

# WEEKLY SERMON

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## The Bread of God that gives life to the world

*John 6:24-35*

*I am the Bread of Life. Whoever comes to me will never go hungry and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty. John 6:35*

What an invitation! I should imagine that, for Jesus' listeners, the offer of having one's physical needs met would have been a joyous one. These words of Jesus were spoken after he had fed 5000 people with five loaves and two fish. Everyone present had experienced having their physical needs met, in abundance.

They would have seen the disciples counting up the 12 baskets of surplus food. The experience of hearing Jesus and being fed had motivated the crowds to get into boats and follow Jesus to Capernaum.

Jesus was a man who demonstrated that life in his Kingdom was one of abundance. In his first miracle at Cana he had provided wine for a wedding feast. Some commentators have calculated that the miracle would have given around 1000 bottles of the best tasting wine.

The invitation Jesus offers is for whoever comes and believes. Reading from the beginning of John's gospel, the writer has shown that Jesus means what he says. The servants at the wedding banquet were the ones who saw the miraculous provision. Nicodemus, a pharisee, was able to have a one to one conversation with Jesus.

A Samaritan woman found living water at a well and told all her friends. A royal official believed that his son could be healed – and he was. A disabled man found healing. A boy, who shared his packed lunch, saw how Jesus used his little to provide a lot. Every wedding guest was able to drink of the best wine. Every person in the crowd ate and was satisfied. Jesus' invitation is for everyone who comes and believes.

Jesus' invitation is no ordinary invitation. It is not just for bread and water to provide physical needs. 'For the bread of God is the bread that comes down from heaven and gives life to the world,' verse 33. As Jesus' listeners heard his words about manna in the wilderness, they would have recalled the way God provided for the Jewish people after they had left Egypt.

Jesus reminds His listeners that the people who had eaten manna eventually died. Jesus' offer is for eternal life: 'For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life.' John 3:16

This offer of eternal life is open to all. The invitation comes from Jesus, the King of kings. The one that the Jews had been waiting for – the Messiah. He is the son of God. He is able to offer such an invitation to eternal life because of who He is.

Entering into life requires us to 'come' and 'believe.' As we read on, we see that many do come and believe but some turn back. Coming and believing requires us to recognise our need of Jesus. Jesus, in return, welcomes us with open arms, when we come to Him, and promises us eternal life.

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