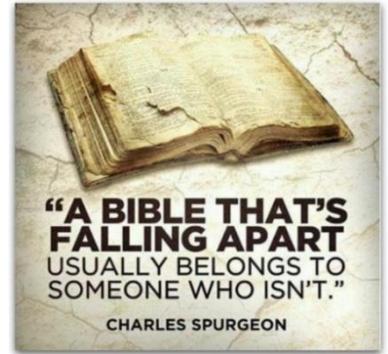




Beaches Baptist Church

Mar.11-17, 2019



A WORD for the Journey

These are short daily Bible readings that have been chosen to reinforce a particular teaching that is important to help us live successfully as disciples of Jesus. They can be used individually, with your spouse, friend or used as family readings. Each week's readings correspond to the previous Sunday's sermon preached at Beaches Baptist Church. You can download the sermon from <https://beachesbaptist.com/> . If you would like to receive these readings via email, please email me on beachesbaptist@gmail.com with "A Word for the Journey" in the subject title.

JESUS- THE BREAD OF LIFE

Jesus' life in us

The Feeding of the 5000 is the only one of two of Jesus' miracles which is recorded in all four of the Gospels. The miracle itself and then Jesus' discourse that comes as a result arrives at the heart of what a living faith in Jesus is all about. I pray that as you meditate on these passages you will discover Jesus in all His fullness.

Monday

John 6:41 (NLT)

⁴¹Then the people began to murmur in disagreement because he had said, "I am the bread that came down from heaven."

Exodus 16:2, 8-9 (NLT)

²There, too, the whole community of Israel complained about Moses and Aaron.

³"If only the Lord had killed us back in Egypt," they moaned. "There we sat around pots filled with meat and ate all the bread we wanted. But now you have brought us into this wilderness to starve us all to death."

⁴Then the Lord said to Moses, "Look, I'm going to rain down food from heaven for you. Each day the people can go out and pick up as much food as they need for that day. I will test them in this to see whether or not they will follow my instructions. ⁵On the sixth day they will gather food, and when they prepare it, there will be twice as much as usual."

⁶So Moses and Aaron said to all the people of Israel, "By evening you will realize it was the Lord who brought you out of the land of Egypt. ⁷In the morning you will see the glory of the Lord, because he has heard your complaints, which are against him, not against us. What have we done that you should complain about us?" ⁸Then Moses added, "The Lord will give you meat to eat in the evening and bread to satisfy you in the morning, for he has heard all your

complaints against him. What have we done? Yes, your complaints are against the Lord, not against us.”

⁹Then Moses said to Aaron, “Announce this to the entire community of Israel: ‘Present yourselves before the Lord, for he has heard your complaining.’”

Num.11:4-6 (MSG)

⁴⁻⁶The riffraff among the people had a craving and soon they had the People of Israel whining, “Why can’t we have meat? We ate fish in Egypt—and got it free!—to say nothing of the cucumbers and melons, the leeks and onions and garlic. But nothing tastes good out here; all we get is manna, manna, manna.”

Reflect: The Jews who had witnessed Jesus’ feeding of the 5000 showed the same attitude as their forebears who murmured before (Ex.16:2, 8-9) and after the manna/bread was provided (Num.11:4ff). As an antidote to grumbling, rather than saying, “Why is this happening **to** me?”, we should ask, “Why is this happening **for** me?” Only Jesus can change an ungrateful spirit.

Tuesday

Jn.6:42 (NLT)

⁴²They said, “Isn’t this Jesus, the son of Joseph? We know his father and mother. How can he say, ‘I came down from heaven’?”

John 1:14 (NIV)

¹⁴The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

Colossians 1:15-16 (PHILLIPS)

¹⁵⁻¹⁶Now Christ is the visible expression of the invisible God. He existed before creation began, for it was through him that everything was made, whether spiritual or material, seen or unseen. Through him, and for him, also, were created power and dominion, ownership and authority. In fact, every single thing was created through, and for him.

Reflect: The Jews couldn’t grasp how this man- “the son of Joseph, whose father and mother we know”- could say that He came down from Heaven. They thought they knew Jesus’ father, but they were wrong. They assumed they had a connection with God, but they were wrong.

Wednesday

John 6:43-45 (NLT)

⁴³ But Jesus replied, “Stop complaining about what I said. ⁴⁴ For no one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws them to me, and at the last day I will raise them up. ⁴⁵ As it is written in the Scriptures, ‘They will all be taught by God.’ Everyone who listens to the Father and learns from him comes to me.

