

Weaving the Word

The Bread From Heaven

October 6, 2019

Welcome to where we're learning to hear what the Father has to say!

How hard is it to hear what God says? Before you answer, you better hear this; *Jesus said ...*

He who belongs to God **[the Father]** hears what God **[the Father]** says. – John 8:47 NIV

On the one hand: *ouch*. But, on the other: *that sure answers that!*



Everybody wants to relate to Jesus ... on our own terms.

Problem is, a Jesus that merits *our* seal of approval, and fits what we *want* Him to be, or *think* He should be, is powerless and speechless to challenge us, heal us, or transform us.



[You see] The Son is the radiance of *God's glory* **[the Father's]** and the exact representation of *his being*, **[the Father's]** sustaining all things by his **[the Father's]** powerful word. – Hebrews 1:3a NIV



If you really want to hear what Father-God says, you have to seek and find the Savior-Son that carries His seal of approval.

Know how I hear what God says? With magic glasses! Remember when I told you how I loaded the Bible onto wireless headphones, so I can listen for hours on end while working around the house? Well they're nice, but they cut out sounds; which can be dangerous. And I can't drive with them. So, check out my new Bose sunglasses!



We left Jesus in the synagogue in Capernaum, confronting the followers who just wanted more miracle-bread.



I can't say I blame 'em, at all. **Jesus isn't just bread, He's like restaurant bread!** The kind that when you taste it, and start eating it, it makes you sorry you ordered anything else! Everything on the menu was so tempting when you ordered. But then, *that bread!* With the steam, and the pulling apart, and the salted butter, and the melting. And once you've got the taste you can't stop! And, the more you eat, the less appealing all that gross menu food becomes.



[However] The god of this age **["Today is the day of salvation" (2 Cor 6:2)]** has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God **[the Father]**. – 2 Corinthians 4:4 NIV

The Son he **[the Father]** loves ... is the image of the invisible **[Father]** God, the firstborn over all creation. – Colossians 1:15 NIV

[That's Them talking when] God **[lit. the Gods]** said, “Let us **[Father and Son]** make man **[male and female]** in our image ...” – Genesis 1:26 NIV

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ... The **Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us**. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, – John 1:1, 14 NIV

[So] Let **the word of Christ dwell in you** richly ... with gratitude in your hearts to God **[the Father]**. – Colossians 3:16 NIV

First, the Word became flesh to dwell among us.

Then, the flesh became Word to dwell within us.

We're told that our ears test words as our tongue tastes food; (Job 34:3) so notice Jesus' intense emphasis on consuming God's Word. This is a huge Jesus' speech; and, it's all *restaurant bread!*

Do not work for food that spoils, but for food that endures to eternal life, which the Son of Man will give you. On him **God the Father** has placed **his seal of approval [in the OT; a.k.a. Jesus' Bible]**.” Then they asked him, “What must we do to do the **works God requires?**” Jesus answered, “The **work of God** is this: **[to find that seal of approval and]** to believe in the one **he has sent.**” So they asked him, “What miraculous sign then will you give that we may see it and believe you? What will you do? Our forefathers ate the manna in the desert; as it is written: ‘He gave them bread from heaven to eat.’” Jesus said to them, “I tell you the truth, it is not Moses who has given you the bread from heaven, but it is **my Father who gives** you the true bread from heaven. **[His Son]** For the **bread of God** is he who comes down from heaven and **[in turn]** gives life to the world.” “Sir,” they said, “from now on give us this bread.” Then Jesus declared, **[I don't give the Bread of life]** “I am the bread of life. **[The Father gives Me, and draws you to Me, through the OT; and]** He who **comes** to me **[by way of the Father]** will never go **hungry**, **[It's “not a famine of bread, nor a thirst for water, but of hearing the words of the Lord” (Amos 8:7)]** and he who **believes** in me **[when he sees the Father's seal of approval, as opposed to secondhand hearsay]** will never be **thirsty**. **[Because, “whoever believes in me, as Scripture has said, rivers of living water will flow from within them.” (John 7:38)]** But as I told you, **[as your teacher on behalf of the Father]** you have seen me **[in the OT]** and still you do not believe. **[But, “whoever believes in me will do the works I have been doing (to show the Father's seal in the OT), and they will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father” (and sending them the NT) (John 14:112)]** All that **the Father gives** me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never drive away. For I have come down from heaven not to do my will **[to raise all who come to eternal life]** but to do the will of **him who sent me**. **[To open every ear and eye, and then to die for everyone who'll come, and then to offer new life through the New Covenant written in My blood]** And this is the will of **him who**

