

The Corona Chronicle

West Worthing Evangelical Church Rugby Road.

Sunday September 13th

www.westworthingevangelical.co.uk

Being Church while the Corona Virus emergency is on

The Bread of Life or the Bread of Sorrows

Last week we looked at verse 2 in Psalm 127 and particularly the phrase 'Eating the bread of sorrows'. I would like to take that phrase 'bread of sorrows' further.

Bread

Bread is considered a staple food—i.e., a basic dietary item. A person can survive a long time on only bread and water. Bread is such a basic food item that it becomes synonymous for food in general. We even use the phrase "breaking bread together" to indicate the sharing of a meal with someone. Bread also plays an integral part of the Jewish Passover meal. The Jews were to eat unleavened bread during the Passover feast and then for seven days following as a celebration of the exodus from Egypt. Finally, when the Jews were wandering in the desert for 40 years, God rained down "bread from heaven" to sustain the nation. (Exodus 16:4).

In John 6:35 Jesus says, "I am the Bread of Life; whoever comes to Me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in Me shall never thirst."

All of this plays into the scene being described in John 6 when Jesus used the term "bread of life." He was trying to get away from the crowds but to no avail. He had crossed the Sea of Galilee but the crowd followed Him. After some time Jesus enquires of Philip how were they going to feed the crowd. Philip's answer displays his "little faith" when he says they don't have enough money to give each of them the smallest morsel of food.

Then Jesus declared, "I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never go hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty."



Finally, Andrew brings to Jesus a boy who had five small loaves of bread and two fish. With that amount Jesus miraculously fed the throng with lots of food to spare.

Afterwards, Jesus and His disciples cross back to the other side of Galilee. When the crowd sees that Jesus has left, they follow Him again. Jesus takes this moment to teach them a lesson. He accuses the crowd of ignoring His miraculous signs and only following Him for the "free meal." Jesus tells them in John 6:27, "Do not labour 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." In other words, they were so enthralled with the food, they were missing out on the fact that their Messiah had come. So the Jews ask Jesus for a sign that He was sent from God (as if the miraculous feeding and the walking across the water weren't enough). They tell Jesus that God gave them manna during the desert wandering. Jesus responds by telling them that they need to ask for the true bread from heaven that gives life.

When they ask Jesus for this bread, Jesus startles them by saying, "I am the bread of life; whoever comes to Me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in Me shall never thirst."

One of the hardest things to get over is the fact that it is purely a work of God that we are saved. That we have no part to play, that God quickens us and so we come to faith in Christ.

The bread of sorrows or the bread of toil is the vain attempt to find the 'living bread' through our works. It can't be done. This is what other religions try to do. Like, as in the story of the tower of Babel, they build structures that try to reach to God. But they fail which leads to confusion and sorrow. But the 'Bread of Life' our Lord Jesus Christ came down from heaven.



In John 6 Jesus is equating Himself with bread and is saying He is essential for life not physical life, but eternal life.

This is an invitation for those listening to place their faith in Jesus as the Messiah and Son of God. Coming to Jesus involves making a choice to forsake the world and follow Him. Believing in Jesus means placing our faith in Him that He is who He says He is, that He will do what He says He will do, and that He is the only one who can.

What type of bread do we want.? The bread of sorrows that perishes or the living bread that brings life?



July 17, 1935

Chas. Grave

In days when we can't
sing in Church
Punch July 17th 1935

'The organist says would you mind
not singing so loud, Sir, as we're
broadcasting this service, and you're
messing up the balance of the choir?'

J A J C D N J Q G C Y J N I S Z T A
 I O O W R U O E J O B V O A M C J C
 V Y B K M L B R A H Z G F B T K O Y
 D O N Z W R T U L N J O B X C F B W
 J Q V A J O B G H D O Q P T N O C G
 K H C U W H U Y T K B F N V J W Z A
 P G F J A I W Z M Q U L K F A O Y C
 T Z C O M A V E J U J O B R W H B I
 J D Q B Y N T H O P N T X C F E G L
 R O S T L E J O B G M B D J P J O B
 H W B Y V W Z M L P O U T O D C K L
 P Y E S J B F W E J I D H B F Z M W
 J O B Y R W J S C B O M Y H J O B G
 D S A L M J O B P U Y B E Q V A T S
 R J Y T E Q B M R S T L N E C D P R
 K O D J C A Z W T M C Y S R M J K T
 C B K X O P K C J O B M C K D Q O L
 F R N Q M B Y V P Z N Q J O B N E B

How many times can you find the name *Job* in the above word search?

