

20th SUNDAY ORD TIME ST BARNABAS JHN. 6: 51-58

FOR THE PAST THREE SUNDAYS WE HAVE LISTENED TO JESUS SPEAK ABOUT BREAD,,, THAT HE IS THE LIVING BREAD,,, THAT HE IS THE BREAD THAT CAME DOWN FROM HEAVEN,,, AND THE PEOPLE WERE TAKEN ABACK,,,, AND WERE GRUMBLING AT HIS WORDS.

AT ONE POINT IN CH.6 WHICH WE DID NOT READ,, JESUS TOLD THE CROWD GATHERED AROUND HIM IN THE SYNAGOGUE IN CAPERNAUM,,, “ **STOP YOUR GRUMBLING,,, I TELL YOU THE TRUTH HE WHO BELIEVES HAS EVERLASTING LIFE,, I AM THE BREAD OF LIFE.** “ THEN JESUS ELABORATES FURTHER,,, HE SAYS HE HAS DESCENDED FROM HEAVEN AS THE BREAD OF ETERNAL LIFE,,, AND THAT HE IS GOING TO GIVE HIS FLESH FOR THE LIFE OF THE WORLD,,, SPEAKING OF THE SUFFERING ON THE CROSS. THAT STIRS UP THE CROWD EVEN MORE,,, SO THEY START TO ARGUE AMONG THEMSELVES. HOW CAN WE EAT HIS FLEASH,,,, THEY SAY AMONG THEMSELVES?

TO THIS JESUS GIVES A RATHER NEGATIVE REPLY,,, **AMEN,, AMEN,,, OR TRUELY,, TRUELY,,, I SAY TO YOU UNLES YOU EAT THE FLESH OF THE SON OF MAN AND DRINK HIS BLOOD, YOU DO NOT HAVE LIFE WITHIN YOU.** “ THIS OF COURSE HAS BOTH SPIRITUAL AND PHYSICAL MEANING. IN OTHER WORDS CROWD,,, IF YOU DON'T EAT,, YOU WON'T LIVE. THE WORDS FLEASH AND BLOOD OF COURSE,,, POINT US TO THE CROSS WHERE JESUS SUFFERED A VIOLENT DEATH FOR THE LIFE OF THE WORLD WHICH ONE MUST BELIEVE AND ACCEPT. IT IS ALSO INTERESTING TO NOTE IN THE GREEK,,, AND ARAMAIC LANGUAGE OF JESUS,,, THAT THE MEANING FOR THE WORDS,,, “**TO EAT**”,,, ARE STRONG WORDS DESCRIBING THE ACT OF PHYSICALLY CHEWING OR CRUSHING THE FOOD WITH YOUR TEETH. THERE IS THE INTENTION THAT WE ARE TO ENTER INTO THE REAL PHYSICAL EXPERIENCE OF EATING AND DRINKING THE HOLY EUCHARIST WITH A SENCE OF HUNGER. JUST AS JESUS ENTERED INTO HIS PASSION,,, WE ARE TO ENTER INTO EATING HIS GIFT OF LIFE TO US.

I AGREE THAT THIS WAS A HARD SAYING FOR THIS CROWD,,, FOR ALL THROUGH THEIR HISTORY THEY HAVE BEEN FORBIDDEN BY THE O.T. LAW SEVEN TIMES,, THAT THEY COULD NOT DRINK BLOOD,,, OR EAT HUMAN FLEASH,,,,, BECAUSE THE LIFE OF ANY LIVING THING WAS IN THE BLOOD. BUT THEY ALSO KNEW FROM THE PROPHETS OF OLD,,, THAT THE PROMISED MESSIAH WAS TO COME,,, AND THERE JESUS WAS IN THEIR MIDST,,, AND ALL THEY COULD DO WAS ASK FOR MORE SIGNS TO PROVE WHO HE WAS.

I CAN IMAGINE WITHIN THE CROWD A BUNCH OF EXCITED JEWISH LEADERS SAYING,, HOW CAN WE EAT HIS FLEASH? WHAT DOES HE MEAN HE CAME DOWN FROM HEAVEN,,, AND HOW IN THE WORLD IS HE GOING TO GIVE HIS FLESH FOR THE LIFE FOR THE WORD- - - AND BREAD FROM HEAVEN IS HE MAD,,, OUR ANCESTORS ATE THAT STUFF AND THEY DIED,,, AND NOW HE SAYS HE GOING TO GIVE US ETERNAL LIFE. THEY WERE DENYING HIS VERY PRESENCE AND HIS MESSAGE.

JESUS RESPONDED TO THEIR ARGUING,,, WITH THIS VERY POSITIVE STATEMENT,,, “**WHOEVER EATS MY FLESH AND DRINKS MY BLOOD HAS ETERNAL LIFE,, AND I WILL RAISE HIM ON THE LAST DAY. FOR MY FLESH IS TRUE FOOD,, AND MY BLOOD IS TRUE DRINK.**” JESUS IS NOT TEACHING THE CROWD HERE,,,,, NOR THE DISCIPLES,, HE IS PROCLAIMING HIS PROMISES TO ALL WHO WILL BELIEVE AND WILL COME AND PARTAKE OF HIM. JESUS PROMISES,,, THAT HE WILL PROVIDE FOOD,,, NOURISHMENT FOR THE LIFE OF THE WORLD,,, HIS BODY AND BLOOD,,, THE GIFT OF HIMSELF.. JESUS PROMISES THAT WHOEVER EATS THE FLESH AND DRINKS THE BLOOD OF THE SON OF MAN,,, HAS ETERNAL LIFE

