

THE WORD FOR TODAY

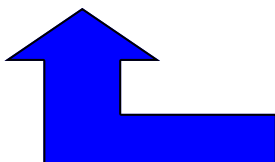
JESUS THE BREAD OF LIFE (John's Gospel Chapter 6, 25-35)



This conversation between the crowd and Jesus took place not long after the feeding of the 5,000. The crowd had seen Jesus' disciples go across the lake. Jesus had gone up a hillside by himself and had escaped their attention. He knew that they would insist on making him King.

They decided to cross the lake and look for him possibly in Capernaum, but when they reached the other side there he was with his friends. He used this opportunity to teach them more about how he could meet their needs, not just bodily needs, but mental and spiritual as well.

Follow the words of this passage, beginning on the north wall of this little building. You will then walk round the church building anti-clockwise, pausing at various benches to read and think. There are seven boards to read. We use the New International Version of the Bible, which you can find on the internet under Bible Gateway. The whole "Word for Today" can be found on the church website, www.libertonkirk.net



Turn immediately left to find the first Bible extract on the bench

“When they found Jesus on the other side of the lake, they asked him, ‘Rabbi, when did you get here?’ Jesus answered, ‘I tell you the truth, you are looking for me, not because you saw miraculous signs but because you ate the loaves and had your fill.’

1

Jesus had this problem often. His mission was to teach people how to live, to know God’s love for them, to bring in God’s Kingdom, and to give them glimpses of God’s glory. People tended, however, to be more interested in how he could meet their daily needs than in working out who he was or listening to what he had to say.

It still happens today. Our prayers can be like a shopping list—we can easily forget the praise and thanks due to God. We can easily ignore listening to his plans for us and forget all that Jesus taught us about living our lives. We miss out!



***Lord, teach me to recognise your power
and your glory.
Help me to trust you for my daily needs,
listen to your voice, and to seek to follow
Jesus more closely.***

(No. 2 is on the bench straight ahead of you near the East Door of the church)



THE WORD FOR TODAY

***Jesus said '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.'***

2

You have only to look at the number of cookery books available to realise that our obsession with food continues. Yet many live in food poverty, and in Jesus' day this was the case too. Jesus knew, however, that whilst bodies had to be fed, so did souls, and the same applies today. Our inner beings need feeding every day if we are to find the peace we crave and the life in its fullness which Jesus came to bring—life here now on earth and life in the future with him in heaven.



***Lord, may I learn more from you every day.
Help me to read the Bible and pray every day
so that I am nourished by you.
May my soul find rest in you.***

(No. 3 is round the corner of the church against the East wall)



THE WORD FOR TODAY

“Then they asked him, ‘What must we do to do the works God requires?’ Jesus answered, ‘The work of God is this: to believe in the one he has sent.’”

3

It doesn't seem much to ask, does it? All we have to do to be forgiven and to look forward to eternal life is to believe in Jesus, God's Son and promised Messiah.

We can only really believe when we realise what a difference he makes in our lives. We can only experience that difference when we ask him in—that might seem a big step but those of us who have taken it can assure you it will be worth it.



***Lord, deepen my faith in you.
Come into my life and transform my thinking.
Be my ever-present guide and friend.***

(No. 4 is further along this wall of the church)



THE WORD FOR TODAY

4

“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.’”

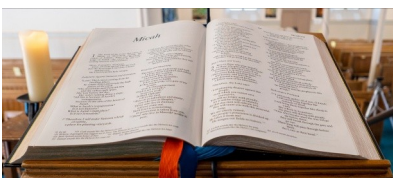
You can imagine Jesus’ sigh! He had just fed thousands of people from a small boy’s lunch, and now the people wanted a miraculous sign to show who he was!

They wanted something “other-worldly” like the manna which appeared every morning when their ancestors were coming back from Egypt with Moses.



*Lord, teach me to trust in you.
Open my eyes to see your miraculous work in the world around me.
Open my heart to receive your love.*

(Walk along the back of the church and turn left at the end. You will find No. 5 on the bench)



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“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.

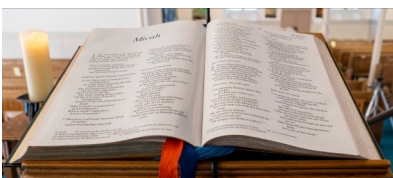
5

Jesus is trying to steer them away from their history and their wish for similar miracles and to point them to the present and to the person standing in front of them. How can he get them to recognise that he is indeed the Son of God? How can he bring them back to the God they know has rescued them in the past and is still working for them now? They have strayed from his ways over the centuries, but here he is in human form right in front of them, and how will they know?



***Lord, I know I sometimes stray from your paths.
Forgive me and draw me back to you.
Draw me to your love and your plans for me.***

(You will find No. 6 past the tower beside the Covid Memorial)



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***“For the bread of God is he who comes down
from heaven and gives life to the world.’
‘Sir’, they said, ‘from now on give us
this bread.’”***

6

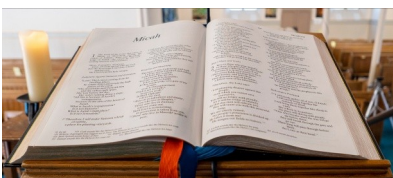
Life was quite hard for the ordinary people in Jesus’ day, under Roman occupation, with rulers more interested in preserving their own skins than making life better for their people. The prospect of a new injection of life was appealing—they were willing to try almost anything to get away from the daily grind. A lot of people today will relate to that feeling. Life is not getting easier, and the world around us is a frightening place. All the more reason to turn to the one who can make sense of it and steer us towards a more wholesome Kingdom.

***Lord Jesus, I treasure knowing you
in my life.***

***Keep me always close to you
As I seek to follow in your ways.***



(You will find No. 7 on one of the benches at the front of the church building)



THE WORD FOR TODAY

“Then Jesus declared, ‘I am the bread of life. He who comes to me will never go hungry, and he who believes in me will never be thirsty.’”

7

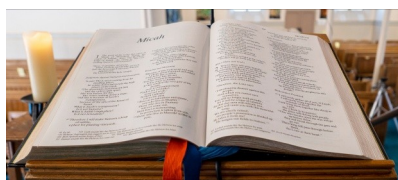
What a promise that is! All we have to do as our side of it is to come to Jesus and to believe in him.

What is it that prevents us from offering up our lives to him—is it our pride, our clinging to self-sufficiency?



***Lord, I come to you humbly
and I believe in you.
I trust you to help me strengthen
that belief.
Please help me to offer you my
life, both to receive your goodness
and to serve you and your
kingdom.***

***Liberton Kirk has no minister at the moment, but you can contact us at
minister@libertonkirk.net and your request will be dealt with by the appropriate person.***



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