

MARCH 2018

“I Am the Bread of Life” Text John 6:24-35

Let your continued mercy, O Lord, cleanse and defend your Church and because it cannot continue in safety without your help, protect and govern it always by your goodness; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ--

A PORTION OF of our *Spiritual Writing Meditation* is taken from John 6. **“On the next day the crowd that remained on the other side of the sea saw that there had been only one boat there, and that Jesus had not entered the boat with his disciples, but that the disciples had gone away alone. Other boats from Tiberias came near the place where they had eaten the bread after the Lord had given thanks. So when the crowd saw that Jesus was not there, nor the disciples, they themselves got into the boats and went to Capernaum, seeking Jesus.**

When they found him on the other side of the sea, they said to him, “Rabbi, when did you come here?” Jesus answered them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, you are seeking me, not because you saw signs, but because you ate your fill of the loaves. **Do not labor for the food that perishes, but for the food that endures to ETERNAL LIFE, which the Son of Man will give you.**

JESUS SAID TO them, “I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in me shall never thirst.”

Jesus has a listening ear, a caring heart. His hope was to turn around the minds, hearts and lives of the people at Capernaum. He also needed to be honest with them.

AFTER THE PEOPLE saw the miraculous signs that *Jesus* did, their thoughts were surely a PROPHET who came into the world. *Jesus*’ knowing they intended to come and make him KING by force.

JESUS WAS NOT sent to be an EARTHLY KING, but the LORD is TRUE GOD; he is the LIVING GOD, ETERNAL GOD. {Jeremiah 10:10}

IT IS GRACE on *Jesus*’ part that he allows these people to find him. *Jesus* is concerned for their souls--eternal life. **ETERNAL LIFE IS GODS GIFT TO MANKIND.**

JESUS TELLS THEM **do not seek food that spoils--but food that ENDURES.** *The Son of Man will give you this food.* **“Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood** has eternal life, I will raise him up on the last day. {John 6:54} Eternal life **is not something to be achieved**, but to be **received by FAITH in Christ.** We are not to seek only **earthly food** but **spiritual food.**

THEY ASK **JESUS** about God's work--what are the requirements? They missed the point that **eternal life is God's gift. Believing in Jesus is the essential work God calls for--the one that leads to eternal life.** "My food," said **Jesus**, "is to do the will of him who sent me to finish his work. God did not send his Son into the world to **condemn** the world, but the world **through Him might be saved**. God has an **understanding heart, seeing eyes, and hearing ears**.

THEY STILL DID not trust **Jesus**. They asked for a miraculous sign. The popular Jewish expectation was that when the Messiah came he would renew the sending of manna.

JESUS CORRECTED THEM, pointing out that manna in the dessert did not come from Moses but from God. **God still gives true bread from heaven--LIFE THROUGH THE SON.**

JESUS ON SEVERAL occasions introduces himself **I AM. I AM the Bread of Life**: "He who comes after me **will never go hungry**, and he who **believes** in me **will never be thirsty**."

"I AM the living bread that comes down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever. And the bread I will give for the life of the world is my flesh." {John 6:51}

THE INVITATION THE "Bread of Life" extends to all **mankind**--it is *free for the taking!*

NOW LET THIS **love** and **trust** in **Christ** grow deeply in your **heart** and **mind** unto **everlasting!**
Now go in peace!

~AMEN

A Spiritual Meditation Writing
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*May Loren's love and passion for God's word, shine through his words as he encourages all of us to grow in grace. Please enjoy **The Faith Focus**; a series featuring spiritual writings from Loren.*