JESUS IS SAYING THAT HIS FLESH AND BLOOD ARE TRUE,,, OR A REALITY. ST. IGNATIUS SAID OF THIS HOLY FOOD,,, “IT MEANS THAT WHEN WE PARTAKE OF THE EUCHARIST,,, THERE IS NOURISHMENT FOR FAITH,,, FORGIVENESS OF SIN,,, THE FOOD OF IMMORTALITY,,, AND THE REMEDY OVER DEATH,,, THAT ENABLES US TO LIVE FOREVER IN JESUS CHRIST.”

JESUS COMES TO US IN TWO WAYS,,, BY THE WORD OF GOD THAT WE READ AND HEAR,,, AND BY HIS HOLY SUPPER. OUR REDEMPTION BEGINS BY WATER AND THE SPIRIT,,, BUT OUR WHOLE BEING IS FED WITH HIS BODY,,, CHANGING US BY THE SANCTIFYING WORK OF THE HOLY SPIRIT UNTIL THAT DAY,,, WHEN JESUS COMES AGAIN.

THIS EATING OF THE GLORIFIED BODY OF CHRIST COMES TO US BY THE POWER OF THE HOLY SPIRIT,,, BY WHICH OUR OUR BODIES BECOME MEMBERS OF CHRIST'S BODY,,, AND AS WE DRINK OF HIS LIFE GIVING BLOOD,,, THAT BLOOD BECOMES THE LIFE,, JOY AND PEACE OF OUR OUR HEART/SOUL. RECEIVING THE MYSTERY OF THE EUCHARIST IN FAITH ,, BEYOND REASON,,,, RELIES ON THE POWER OF THE HOLY SPIRIT WHO UNITES US IN UNION WITH AND IN CHRIST JESUS. WE BECOME PARTAKERS OF THE DIVINE NATURE,,, BE BECOME FLESH OF HIS FLESH ,,AND BONE OF HIS BONE,,, WHY,,, BECAUSE WE WHO HAVE EATEN OF CHRIST HAVE EATEN LIFE,,, THE VERY SOURCE OF LIFE.

THIS IS HOW JESUS SAID IT,,, “ **WHOEVER EATS MY FLESH AND DRINKS MY BLOOD REMAINS IN ME,,, AND I IN HIM.** JUST AS THE LIVING FATHER SENT ME,,, AND I HAVE LIFE BECAUSE OF THE FATHER,,, **SO ALSO THE ONE WHO FEEDS ON ME WILL HAVE LIFE BECAUSE OF ME.** “ ALL LIFE AND LOVE OF THE FATHER DWELLS IN JESUS,,,, AND ALL THAT DWELLS IN JESUS DWELLS IN THE FATHER AND IN THE SPIRIT,, IN PERFECT HARMONY AND UNION. THE GLORIOUS THING ABOUT THAT FACT IS,,, THAT THE FATHER IS IN JESUS AND AS BELIEVERS JESUS IS IN US WITH THE FATHER AND THE HOLY SPIRIT,,, THEREFORE WE ARE RESTORED TO LIVING IN COMMUNION WITH THE WHOLE OF THE LIFE OF THE HOLY TRINITY,, THAT WAS LOST BY ADAM IN THE GARDEN,,,, RESTORED,,,BECAUSE WE FEED ON JESUS IN WORD AND SACRAMENT.

IT SHOULD BE UNDERSTOOD THAT THE BLESSING OF THIS HOLY MEAL DEPENDS A LOT UPON OUR HEARTS PREPARATION TO PARTAKE OF IT. JESUS SAID IN THE GOSPLES,, THAT HE CAME FOR THOSE WHO WERE HUNGRY AND THIRSTY,, AND HE WOULD SATISFY THEIR NEED. HAVE WE RECEIVED THE EUCHARIST FOR SO MANY YEARS NOW,, THAT IT IS SO COMMOM PLACE,, THAT YOU DON'T EVEN SAY "AMEN" MEANING,, I BELIEVE THIS IS THE BODY OF CHRIST,, A HOLY MYSTERY. OR ARE YOU HUNGRY WHEN YOU RECEIVE BODY OF CHRIST IN THE PALM OF YOUR HAND.

WE MUST PREPARE TO EAT OF THESE HOLY MYSTERIES,, WITH HUMBLE HEARTS OF FAITH,, SPIRITUALLY HUNGRY AND THIRSTY. HUNGRY FOR THE LIFE GIVING BREAD FROM HEAVEN,, EXPECTING THAT JESUS,, THE CREATOR OF ALL THINGS IN HEAVEN AND ON EARTH,,, WHO IS PLACED IN THE PALM OF YOUR HAND,,, AND FILLS THE CUP OF SALVATION TO QUENCH YOUR THIRST,, IS WAITING TO MEET YOU AT HIS HOLY TABLE. THIS HEAVENLY MEAL RENEWS YOUR LIFE NOW,, WITH ALL THE HEAVENLY BLESSINGS IN CHRIST JESUS,, AND FILLS THE SPIRIT WITH THE PROMISE OF LIFE ETERNAL. AMEN +++