sent me, that I [as the Great Shepherd of My Father's sheep] shall lose none of all that he has given me, [by their trust in His Word] but raise them up [with Me] at the last day. [That's My day to shine] For my Father's will is that everyone who looks to the Son [to satisfy the hunger of their deepest desires] and believes in him [to satisfy the thirst of their withering soul] shall have eternal life, [and rivers of living water will flow from your inmost being] and I will raise him up at the last day." At this the Jews began to grumble about him because he said, "I am the bread that came down from heaven." They said, "Is this not Jesus, the son of Joseph, whose father and mother we know? How can he now say, 'I came down from heaven'?" "Stop grumbling among yourselves," Jesus answered. "No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me [to do His will] draws him, [through His Word] and [then] I will raise him up at the last day. [We'll call it the "Day of Salvation"; "God says, 'In the time of my favor I heard you, and in the day of salvation I helped you.' I tell you, now is the time of God's favor, now is the day of salvation." (2 Cor 6:1-2)] It is written in the [OT] Prophets: 'They will all be taught by God.' [in the OT] Everyone who listens to the Father and learns from him [in the OT] comes to me. [But, here's the problem] No one has seen the Father except the one who is from God; only he has seen the Father. [So, you have to learn from Me, to seek from Him, the One He's sent with His seal of approval, to give you life through His death. Got it?] I tell you the truth, he who believes has everlasting life. [Just remember this: I don't send the Bread of Life] I am the bread of life. Your forefathers ate the manna in the desert, yet they died. But here is the bread that comes down from heaven, which a man may eat and not die. [If, that is, he "listens to the Father," and he's "taught by God," and "learns from Him," and thereby comes to Me, sent by God, and believes and receives and drinks from the cup of the New Covenant in My blood; I don't send the Living Bread] I am the living bread that came down from heaven. [Sent by the Father, to guide you into His Word, so He can feed you with Me] If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever [through My sacrifice]. This bread [that the Father asks you to taste-test with your ears] is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world." Then the Jews began to argue sharply among themselves, "How can this man give us his flesh to eat?" Jesus said to them, "I tell you the truth, [as the Father's teacher] unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, [by receiving new life through the new covenant] you have no life in you. Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day. For ["Man shall not live by bread alone; but man lives by every word that proceeds from the mouth of the Lord" (Deut 8:3); and, "As the deer pants for streams of water, so my soul pants for you, my God" (Ps 42:1); therefore] my flesh is real food and my blood is real drink. Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood remains in me, and I in him. Just as the living Father sent me and I live because of the Father, so the one who feeds on me will live because of me. This is the bread that came down from heaven. Your forefathers ate manna and died, but he who feeds on this bread will live forever." – John 6:27-58 NIV

Jesus tells us that He comes to eat with us. **So don't let it go cold ... you're faith that is.** You say, "But, I'm *not hungry*; I think it's an *acquired taste*." You're dead wrong.

Did you know that **starving people stop craving food**? A former U.S. Food and Agriculture Ambassador wrote about his own starving:



The sensation of hunger faded in about a week. ... From then on, I could join my family at mealtimes and not be bothered a bit. I now fully understood ... a strange phenomenon I had witnessed during famines: starving children who refused to eat when food was finally offered ... – Tony Hall, *“Changing the Face of Hunger”*



Not being hungry for lifesaving food not only means you’re starving, it means **you’re deceiving yourself as you waste away**. Satan’s strategy is **to get us to slowly die of hunger while the food is in front of us**. The Bible isn’t a burden; it’s an all-you-can-eat buffet. And, **the more you seek the more He’ll serve**. (Jer 29:13) But remember, **what you seek is what you get**.

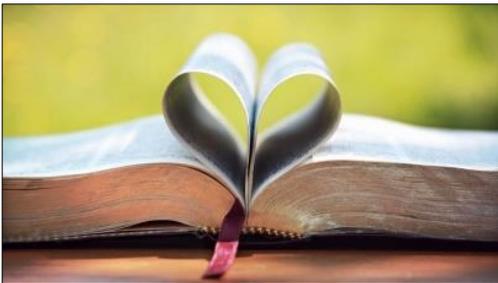
So, don’t be shocked when it’s hard to hear God, if you can’t stand listening to Him.

If I’m not in His Word, His Word won’t be in me. Each of us must eventually settle, once and for all, the issue of what will be the ultimate authority in our life.

[The wicked] eat the bread of wickedness ... listen closely to my words. Do not let them out of your sight, keep them within your heart; for they *are* life to those who find them ... – Proverbs 4:17-23 NIV

You can’t make a sandwich if the breadbox is empty.

So many troubles come into our lives because we base our choices and decisions on flawed and unreliable authorities, like: emotions, traditions, passions, peer-pressure, and culture.



[King David writes] I have hidden [NAS: treasured] your word in my heart – Psalm 119:11 NIV

The good man [who belongs to God] brings good things out of [of the pantry of his heart; and hears God from within] the good stored up in him, and the evil man [who doesn’t belong to God] brings evil things out of the evil stored up in him. [‘Cause it’s all he’s got] – Matthew 12:35 NIV

So, what’re you storing up?

Because, **when we call on God, that’s how He answers.**

And, that’s what He uses to speak, strengthen, and transform us.

Do you have Bible anorexia?

Stop starving yourself!

Eating is believing.