Job's name appears
 in this word search 30 times!

J A J C D N J Q G C Y J N I S Z T A
 I O O W R U O E J O B V O A M C J C
 V Y B K M L B R A H Z G F B T K O Y
 D O N Z W R T U L N J O B X C F B W
 J Q V A J O B G H D O Q P T N O C G
 K H C U W H U Y T K B F N V J W Z A
 P G F J A I W Z M Q U L K F A O Y C
 T Z C O M A V E J U J O B R W H B I
 J D Q B Y N T H O P N T X C F E G L
 R O S T L E J O B G M B D J P J O B
 H W B Y V W Z M L P O U T O D C K L
 P Y E S J B F W E J I D H B F Z M W
 J O B Y R W J S C B O M Y H J O B G
 D S A L M J O B P U Y B E Q V A T S
 R J Y T E Q B M R S T L N E C D P R
 K O D J C A Z W T M C Y S R M J K T
 C B K X O P K C J O B M C K D Q O L
 F R N Q M B Y V P Z N Q J O B N E B

Hymns, Prayers and Bible Readings.

The Bread of Life, the bread of sorrows.

John 6v35 Psalm 127v2

GIVING THANKS TO GOD FOR HIS GREATNESS
From Psalm 8

O Lord our Lord, we thank You that Your name through all the earth is majesty, that You have set Your glory in the skies, yet receive praise from the lips of children. We gaze at the work of Your hands - the moon and the stars which You have set in place, and we praise You that You even think of us; You make us lower than the angels, only to crown us with glory and honour. O Lord our Lord, we thank You in Jesus' name. Amen.

Almighty God ,
Look with compassion upon those
Whose land is unproductive,
Whose homes are insanitary,
Whose lives are under-privileged
And whose hopes are ever dashed by the greed of land-
lords who oppress them,
The harshness of a climate which defeats them
And the barrenness of a soil which daily mocks their
labours.
May the skill of human knowledge
And the liberation of your gospel
Bring productivity,
Health,
Opportunity
And hope
In the name of Christ our Lord. Amen.

Hymn

1 Break now the bread of life, dear Lord, to me,
As once You broke the loaves beside the sea.
Beyond the sacred page I seek You, Lord;
My spirit waits for You, O living Word.

2 Bless Your own word of truth, dear Lord, to me,
As when You blessed the bread by Galilee.
Then shall all bondage cease, all fetters fall;
And I shall find my peace, my All in all!

3 You are the bread of life, dear Lord, to me,
Your holy word the truth that rescues me.
Give me to eat and live with You above;
Teach me to love Your truth, for You are love.

4 O send Your Spirit now, dear Lord, to me,
That He may touch my eyes and make me see.
Show me the truth made plain within Your Word,
For in Your book revealed I see You, Lord.

John 6v35-40

35 And Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life. He who comes to Me shall never hunger, and he who 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 the one who comes to Me I will by no means 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 This is the will of the Father who sent Me, that of all He has given Me I should lose nothing, but should raise it up at the last day.

40 And this is the will of Him who sent Me, that everyone who sees the Son and believes in Him may have everlasting life; and I will raise him up at the last day."

Lord, You are the bread of heaven,
Giving life to the world.
You fill our emptiness with Your goodness.
You come to our weakness with Your strength.
Take and use these gifts to bring in a rich harvest
Of Your heavenly food and life-giving refreshment.

GOING OUT FROM WORSHIP
From Exodus 33

Lord God almighty, You have revealed Your goodness to us and proclaimed Your name among us:
Now let Your presence go with us,
and give us rest. Amen.