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# JOHN: THAT YOU MAY BELIEVE

## *LIFE-GIVING FOOD FROM GOD*

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A message presented by Pastor Marc Minter  
to First Baptist Church of Diana, TX on July 16, 2017

### INTRODUCTION

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The Gospel of Jesus Christ is so much more profound and powerful than most of us imagine. The Bible speaks of a decisively loving God and the demonstration of that love in real human history, as well as God applying that love to our lives in real time. The Bible explains what it means that God loves guilty sinners and how some sinners respond with overwhelming gratitude to that love. In this message, we will plumb the depths of God's decisive love. There is no doubt that we shall, by God's grace, come away amazed, humbled, grateful, and confident.

### **JOHN 6:16-71 (ESV)**

16 When evening came, his disciples went down to the sea, 17 got into a boat, and started across the sea to Capernaum.

It was now dark, and Jesus had not yet come to them.

18 The sea became rough because a strong wind was blowing. 19 When they had rowed about three or four miles, they saw Jesus walking on the sea and coming near the boat, and they were frightened.

20 But he said to them, "It is I; do not be afraid." 21 Then they were glad to take him into the boat, and immediately the boat was at the land to which they were going.

22 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 his disciples had gone away alone. 23 Other boats from Tiberias came near the place where they had eaten the bread after the Lord had given thanks. 24 So when the crowd saw that Jesus was not there, nor his disciples, they themselves got into the boats and went to Capernaum, seeking Jesus.

25 When they found him on the other side of the sea, they said to him, "Rabbi, when did you come here?"

26 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. 27 ***Do not work for the food that perishes, but for the food that endures to eternal life, which the Son of Man will give to you.*** For on him God the Father has set his seal.”

28 Then they said to him, “What must we do, to be doing the works of God?”

29 Jesus answered them, “This is the work of God, that you believe in him whom he has sent.”

30 So they said to him, “Then what sign do you do, that we may see and believe you? What work do you perform? 31 Our fathers ate the manna in the wilderness; as it is written, ‘He gave them bread from heaven to eat.’”

32 Jesus then said to them, “***Truly, truly, I say to you, it was not Moses who gave you the bread from heaven, but my Father gives you the true bread from heaven.***

33 For the bread of God is he who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world.”

34 They said to him, “Sir, give us this bread always.”

35 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.*** 36 But I said to you that you have seen me and yet do not believe. 37 All that the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never cast out.

38 For I have come down from heaven, not to do my own will but the will of him who sent me. 39 And this is the will of him who sent me, that I should lose nothing of all that he has given me, but raise it up on the last day. 40 For this is the will of my Father, that everyone who looks on the Son and believes in him should have eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day.”

41 So the Jews grumbled about him, because he said, “I am the bread that came down from heaven.” 42 They said, “Is not this Jesus, the son of Joseph, whose father and mother we know? How does he now say, ‘I have come down from heaven’?”

43 Jesus answered them, “Do not grumble among yourselves. 44 No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him. And I will raise him up on the last day.

45 It is written in the Prophets, ‘And they will all be taught by God.’ Everyone who has heard and learned from the Father comes to me— 46 not that anyone has seen the Father except he who is from God; he has seen the Father.

47 ***Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever believes has eternal life.*** 48 I am the bread of life. 49 Your fathers ate the manna in the wilderness, and they died. 50 This is the bread that comes down from heaven, so that one may eat of it and not die.

51 I am the living bread that came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever. And the bread that I will give for the life of the world is my flesh.”