Isaiah 54:1, 13 (ESV)

“Sing, O barren one, who did not bear;
break forth into singing and cry aloud,
you who have not been in labour!

For the children of the desolate one will be more
than the children of her who is married,” says the Lord...

¹³ All your children shall be taught by the Lord,
and great shall be the peace of your children.

Galatians 4:25-26 (ESV)

²⁵ Now Hagar is Mount Sinai in Arabia; she corresponds to the present Jerusalem, for she is in slavery with her children. ²⁶ But the Jerusalem above is free, and she is our mother. ²⁷ For it is written, "Rejoice, O barren one who does not bear; break forth and cry aloud, you who are not in labour! For the children of the desolate one will be more than those of the one who has a husband."

Reflect: *'They will all be taught by God,'* (Jn.6:45) was a promise (cited from Is.54:13) given for the exiled Jews in Babylon that God would bring them back to Himself. The NT applies this passage (see Is.54:1) to the New Jerusalem which all believers inherit (Gal.4:26). Praise God that His intention was always to bring salvation to people from all nations and that all believers have been enfolded into the promises given to Abraham!

Thursday

Hebrews 12:22-24 (ESV)

²² But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to innumerable angels in festal gathering, ²³ and to the assembly of the firstborn who are enrolled in heaven, and to God, the judge of all, and to the spirits of the righteous made perfect, ²⁴ and to Jesus, the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood that speaks a better word than the blood of Abel.

Revelation 21:1-4 (ESV)

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. ² And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. ³ And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God. ⁴ He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away."

Reflect: What the Jews of John 6 didn't understand was that Jesus was the mediator of the new covenant in which believers in Him from all nations would get to walk in the New Jerusalem. When your feeling down, look up and remember the joy that lies before us.

Friday

John 6:46-51 (NLT)

⁴⁶ (Not that anyone has ever seen the Father; only I, who was sent from God, have seen him.)
⁴⁷ "I tell you the truth, anyone who believes has eternal life. ⁴⁸ Yes, I am the bread of life!⁴⁹ Your ancestors ate manna in the wilderness, but they all died. ⁵⁰ Anyone who eats the bread from heaven, however, will never die. ⁵¹ I am the living bread that came down from heaven. Anyone who eats this bread will live forever; and this bread, which I will offer so the world may live, is my flesh."

Reflect: The Jews' ancestors received manna from heaven and, although it could sustain natural life it could not provide eternal life- they died. Jesus on the other hand is the bread that comes down from heaven whoever eats of him won't die. Eating is a metaphor meaning to believe/place one's faith in Jesus. The bread that He gave for the life of the world was His flesh. Jesus speaks of giving His flesh (dying) for the life of the world.

Saturday

John 6:52-56 (NLT)

⁵² Then the people began arguing with each other about what he meant. "How can this man give us his flesh to eat?" they asked.

⁵³ So Jesus said again, "I tell you the truth, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you cannot have eternal life within you. ⁵⁴ But anyone who eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise that person at the last day. ⁵⁵ For my flesh is true food, and my blood is true drink. ⁵⁶ Anyone who eats my flesh and drinks my blood remains in me, and I in him.

Reflect: Jesus doesn't only say that they must eat His flesh to have eternal life- but they must drink his blood. The Jew would have been only too aware of the OT command which stated, "...*you shall eat flesh with its life, that is its blood*" (Gen.9:4). The Christian is saved by the shedding of Jesus' blood- His life given on our behalf. WHEN WE PUT OUR FAITH IN JESUS IT IS HIS VERY LIFE WHICH COURSES THROUGH OUR VEINS.

Sunday

John 6:57-59 (NLT)

⁵⁷ I live because of the living Father who sent me; in the same way, anyone who feeds on me will live because of me. ⁵⁸ I am the true bread that came down from heaven. Anyone who eats this bread will not die as your ancestors did (even though they ate the manna) but will live forever."

⁵⁹ He said these things while he was teaching in the synagogue in Capernaum.

Reflect: - The word "feed" in verse 57 means to munch like an animal. A Christian isn't someone who once upon a time believed, got their ticket to heaven and then went on with their life as if nothing happened. A Christian is one who lives within a continuous state of believing. They are 'faith-filled' people forever "feeding" on Jesus.