
ARE YOU HUNGRY

ABINGTON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

8-15-2021

Prayer

Good Morning!

Thank You and Acknowledgements

It is an honor to not only be in church with you, but a privilege to be up here and an even greater opportunity to worship with you and experience the presence of God with you this morning. I would like to thank Pastor Kirby Lawrence Hill, the leaders, and members of Abington Presbyterian Church, for allowing me the privileged opportunity to worship and experience the presence of God with you this morning. I would also like to thank my beautiful wife Rev. Dr. Jade Bass, [who is preaching at another church this morning] for all her love, patience, and support. I would also like to thank Jesus Christ my Lord and savior for also allowing me the opportunity to preach this morning.

Old Testament

1 Kings 2:10–12, 3:3–14

¹⁰ Then David slept with his fathers and was buried in the city of David.

¹¹ And the time that David reigned over Israel was forty years. He reigned seven years in Hebron and thirty-three years in Jerusalem. ¹² So Solomon sat on the throne of David his father, and his kingdom was firmly established.

³ Solomon loved the Lord, walking in the statutes of David his father, only he sacrificed and made offerings at the high places. ⁴ And the king went to Gibeon to sacrifice there, for that was the great high place. Solomon used to offer a thousand burnt offerings on that altar. ⁵ At Gibeon the Lord appeared to Solomon in a dream by night, and God said, "Ask what I shall give you." ⁶ And Solomon said, "You have shown great and steadfast love to your servant David my father, because he walked before you in faithfulness, in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart toward you. And you have kept for him this great and steadfast love and have given him a son to sit on his throne this day. ⁷ And now, O Lord my God, you have made your servant king in place of David my father, although I am but a little child. I do not know how to go out or come in. ⁸ And your servant is in the midst of your people whom you have chosen, a great people, too many to be numbered or counted for multitude. ⁹ Give your servant therefore an understanding mind to govern your people, that I may discern between good and evil, for who is able to govern this your great people?"

¹⁰ It pleased the Lord that Solomon had asked this. ¹¹ And God said to him, "Because you have asked this, and have not asked for yourself long life or riches or the life of your enemies, but have asked for yourself understanding to discern what is right, ¹² behold, I now do according to your word. Behold, I give you a wise and discerning mind, so that none like you has been before you and none like you shall arise after you. ¹³ I give you also what you have not asked, both riches and honor, so that no other

king shall compare with you, all your days. ¹⁴ And if you will walk in my ways, keeping my statutes and my commandments, as your father David walked, then I will lengthen your days.” ¹

John 6:51-58

Reading from the ESV – [re-read verses 12-13, then verse 12a]

New Testament

John 6:51-58

The Living Bread

⁵¹ I am the living bread that came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever. And the bread that I will give for the life of the world is my flesh.”

⁵² The Jews then disputed among themselves, saying, “How can this man give us his flesh to eat?” ⁵³ So Jesus said to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you. ⁵⁴ Whoever feeds on my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day. ⁵⁵ For my flesh is true food, and my blood is true drink. ⁵⁶ Whoever feeds on my flesh and drinks my blood abides in me, and I in him. ⁵⁷ As the living Father sent me, and I live because of the Father, so whoever feeds on me, he also will live because of me. ⁵⁸ This is the bread that came down from heaven, not like the bread³ the fathers ate, and died. Whoever feeds on this bread will live forever.” ²

¹ [Revised Common Lectionary](#) (Bellingham, WA: Faithlife, 2009).

² [Revised Common Lectionary](#) (Bellingham, WA: Faithlife, 2009).

Are You Hungry?

Text

1 Kings 2:10-12, 3:3-14:

My Old Testament text for today is 1 Kings 2:10-12, 3:3-14. Please turn with me and pray if you would. The text begins where there is a generational transition from Daavid's rule to the rule of Solomon. David was a wise and respected ruler who conquered the Philistines and others and there was now peace in the land. David turned to the LORD and sought advice from God especially when he was running from Saul. David also penned many psalms as part of the wisdom literature contained in the Bible and is now passing the gauntlet to his son Solomon to rule and protect Israel. In order to carry out this mandate Solomon in order to effectively govern realizes that he can't do this alone and needs divine intervention and assistance from the LORD.

Now let's turn to the text.

1 KINGS 2:10-12, 3:3-14 – A LITTLE FOOD GOES A LONG WAY

v. 42 ⁴² **A man came from Baal-shalishah, bringing the man of God bread of the firstfruits, twenty loaves of barley and fresh ears of grain in his sack. And Elisha said, "Give to the men, that they may eat."**³

In the Old Testament there were those that revered the prophets and would bring their first fruits to them as an offering which would help sustain them and their prophetic schools. The amount of food was a generous offering, where each loaf was probably enough to feed one person. There were not 20 but 100 persons present. Elisha receives the food and orders it

³ [*Revised Common Lectionary*](#) (Bellingham, WA: Faithlife, 2009).

all to be given to the sons of the prophets and he unselfishly keeps none for himself.

v. 43 ⁴³ **But his servant said, "How can I set this before a hundred men?" So he repeated, "Give them to the men, that they may eat, for thus says the LORD, 'They shall eat and have some left.'4**

