

The title for today's message is: **Bread of Another Kind**

Jesus said: *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.*

Grace and peace to you from God the Father and our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

Most of us have heard the saying "A cat has nine lives." Not true! A cat has only one life.

Its only human's like you and me who have, or at least are meant to have, more than one life.

That's right, God intends that you and I have two lives. One called human life, you know life through our parents.

And one spiritual life, a life with God Himself in heaven for eternity. It's a life that God nourishes through Baptism, the Lord's supper, and the Gospel.

In short, God's design is that we are to be born and then born again. In fact, unless the second birth occurs, we cannot enter the Kingdom of Heaven.

Do you remember what Jesus told Nicodemus in John chapter 3 He said: *"I tell you the truth, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless he is born of water and the Spirit. ... You must be born again."*

So again, were designed for two kinds of life, human life, and Spiritual life, and we need two kinds of bread, we need bodily bread, and heavenly bread.

And that brings us to our text for today as we hear Jesus speak to this truth. But sadly, once again, we see people who just don't get it.

Jesus might as well have been speaking to a wall, and maybe you could say He was, with 5,000 plus people and all, that's a big wall.

And today people are just as far out in left field when it comes to understanding today's gospel as was the 5,000.

Now, today's gospel is not about a meal, nor bread falling down from heaven to fill our stomachs.

No! Its all about the importance of understanding the difference between the two breads, physical bread, and heavenly bread.

Its interesting what Jesus says at the beginning of our text. Remember, He's speaking to the same 5,000 plus people, He fed earlier.

He said: *"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."*

My friends, what these people saw that day was free food, enough that they could eat as much as they wanted.

They simply saw Jesus as a meal ticket, a meal ticket they wanted to last forever so they wanted Jesus to be their king. That is a worldly king.

They dreamed of the easy lifestyle a King like Jesus would provide them. A king that not only heals the sick, but also provides bread and fish to eat.

Well I guess you can't blame them, Jesus had just given them a taste of the easy life. Something many today are searching for.

Bread, especially in Jesus' day's was the center point of life, it was not only eaten, but it was held up high spiritually as well.

Bread was the very symbol of life as they knew it, and it was often used to symbolize spiritual blessings.

For example, we all know the story of the Exodus, where for 40 years the Israelites were fed Manna, meaning bread.

That along with some Quail at evening time, Manna was the one main food that saved the Israelites from starving in the desert.

The Manna was held so high spiritually that every day some would be placed in the "Most Holy Place" within the temple.

A very special place, where only the high priests were allowed to enter. Look the bread symbolized God's provision for His people.

And in reading today's gospel, its clear that bread was still a very important thing in the lives of the people.

Yet sadly for many, they were following Jesus only because they wanted to see, if He would continue feeding them.

These are the same people who in verse 14 said: *"Surely this is the Prophet who is to come into the world."*

The prophet who is to come into the world! This had to mean, they thought of Jesus as being the promised Messiah.

Yet, they still saw it necessary to test Him. They wanted Jesus to prove to them who He was, by yet another miraculous sign.

In those days, it was a popular belief that when the Messiah did come, He would start the flow of Manna from heaven once again.

Another words, they were looking for someone who would provide them with bread to eat, just as during the Exodus.

You see, these people were looking for more, because they were quickly growing weary of Jesus.

They started thinking about Moses and how he had provided bread for 3½ million Jews, yet, this Jesus had only provided bread for 5,000.

And how Moses had provided this bread for 40 years; where as Jesus had only provided them with bread for one day, so far.

And to think Moses provided bread from heaven, yet Jesus had simply multiplied bread from a basket.

Now, can you see the problem here? They saw what Moses did as much more miraculous, than what Jesus did.

Of course, they once again had it all wrong. First of all it was God, not Moses, who sent down Manna from heaven

And secondly, they were only focused on bread that one eats, not on the bread that never spoils, spiritual bread, our Lord Jesus Christ Himself.

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.*

They, as many of us today, are blind to just how empty our souls are, that were all starving for spiritual bread.

You know, its sad to see people spend their whole lives consuming the stuff of the world, and not satisfying their spiritual hunger pains.

My friends, the things of this world, will never satisfy our hunger. And we simply wait until its too late before we realize our spiritual condition.

Author George Orwell once described it in this way:

He wrote of a wasp that was eating a spot of jam on his plate, and how he took a butter knife and cut the wasp in half.

He said, the wasp paid no attention to what just happened, and merely went on eating its meal.

And that it wasn't until the wasp tried to fly away, that it realize what condition it was in. But then it was too late.

He said; many people today, have a lot in common with that wasp. That It seems people could care less about their spiritual condition.

Because its not very popular or political correct to read the bible and believe in the Lord our God.

Instead, more and more people believe in the sweetness of the world, selfishly focusing on worldly things.

And that its only when it's time for them to fly away so to speak, that they will grasp the seriousness of their spiritual condition. But then its too late.

For many of us, we think our relationship with the material things of the world are more important than our relationship with God.

And many church's today, are falling into this way of thinking too, there telling their congregations that if they truly believe in God.

Then their life will be blessed with prosperity and wealth. And when that doesn't happen, their told their faith is too weak.

Bologna! That's just not true. Nowhere did our Lord ever promise fat bank accounts to His faithful believers, nowhere did God say that!

Yes, it is true, God will provide for our physical needs, but He's more interested in feeding our souls, rather than our stomachs, or bank accounts.

But the problem is, people, many people, still can't see that they still have a tendency to desire bread for their stomach rather than for their soul.

Look, Jesus hasn't ever offered anyone the sweetness of this world, except for maybe Adam and Eve.

What Jesus offers us, is true nourishment for body and soul and in return He asks us to trust in Him to give us what we need. That's it!

And what He gives us is Himself. He came as the fulfillment of God's promise of salvation and entered this world to live for us, and to die for us.

He came to ensure forgiveness of our sins, so that we might receive Him completely, and unconditionally.

Indeed Manna from heaven had fallen that day in our text; its just that the people couldn't see it, for what it truly was.

Again Jesus was trying to show them, as well as you and I here today, that He is the Manna in the ultimate sense of the word!

And God continues to this day to provide us with this life saving bread that lasts forever never spoiling.

He wants us to know that whoever partakes of Him in faith, will never go hungry or thirsty, and best of all, will never perish.

Jesus is our nourishment and He is the One who offers forgiveness, peace, and freedom from guilt and shame.

My friends, we need to take Jesus home with us today and every day, so that we can continue to feed upon His Word.

Remember Jesus said: *I am the bread of life.* Amen.

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all. Amen.