52 The Jews then disputed among themselves, saying, “How can this man give us his flesh to eat?”

53 So Jesus said to them, ***“Truly, truly, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you.***

54 Whoever feeds on my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day. 55 For my flesh is true food, and my blood is true drink. 56 Whoever feeds on my flesh and drinks my blood abides in me, and I in him. 57 As the living Father sent me, and I live because of the Father, so whoever feeds on me, he also will live because of me. 58 This is the bread that came down from heaven, not like the bread the fathers ate, and died. ***Whoever feeds on this bread will live forever.***”

59 Jesus said these things in the synagogue, as he taught at Capernaum.

60 When many of his disciples heard it, they said, “This is a hard saying; who can listen to it?”

61 But Jesus, knowing in himself that his disciples were grumbling about this, said to them, “Do you take offense at this? 62 Then what if you were to see the Son of Man ascending to where he was before? 63 ***It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh is no help at all. The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life.*** 64 But there are some of you who do not believe.”

(For Jesus knew from the beginning who those were who did not believe, and who it was who would betray him.)

65 And he said, “This is why I told you that no one can come to me unless it is granted him by the Father.”

66 After this many of his disciples turned back and no longer walked with him.

67 So Jesus said to the twelve, “Do you want to go away as well?”

68 Simon Peter answered him, ***“Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life, 69 and we have believed, and have come to know, that you are the Holy One of God.”***

70 Jesus answered them, “Did I not choose you, the twelve? And yet one of you is a devil.” 71 He spoke of Judas the son of Simon Iscariot, for he, one of the twelve, was going to betray him.

## THE POINT I'M AIMING AT TODAY:

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**All-satisfying food comes from the triune God, ensuring indestructible life.**

## MESSAGE OUTLINE:

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**(1) JESUS IS ALL-SATISFYING**

**(2) SPIRITUAL LIFE COMES FROM THE TRIUNE GOD**

**(3) APPLICATION: WHAT WILL YOU DO WITH THIS?**

## MESSAGE

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### **(1) JESUS IS ALL-SATISFYING**

*“Do not work for the **food that perishes**, but for the **food that endures to eternal life**, which the **Son of Man will give to you**” (v27).*

- **“Food” that perishes** (physical needs, worldly pleasures, sinful cravings)
  - **Physical needs**
    - *“Jesus then said to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, it was not Moses who gave you the bread from heaven, but my Father gives you the true bread from heaven. For the bread of God is he who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world. **They said to him, ‘Sir, give us this bread always’**” (v32-34).*
      - Many are concerned only for their basic physical needs.
        - This shallow existence makes man more animal than human... The one who never lifts his head to consider his Maker is a fool.
          - Wisdom cries aloud, *“**How long, O simple ones, will you love being simple? How long will... fools hate knowledge?**”* (Prov. 1:22).

## ○ Worldly pleasures

- ***“Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For **all that is in the world—the desires of the flesh and the desires of the eyes and pride of life—is not from the Father but is from the world**”*** (1 Jn. 2:15-16).

- Many are chasing worldly things – personal safety, independent wealth, public affirmation, American Dream.
  - Solomon said, *“I made great works. I built houses and planted vineyards for myself. I made myself gardens and parks, and planted in them all kinds of fruit trees. I made myself pools from which to water the forest of growing trees... I had also great possessions of herds and flocks, more than any who had been before me in Jerusalem... And whatever my eyes desired I did not keep from them. I kept my heart from no pleasure, for my heart found pleasure in all my toil, and this was my reward for all my toil. Then I considered all that my hands had done and the toil I had expended in doing it, and behold, **all was vanity and a striving after wind, and there was nothing to be gained under the sun**”* (Ecc. 2:4-11).