The servant looks at the food and the amount of people that he was told to serve and questions the request. He visualized the amount of food would only frustrate the prophets and fall short of satisfying their hunger, especially during a famine. Elisha looks at the food and tells the servant to set the food before them, that they shall not only eat, but prophesizes that here would be some left over and again tells the servant to set the food before them with a word from the LORD.

v. 44 ⁴³ **But his servant said, "How can I set this before a hundred men?" So he repeated, "Give them to the men, that they may eat, for thus says the Lord, 'They shall eat and have some left.'5**

Elisha must repeat the order for the servant to serve several times. Elisha in God's name pronounces it a full meal and proves that they did eat not because of their stomachs shrinking but based on the bread increasing as they ate. Elisha takes a first fruits offering given to the prophets, blesses it and shares it with the community of prophets who can eat as the blessing grows to serve all present with some left over. When we give of our first fruits as an offering God can use it and abundantly bless others.

This may not seem to measure up to the miracle of Christs feeding miracle, but both texts teach us to wait, not to give up and have hope in the divine care and providence of God.

They shall eat and have some left.

Bread of Heaven

⁴ [*Revised Common Lectionary*](#) (Bellingham, WA: Faithlife, 2009).

⁵ [*Revised Common Lectionary*](#) (Bellingham, WA: Faithlife, 2009).

Now let us turn to our New Testament text:

JOHN 6:1-21 JESUS FEEDS THE FIVE THOUSAND

v. 1-4 ***After this Jesus went away to the other side of the Sea of Galilee, which is the Sea of Tiberias. ² And a large crowd was following him, because they saw the signs that he was doing on the sick. ³ Jesus went up on ^mthe mountain, and there he sat down with his disciples. ⁴ Now ⁿthe Passover, the feast of the Jews, was at hand.⁶***

This is the only Christ miracle event recorded in all four gospels with the recording of both time and place. Jesus sees the crowd approaching him, so he goes up a mountain and sits before them with his disciples sharing space with them seated in a seat of authority ready for the people as they come before him. Many were curious and drawn by the miracles, but while not allowing their consciousnesses to be open and convinced by the power and authority of them.

v. 5-10 ***⁵ Lifting up his eyes, then, and seeing that a large crowd was coming toward him, Jesus said to Philip, "Where are we to buy bread, so that these people may eat?" ⁶ He said this to test him, for he himself knew what he would do. ⁷ Philip answered him, "Two hundred denarii¹ worth of bread would not be enough for each of them to get a little." ⁸ One of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, said to him, ⁹ "There is a boy here who has five barley***

^m ver. 15

ⁿ ch. 2:13; 11:55; See Ex. 12

⁶ [*The Holy Bible: English Standard Version*](#) (Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles, 2016), Jn 6:1–4.

¹ A denarius was a day's wage for a laborer

loaves and two fish, but what are they for so many?"¹⁰ Jesus said, "Have the people sit down." Now there was much grass in the place. So the men sat down, about five thousand in number.⁷

Jesus puts a question to his disciples to see how they would respond knowing full well what he intended to do. Philip from the budget and finance committees estimates the enormous amount of money needed to feed the multitude of people which was not in the budget. We hear from Andrew the brother of Peter from the missions committee stating we only have a boy with five barley loaves and two fish, and the property committee is concerned about the condition of the grass. They were perceiving things in the natural and Jesus was looking through the lens of faith at the supernatural.

v.11-13 ¹¹Jesus then took the loaves, and when he had given thanks, he distributed them to those who were seated. So also the fish, as much as they wanted. ¹²And when they had eaten their fill, he told his disciples, "Gather up the leftover fragments, that nothing may be lost."¹³ So they gathered them up and filled twelve baskets with fragments from the five barley loaves left by those who had eaten.⁸

Here again we have an offering. This time from a young boy who gives all that he has for the benefit of the crowd following Jesus. Jesus gives thanks for what and the type of food they have and gratefully distributes the loaves and the fishes to those that are seated without taking some for himself while giving away all of the offering to others. When they had eaten their fill the leftover fragments were more than what they had when they started.

⁷ [The Holy Bible: English Standard Version](#) (Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles, 2016), Jn 6:4–10.

⁸ [The Holy Bible: English Standard Version](#) (Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles, 2016), Jn 6:11–13.

Christ who fed them with the bread of life now feeds their bodies as well. He is concerned about their well being in that there are both rich and poor among the people. We are encouraged to pray for our daily bread and Jesus sets an example to remind us to feed and have compassion for the poor as well.

Philip could not see a solution to feeding the crowd. When visible means or solutions to problems do not show themselves are we willing to wait and trust God for what we can not see.

v. 14-15 ¹⁴ ***When the people saw the sign that he had done, they said, "This is indeed the Prophet who is to come into the world!"***

¹⁵ ***Perceiving then that they were about to come and take him by force to make him king, Jesus withdrew again to the mountain by himself.*** ⁹

Jesus immediately leaves when he perceives that they are about to make him an earthly king when his kingdom was not earthen, but heavenly. They were looking for a king to rule them and free them from the Roman government.

