taking in all that he offers.

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\* Acts 2:42-47 and John 6:56-69

- C. Four \_\_\_\_\_ activities of the early church in our passage from the Book of Acts.
1. First, we should be \_\_\_\_\_ our scriptures.
  2. Second, we should always enjoy each other's \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. Third, we should \_\_\_\_\_ with one another.
  4. Fourth we should be in \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.

III. We will be \_\_\_\_\_ around the Communion Table and \_\_\_\_\_ of that bread symbolizing the spiritual reality that \_\_\_\_\_ is in us.

- A. We will read that Jesus \_\_\_\_\_ the bread and \_\_\_\_\_ it and gave it to his disciples, all that being reflective of the \_\_\_\_\_ blessing over the meal.
1. In a shocking reinterpretation of this tradition, Jesus offers himself to the world as “\_\_\_\_\_.”
  2. The means through which \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ become bonded for eternal and abundant life.
  3. “\_\_\_\_\_” on Jesus is a means of taking in all that he offers.
- B. We come to the Communion Table, each of us with a \_\_\_\_\_.
1. We all come with needs and that Communion Table and our Communion rituals offer Jesus as the \_\_\_\_\_ to our \_\_\_\_\_ needs.
  2. Jesus as the bread of life was a concept too \_\_\_\_\_ for many people.
  3. The disciples' response to Jesus' offer is “this is a \_\_\_\_\_ teaching, who can accept it?”
  4. Maybe it was because of the \_\_\_\_\_ nature of Jesus' offer — if he's the only “real bread,” it eliminates all the others.

## ***Daily Devotional Guide***

The following is a daily devotional and study guide meant to enhance your understanding of the message and grow as a Christian.

It is offered for your personal reflection or to share with others.

## **Monday, October 6**

There are a lot of foods that we might call “comfort food.” From Grandma's freshly baked bread to an uncle's prized canned pickles, there are foods that give us a feeling of being cared for, loved and valued. Bread is a very common category of comfort food, ranging from rolls to bagels to “sweet breads.” What are your comfort foods? What about them give you comfort? Think about this for a while and write your reflections here.

## **Tuesday, October 7**

Read John 6:56-69. To break bread in Jesus' time was to create a special bond. To eat together involved offering a blessing over the food and the sharing of food was meaningful because to do involved forethought and effort. There was no hopping in your car for a quick run to the market. Food was a precious and scarce commodity. To share your food was intimate and involved sacrifice.

What are your thoughts? Think about the words used to briefly describe the deeper meaning of sharing in a meal: blessing, sharing, precious, scarce, intimate and sacrifice. Meditate on these words and write your thoughts here.

## **Wednesday, October 8**

Read Acts 2:42-47. Breaking bread (eating) together was one of the four critical activities of the disciples of Christ. The other three were study of scripture, fellowship and worship (prayer). Think about these activities in the modern context of today's world. Do a quick check on how you incorporate these elements of discipleship into your life. Here are some questions for you to ponder. Do you intentionally spend much time with other Christ-followers in fellowship? What are your personal and private prayer practices? Do you study scripture, either alone or in a group? These questions are not meant to elicit guilt but rather to encourage thoughtfulness. Write your thoughts here.