## ○ Sinful cravings

- Writing to Christians, the Apostle Paul said, *“...When you were slaves of sin... **what fruit were you getting at that time from the things of which you are now ashamed? For the end of those things is death**”* (Rom. 6:20-21).
  - Current and former slaves of sin know that the “fruit” or end or result of indulging sinful cravings is death.
    - *“Because they hated knowledge and did not choose the fear of the LORD, would have none of my counsel and despised all my reproof, therefore **they shall eat the fruit of their way, and have their fill of their own devices**”* (Prov. 1:29-31)
- Summary: “Food” that perishes cannot satisfy; it is temporary, empty, & death

- **But, Jesus is “food” that endures – sustains – rewards!**
  - **Jesus enduringly satisfies** (not like physical needs)
    - *“Your fathers ate the manna in the wilderness, and they died. This is the bread that comes down from heaven, so that **one may eat of it and not die**. I am the living bread that came down from heaven. **If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever**. And the bread that I will give for the life of the world is my flesh”* (v49-51).
  - **Jesus substantially satisfies** (not like worldly pleasure)
    - The Apostle Paul said, *“**I have learned** in whatever situation I am **to be content**. I know how to be brought low, and I know how to abound. **In any and every circumstance, I have learned the secret** of facing plenty and hunger, abundance and need. **I can do all things through him [Christ] who strengthens me”*** (Phil. 4:11-13).
  - **Jesus rewardingly satisfies** (not like sinful indulgence)
    - Paul said, *“**Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord**. For his sake I have suffered the **loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ”*** (Phil. 3:8).

**Summary:** “Food” that perishes cannot satisfy, but Christ is All-satisfying food.

**Segue:** *And this gift of all-satisfying food is FROM the TRIUNE GOD.*

## **(2) SPIRITUAL LIFE COMES FROM THE TRIUNE GOD**

*“this is the will of my Father, that everyone who looks on the Son and believes in him should have eternal life”* (v40).

**2 terms and 4 statements to build out the profound truth Jesus presents:**

## The Terms (x2)

### 1. Spiritual Life

- The *Spiritually Alive* are those who continually:
  - ***“Believe”*** (v29, 35, 47, 69), ***“Come to [Jesus]”*** (v35, 37, 44, 45, 65), ***“looks on (sees) the Son [with] belief”*** (v40), ***“eat of [Jesus]”*** (v50, 51, 53, 54, ) ***“drink of [Jesus]”*** (v53, 54), ***“abide in [Jesus]”*** (v56), ***“[Jesus] abiding within”*** (v56), ***“feed on [Jesus]”*** (v57, 58), ***“walk with [Jesus]”*** (v66), ***eternal life*** (v27, 40, 47, 54, 68)

### 2. Spiritual Death

- The *Spiritually Dead* are those who:
  - ***“work for food that perishes”*** (v27), ***“do not believe”*** (v36, 64), ***“have no life in you”*** (v53)
- Both are said to be “seeking” Jesus (v24, 26)
- Both are called “disciples” (v60, 66)
- Both are commanded to “believe” (v29) and “feed upon” Christ (v32)

## The Statements (x4)

### 1. God calls all people to see Christ as “All-satisfying”

- ***“28 Then they [the crowd] said to him [Jesus], “What must we do, to be doing the works of God?” 29 Jesus answered them, “This is the work of God, that you believe in him whom he has sent.””***

Jesus goes on to say, ***“32 my Father gives you the true bread from heaven. 33 For the bread of God is he who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world”***

***“34 They [the crowd] said to him [Jesus], “Sir, give us this bread always.” 35 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”***

- The call is made without distinction: “All people everywhere! Come to Jesus! Believe in Christ! Feast upon the True Bread of Heaven!”

## **2. Those who see Christ as “All-satisfying” come and are satisfied in Him**

- ***“I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in me shall never thirst”*** (v35).
  - The “coming” is based upon seeing Christ as “the [all-satisfying] bread of life;” and all “hunger” and “thirst” are satisfied.

## **3. Not Everyone who “sees” Christ is satisfied in Him**

- ***“35 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. 36 But I said to you that **you have seen me and yet do not believe.**”***
  - The unbelieving ones can “see” Jesus, even watch Him perform miraculous signs, but they do not see Jesus as “all-satisfying,” and they do not “come” to Him or “believe” in Him or “eat of” Him.