Jesus Walks on Water

v. 16-21 ¹⁶ ***When evening came, his disciples went down to the sea, ¹⁷ got into a boat, and started across the sea to Capernaum. It was now dark, and Jesus had not yet come to them. ¹⁸ The sea became rough because a strong wind was blowing. ¹⁹ When they had rowed about three or four miles,² they saw Jesus walking on the sea and coming near the boat, and they were frightened. ²⁰ But he said to them, "It is I; do not be afraid." ²¹ Then they were glad to***

⁹ [The Holy Bible: English Standard Version](#) (Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles, 2016), Jn 6:14–15.

² Greek twenty-five or thirty stadia; a stadion was about 607 feet or 185 meters

take him into the boat, and immediately the boat was at the land to which they were going. ¹⁰

In this passage we have the disciples now by themselves facing strong winds blowing again with no visible solution and without perceiving that their savior is close by and concerned about their fate. They see their answer coming towards them and they are afraid not knowing what it was. Jesus identifying himself, calls to them telling them to not be afraid. They were glad to take him into the boat. The text does not say that the strong winds stop blowing, but it does say that they immediately reached their land destination.

Bread of Heaven

IN CLOSING

Elisha in our 2 Kings Old Testament text encourages us through our trials and dire situations to focus on God's provision and providence to feed us the bread of heaven with some left over. Jesus reminds us that we may not always see the visible solution, but that we are not alone and have Jesus who is concerned about our needs, even when we are afraid and cannot see Jesus coming towards us. God's grace is there for us as we believe and have faith that God already has the answer and is waiting for us to have faith, believe, and wait for the Bread of Heaven to come into our boats of distress, Immediately we will be on the other side.

No matter what our issues are, long or short term, when we touch the Lord in faith he responds to our needs, even when things may seem hopeless and in despair, God is still on the throne and sovereign over our life's

¹⁰ [*The Holy Bible: English Standard Version*](#) (Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles, 2016), Jn 6:16–21.

circumstances. Jesus died on the cross and is willing to share the power of his resurrection with us through our faith in God.

Are You Hungry?

Inclosing I would like to read from **Proverbs 9:1-6** and **Psalms 34:9-14**:

OLD TESTAMENT

Proverbs 9:1-6

- 9** Wisdom has built her house;
she has hewn her seven pillars.
2 She has slaughtered her beasts; she has mixed her wine;
she has also set her table.
3 She has sent out her young women to call
from the highest places in the town,
4 "Whoever is simple, let him turn in here!"
To him who lacks sense she says,
5 "Come, eat of my bread
and drink of the wine I have mixed.
6 Leave your simple ways, and live,
and walk in the way of insight."

PSALM

Psalms 34:9-14

- 9** Oh, fear the LORD, you his saints,
for those who fear him have no lack!
10 The young lions suffer want and hunger;
but those who seek the LORD lack no good thing.
11 Come, O children, listen to me;
I will teach you the fear of the LORD.
12 What man is there who desires life
and loves many days, that he may see good?
13 Keep your tongue from evil
and your lips from speaking deceit.

14 Turn away from evil and do good;
seek peace and pursue it. ¹¹

Are you able to always see the visible solutions?

When issues or concerns come our way,

Do not fear, have faith, only believe!

We have the Living Bread and the Cup of Salvation

Are You Hungry?

May, the Lord's name be praised.

Thanks, be to God!

¹¹ [*Revised Common Lectionary*](#) (Bellingham, WA: Faithlife, 2009).

NEW TESTAMENT

John 6:51-58 The Passion Translation

The Living Bread

6 ⁵¹ I alone am this living Bread that has come to you from heaven. Eat this Bread and you will live forever. The living Bread I give you is my body, which I will offer as a sacrifice so that all may live.”

⁵² These words of Jesus sparked an angry outburst among the Jews. They protested, saying, “Does this man expect us to eat his body?”

⁵³ Jesus replied to them, “Listen to this eternal truth: Unless you eat the body of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you will not have eternal life.

⁵⁴ Eternal life comes to the one who eats my body^c and drinks my blood, and I will raise him up in the last day. ⁵⁵ For my body is real food for your spirit and my blood is real drink. ⁵⁶ The one who eats my body and drinks my blood lives in me and I live in him.^d ⁵⁷ The Father of life sent me, and he is my life. In the same way, the one who feeds upon me, I will become his life. ⁵⁸ I am not like the bread your ancestors ate and later died. I am the living Bread that comes from heaven. Eat this Bread and you will live forever!” ¹²

^c To eat his flesh is to take into our life by faith all that Jesus did for us by giving his body for us. To drink his blood is to take by faith all that the blood of Jesus has purchased for us. This “eating” and “drinking” is receiving the life, power, and virtue of all that Jesus is to replace all that we were in Adam. Jesus’ blood and body is the Tree of Life, which is offered to everyone who follows him.

^d The Aramaic is “He that eats my body and drinks my blood is strengthened in me and I in him.”

¹² Brian Simmons, tran., [*The Passion Translation: New Testament*](#) (BroadStreet Publishing, 2017), Jn 6:51–59.

