



LIVING BREAD FROM HEAVEN

(John 6:41-59)

ANALOGY... METAPHOR... SIMILE, etc. =
mixing images for illustration/comprehension

Jesus accomplished human salvation/eternal life. That accomplishment is made available to us. However, we must take it as our own and make it our source of life and hope. This transaction is illustrated by Jesus using the metaphor of food/drink.

Listen to me, and **eat** what is good,
and your **soul** will delight in the
richest of fare. *(Isaiah 55:2)*

FOOD!







Useless unless eaten!

For we have had the gospel preached to us just as they did. But the **message** they heard was of **no value** to them, because they heard it but did not combine it with faith. (*Heb. 4:2*)

Interest prompted only by hunger.

- Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled (*Mt. 5:6*)

Jesus said, “It is not the healthy (full) who used a doctor (*food*) but the sick” (*hungry*). (Mt. 9:12)

Appropriation only by **digestion**.

“... Through his Spirit in your **inner being**
so that Christ may dwell **in your hearts**
by faith.” (*Eph. 3:17*)

Personally consumed... cannot eat by proxy!

- No man can redeem the life of another or give to God a ransom for him. (Ps. 49:7)
- Let the wicked forsake his way and the evil man his thoughts. Let him turn to the Lord and the Lord will have mercy on him. (Is. 55:7)

Consumption produces **satisfaction**;
fullness/fulfillment

- Man shall not live by bread alone but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.

(Mt. 4:4)

- Whoever drinks the water that I give him will never thirst. *(Jn. 4:13)*
- My soul will be satisfied as with the richest of foods. *(Ps. 63:5)*

Seeing food but not **eating** is equivalent to knowing truth but doing nothing about it.

*The food is **Jesus** and the expectation is to **eat**!

That servant who **knows** his master's will and does not get ready or **does not** do what his master wants will be beaten with many blows. (Lk. 12:47)

POINT: Knowing is not enough!

THEOLOGY... Eucharist, Sacrament,
Lord's Table, Holy Communion

TRANSUBSTANTIATION... (Roman Catholic)

The body and blood of Christ together with his soul and divinity and therefore, the whole Christ are truly present in the Eucharist.

Fundamentals of Catholic Dogma.

*The physical elements change substance to become flesh/blood...
not symbolic, but actual.

This teaching of Jesus was much **earlier** than the last supper. If Jesus here was referring to “Communion” no one would have had any way to know what he was talking about.

John 6 uses a **different word** (flesh) than all the “Communion” references in the NT (body)

POINT: The participation in Communion is reaffirming something already done.

“Whoever eats my flesh has eternal life.”

(vs. 54). If this were a reference to
“Communion” then eternal life could be
attained by partaking of communion.

*We cannot be saved by taking Communion.
Furthermore, the Bible says no one should
take Communion unless they are already
saved... thus the warning about evaluating
ourselves first. (1 Cor. 11:27-32)*

Although “eating his flesh” is symbolized by Communion, the central point made by Jesus is not about Communion at all. It is a metaphor of being saved. It describes the *reality* of embracing/**internalizing** or trusting/**receiving** CHRIST as our SATISFACTION (bread) and SUBSTITUTION (blood).

To have eternal life with God, I cannot sniff, taste, then toss aside the Bread of Life. This is what God has put on the table, and I must eat it.

**As always in human history, some who heard this grumbled and said, "This is hard. We are offended." (vs. 61-62)
They did not believe (vs. 64)*