

Make Church a Part of Your Life

WEEKLY SERMONETTE



"Jesus, The Bread of Life"

By Pastor Rick Rostek, Immanuel Lutheran Church

When Jesus used just a few loaves of bread and a few fish to feed the 5000, it took the people back to the time of their ancestors, those whom God had released from slavery in Egypt. They remembered how Moses fed them in the wilderness with the manna that God provided from heaven. They had visions of Jesus doing the same thing, so much so that they wanted to make Him king. The problem was that they were selectively remembering their history.

To be sure, the Israelites ate manna in a wilderness that was otherwise short on food. The manna was nutritious, and it satisfied their hunger. But they really didn't like it. What the Israelites longed for, amazingly, was the food they ate when they were enslaved: fish, cucumbers, melons, etc. Out in the wilderness manna. For 40 years, they ate this food from God, and for 40 years they despised it, even though they were no longer slaves.

The people of Jesus' time were essentially asking for "manna", in this case, food provided by Jesus. No doubt, however, that these folks would have gotten tired of the food Jesus provided,

just like their ancestors did. Knowing this, Jesus offers them something else: "I am the bread of life." He offers Himself, who would die for the sin of the word and who would rise from the dead.

Now, this isn't what the people came to Jesus seeking. They wanted something that would satisfy their immediate desires. They had eaten the food Jesus provided, and after getting hungry again, they wanted more. Jesus offers Himself so that they would hunger and thirst no more. He is the true bread that comes down from heaven.

This caused even more grumbling among the people. So finally, Jesus lays it on the line: "Your fathers ate the manna in the wilderness, and they died... I am the living bread that came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever" (John 6:49-41 ESV).

We have this bread of life when we believe that Jesus really did die on the cross for the forgiveness of our sins and that He really did rise from the dead. Through these we have everlasting life, and Jesus will raise us up on the last day.

Weekly Scripture Reading

- * Exodus 16:1-36
- Numbers 20:1-13
- Deuteronomy 1:4-2:25
- Deuteronomy 5:1-33
- Deuteronomy 11:1-32
- Deuteronomy 26:16-27:10
- Deuteronomy 30:1-20
- * Scriptures Selected by the American Bible Society

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UPCOMING EVENTS in Kansas

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August 30 - September 3, Hoisington
Fun events for the entire family. 29th Annual Demotion Derby & outdoor dance. Car show, 5k race, carnival & parade. (620) 653-4311, hoisingtonkansan.com

Cowhand's & Corriente's Championship Ranch Rodeo
September 1-2, Dodge City
The best of championship ranch rodeo! Real cowboys show off their skills. Family-friendly event. Live music by Hometown Truff. cvhorses.com

Rail Fest 2012
September 1-3, Baldwin City
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Disney's THE LION KING
September 4-30, Wichita
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Autumn & Art at Bradley Fair
September 14-16, Wichita
A juried visual arts show with artists from across the U.S. Enjoy art from a variety of mediums. Hands-on children's art activities, food & music. (877) 934-3378, autumnandart.com

Wagonmasters Chili Cook-Off
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