

“THIS BREAD”

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Thanksgiving is a time when many open their homes and gather around a table, generally for a meal. In biblical times, meals were an experience that could last for hours at a time. The meal was the event...

The ancient Greek language has two different words for time:

- **Chronos** refers to the kind of time we measure by the ticking clock. It's the time we use as we try to meet deadlines, make it to appointments, or go to bed at a decent hour. We cite it in numbers: 8:45 a.m., 4:15 p.m. One day of Chronos is exactly 24 hours long.
- **Kairos** on the other hand is lived time, experienced time. Kairos has a spiritual implication, a sense of significance. It represents time "in the moment," giving everything into that moment and receiving everything it has to offer. On Kairos time, you are truly present, not rushing toward to the next thing. This still small moment cannot be measured in seconds, minutes, or hours. It is measured in depth and response.

Though Jesus only lived 33 years of Chronos time, his Kairos time cannot be measured...

(Vs) 1 John 2:6 NIV – "Whoever claims to live in him must live as Jesus did."

So, we look to the life of Jesus, and we look again, and again, and again...

- We don't move to Galilee and travel and teach along the countryside.
- No, we humbly learn the Way of Jesus and seek to apply it to this life we have been given.

Today I would like to look at a Jesus story together. One that gives us a glimpse into how Jesus lived with the sort of depth and presence that is easy to miss that we long for...

(Vs) John 6:1-11 (NLT) – "After this, Jesus crossed over to the far side of the Sea of Galilee, also known as the Sea of Tiberias. A huge crowd kept following him wherever he went, because they saw his miraculous signs as he healed the sick. Then Jesus climbed a hill and sat down with his disciples around him. (It was nearly time for the Jewish Passover celebration.) Jesus soon saw a huge crowd of people coming to look for him. Turning to Philip, he asked, "Where can we buy bread to feed all these people?" He was testing Philip, for he already knew what he was going to do. Philip replied, "Even if we worked for months, we wouldn't have enough money to feed them!" Then Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, spoke up. "There's a young boy here with five barley loaves and two fish. But what good is that with this huge crowd?" "Tell everyone to sit down," Jesus said. So, they all sat down on the grassy slopes. (The men alone numbered about 5,000.) Then Jesus took the loaves, gave thanks to God, and distributed them to the people. Afterward he did the same with the fish. And they all ate as much as they wanted."

Def: Comma – a punctuation mark, used especially as a mark of separation within the sentence.

Jesus has them all sit down, and He thanks the Father for “This bread” ... the young boy’s portion.

- Can you imagine this scene at Thanksgiving?!

It’s easy to stop here in the story and think it is complete, but far from it...

(Vs) John 6:12-15 (NLT) – After everyone was full, Jesus told his disciples, “Now gather the leftovers, so that nothing is wasted.” So they picked up the pieces and filled twelve baskets with scraps left by the people who had eaten from the five barley loaves. When the people saw him do this miraculous sign, they exclaimed, “Surely, he is the Prophet we have been expecting!” When Jesus saw that they were ready to force him to be their king, he slipped away into the hills by himself.

The people have missed the depth of the moment...

- The disciples wait for Jesus to return, and when he doesn’t, they cross the lake by boat. Jesus walks on water... but one miracle at a time here, ok?!
- Eventually the crowds catch up on the other side, and Jesus has something to say to them when they do...

(Vs) John 6:26-27a (NLT) – Jesus replied, “I tell you the truth, you want to be with me because I fed you, not because you understood the miraculous signs. But don’t be so concerned about perishable things like food. Spend your energy seeking the eternal life that the Son of Man can give you.

- **Jesus:** You aren’t content with me, you want only what I can give you, according to your expectations...

“There is no neutrality between gratitude and ingratitude. Those who are not grateful soon begin to complain of everything.” – Thomas Merton

The Bible tells us ...

(Vs) 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 – Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus.”

We give thanks when there are 5 loaves or 5,000.

- **Lord’s Prayer:** “Give us this day our daily bread...” Jesus is teaching us to temper our wants.
- Yet we, like the Israelites in the wilderness when God miraculously provides enough manna for each day, are not content with just today’s bread. We want the security of tomorrow’s bread now.
- **Thought:** When we do this our focus shifts from the “bringer of the bread” to the bread itself.

But Jesus is teaching us another way, a way of gratitude. Gratitude is a doorway into receiving everything that each moment has to offer.

“Gratitude is more than a mental exercise, more than a formula of words. We cannot be satisfied to make a mental note of things which God has done for us and then simply thank Him for favors received...”

- To be grateful is to recognize the Love of God in everything He has given us... and He has given us everything. Every breath we draw is a gift of His love, every moment of existence is a grace, for it brings with it immense graces from Him.

“Gratitude therefore takes nothing for granted, is never unresponsive, is constantly awakening to new wonder and to praise of the goodness of God. For the grateful man knows that God is good, not by hearsay but by experience. And that is what makes all the difference.”

– Thomas Merton

- Gratitude takes nothing for granted.
- Gratitude is never unresponsive.
- Gratitude is constantly awakening to new wonder.

For those that are grateful know that God is good, not by hearsay but by experience....

- Jesus replied... *“I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry again.”*

I wonder how our wants and desires might change if we truly lived as Jesus did? As people who took the time and experienced all of the blessings around us with the same depth of gratitude that He did...

- We begin by living in this moment and expressing our gratitude for *“this bread”* ...

(Vs) Psalm 100 (The Message) – “On your feet now—applaud God! Bring a gift of laughter, sing yourselves into his presence.³ Know this: God is God, and God, God. He made us; we didn’t make him. We’re his people, his well-tended sheep. ⁴ Enter with the password: “Thank you!” Make yourselves at home, talking praise. Thank him. Worship him. ⁵ For God is sheer beauty, all-generous in love, loyal always and ever.”