## **4. The Triune God effectively gives eyes to see with belief**

- **The Father**
  - “Sends” or “gives” the Son
    - Jesus has the Father’s *“seal”* set on Him (v27).
    - Jesus is the *“sent”* by the Father to be believed (v29).
    - The Father *“gives”* Jesus as bread from heaven (v32).
    - Jesus is *“sent”* to do the will of the Father (v38).
    - Jesus is *“sent”* as the life-giver from the Father (v57).
  - “Gives” a people to the Son
    - Jesus said, *“All the Father gives me will come to me...”* (v37).
    - Jesus will lose *“nothing of all that [the Father] has given [Him]”* (v39).
  - Enables sinners to “come to the Son”
    - Jesus said, *“No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him”* (v44).

- Jesus said, “*no one can come to me unless it is granted him by the Father*” (v65).
- Jesus said, “*Everyone who has heard and learned from the Father comes to me*” (v45).

## ○ **The Son**

- Gives His “flesh” for life
  - “*I am the living bread that came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever. And the bread that I will give... is my flesh*” (v51).
- Gives life to all who are in Him
  - The “*Son of Man*” will give “*eternal life*” (v27).
  - “*he who comes down from heaven... gives life*” (v33).
  - Peter confessed, “*Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life...*” (v68).
- Truly satisfies
  - The “*hungry*” and “*thirsty*” are completely satisfied (v35).
- Keeps all those who are given to Him by the Father
  - “*All that the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never cast out*” (v37).
- Resurrects all those the Father gives to Him
  - Jesus said, “*I [will] lose nothing of all that he [the Father] has given me, but raise it up on the last day*” (v39).
  - Jesus said, “*I will raise up on the last day*” all those the Father draws (v44).

## ○ **The Spirit**

- Gives life to spiritually dead sinners
  - *“It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh is no help at all”* (v63).
- Opens spiritually blind eyes
  - Jesus said, *“Truly, truly, I say to you, **unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God... That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit**”* (Jn. 3:3-6)
- Enlightens spiritually ignorant minds
  - Jesus said, *“the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, **he will teach you all things**”* (Jn. 14:26)

**Summary:** All-satisfying food (Spiritual Life) comes from the triune God!

**Segue:** *And this ensures indestructible life.*

### **(3) APPLICATION: WHAT WILL YOU DO WITH THIS?**

*“I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in me shall never thirst”* (v35).

- **Will you see Jesus as all-satisfying?**
  - Non-Christian, will you look to Him for the first time as all-satisfying?
  - Christian, will you look to Him above all else as all-satisfying?

*“Whoever believes has eternal life”* (v47).

- **Will you continually be coming and believing?**
  - Today, I am not asking for you to make a one-time decision for Christ... I am asking for a lifelong departure from who were (spiritual death).

***“Do not grumble among yourselves.*** No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him. And I will raise him up on the last day.” (v43-44).

- **Will you grumble, or will you rest in God’s sovereign promise?**
  - God the Father effectively draws,  
God the Spirit gives life,  
and God the Son ensures that it is indestructible.

**Major Point:** All-satisfying food comes from the triune God, ensuring indestructible life.

## SUGGESTED RESOURCES:

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*All Comers to Christ Welcome* by Charles Spurgeon

<https://www.monergism.com/all-comers-christ-welcome-john-637>

*A Biblical Reflection on John 6* by John Hendryx

[http://www.reformationtheology.com/2005/11/the\\_jesus\\_syllogism.php](http://www.reformationtheology.com/2005/11/the_jesus_syllogism.php)

*Perseverance of the Saints: John 6* by Tim Bertolet

<http://www.placefortruth.org/blog/perseverance-saints-john-6>

*Behold, Believe, Be Raised* by John Piper

<http://www.desiringgod.org/messages/ behold-believe-be-raised>

*Do Not Labor for the Food that Perishes* by John Piper

<http://www.desiringgod.org/messages/do-not-labor-for-the-food-that-perishes>