

The Results of Our Lord's Discourse on the Bread of Life John 6:52-71

by R.A. Torrey

Jesus teaches that faith in Him is the only way to obtain eternal life, and that those who truly believe in Him will never hunger or thirst.

Scripture: John 6:53

Topics: "Eternal Life", "Spiritual Nourishment"

Description

R.A. Torrey explores the profound implications of Jesus' teaching on the Bread of Life in John 6:52-71, emphasizing the necessity of spiritually consuming Christ's flesh and blood for eternal life. He highlights the struggle of many disciples to accept this teaching, leading to their eventual departure, while Peter's confession affirms the belief that Jesus holds the words of eternal life. Torrey underscores the importance of understanding Jesus' words as spirit and life, and the distinction between true disciples who remain and those who falter in their faith. The sermon calls believers to recognize the unique relationship with Christ that grants eternal life and the necessity of partaking in His sacrifice.

Transcript

DISCOVERY OF THE FACTS

1. Eating the Flesh and Drinking the Blood of Our Lord, vv. 52-59 What was the first result of His wonderful discourse (v. 52)? Did His words cause strife on any other occasion? (7:40-43; 9:16; 10:19.) Is it anything against one's teaching that his words cause discussion and contention? What question puzzled the hearers of our Lord? Why could they not understand? (1 Cor. 2:14.) Are His words in this instance difficult to understand? Did He explain their meaning? What was the explanation (vv. 53, 54)?

What did He say would be the result of any one's eating His flesh and drinking His blood (v. 54)? How does He tell us elsewhere that one obtains eternal life? (vv. 39, 40-47; John 5:24; 3:36.) How then do we eat His flesh and drink His blood? In what way does this bring to us eternal life? (Gal. 3:13; 2 Cor. 5:21; 1 Peter 2:24; Heb. 9:22.) How do we appropriate to ourselves the good there is in any article of food? How do we appropriate to ourselves the life that has been purchased for us by the offering of the body and the shedding of the blood of Jesus Christ? (Ro. 3:25, R.)

V.) In what ordinance of the church is set forth the truth that our Lord here teaches? (Matt. 26:26-28.) Can one partake of the Lord's supper without really eating the flesh of the Son of man and drinking His blood? (1 Cor. 11:27-29, R. V.) What will be the result if a man does not eat the flesh of Jesus and drink His blood? (v. 53; compare 3:36; 1 John 5:12.) What will be the result if one does? (v. 54.) How many of these obtain eternal life? Is eternal life something they have hereafter or something they have now? (3:36; 5:24.)

What will our Lord do for them hereafter? When does the resurrection of believers take place? (v. 54; 1 Thess. 4:16.) Whom did our Lord say earlier in His discourse He would raise up at the last day (v. 40)? What does He say about His flesh and His blood in v. 55, R. V. margin? Why is His flesh meat indeed and His blood true drink? What further result comes from eating the flesh and drinking the blood of our Lord? (v. 56, R. V.; 14:20, 23; 15:4, 5; 17:21-23; Eph. 3:17; 1 John 3:24; 4:12, 15, 16, R.)

V.) Have you eaten His flesh and drank His blood? What does He call God in v. 57? What is meant? (Jer. 10:10; 1 John 1:9; Heb. 9:14.) How did our Lord say He lived? (v. 57, R. V.; 2 Cor. 13:4.) What thought does this teach us as to the relation of the Son to the Father? Has Jesus Christ life in Himself? (5:26.) How did He come to have life in Himself? (5:26.) While He lived because of the Father, how does the one who eateth Him live (v. 57, R. V.)? How does He sum His teaching up in v. 58?

What type of Jesus as the Bread of life is found in the Old Testament? At what point did the type fall short of the reality (v. 58)? If one wishes to live forever, what must he do (v. 58)? Where did our Lord teach these things? Was He in the habit of teaching in the synagogue? (ch. 18:20). 2. Our Lord Forsaken by Many of His Disciples, vv. 60-66 What comment did many of His disciples make upon these words? What did they mean by calling it a hard saying? Was it a hard saying?

Are there things difficult to understand in the words of our Lord and in other Scriptures? (Heb. 5:11; 2 Peter 3:16.) Is that any reason why we should not believe them? Why are the Scriptures difficult for us to understand? (Heb. 5:11; 1 Cor. 2:14.) How can we come to understand them? (John 7:17; 14:26; 16:12, 13; 1 John 2:20, 27.) How did our Lord know that His disciples were murmuring at His teaching? (vv. 61, 64; 2:24, 25; Heb. 4:13; Rev. 2:23.) What does it prove about Him that He knew the thoughts of men? (2 Chron. 6:30.)

What did He say when He read the hearts of His disciples and saw they were murmuring at His teaching (vv. 61, 62, R. V.)? What was the point of this question? Has He ascended to where He was before? (Mark 16:19; Luke 24:51; Acts 1:9; Eph. 4:8-10; 1 Peter 3:22.) Where had He been before He came into this world? (3:13; 16:28; 17:5; Phil. 2:6, Am. R. V.) What is it that makes alive? (v. 63; Ro. 8:2; 2 Cor. 3:6; Gal. 5:25.) From whom does all life come? What did He say of the words that He spoke (v. 63)?

In what sense are His words spirit and life? (v. 68; 12:50; Ps. 119:50, 93; Heb. 4:12, R. V.; Jas. 1:18; 1 Peter 1:23.) What instrument does the Holy Spirit use in quickening or imparting life? What did our Lord say of some that professed to be His disciples? (vv. 64, 36, 61; 5:42; 8:23, 38-47; 10:26; 13:10, 18-21.) Are there any today among His professed followers who do not really believe? Do you really believe? Was He surprised? How had He known? (2:24, 25; Ps. 139:2-4.) Does He today know who among His disciples are real? (2 Tim. 2:19; Heb. 4:13.)

What was the effect of this teaching upon many of His disciples? Were those who went back real disciples? (John 8:31.) Who else in the Bible was deserted by many of his professed disciples? (2 Tim. 1:15; 4:10.) Does it prove that one is not a true and skillful teacher that many of his disciples afterwards desert him? Why did many of our Lord's disciples desert Him? (Matt. 13:20, 21.) Did any of His apparently

enthusiastic disciples desert Him after this? (Matt. 19:20-22; 21:8-11; 27:20-25.)

What judgment did He pronounce in another place upon those who turn back? (Luke 9:62) What does it prove when one deserts Him? (1 John 2:19.) Will those who really believe ever go back? (Heb. 10:38, 39.) 3. "To Whom Shall We Go? Thou Hast the Words of Eternal Life," vv. 67-71 What question did our Lord put to the Twelve when He saw the multitude deserting Him? To whom does He put that question today? What was Peter's answer? Is there any one else to whom we can go if we leave the Lord? (Acts 4:12; Ps. 73:25; 1 John 5:11-13.)

What did Peter say our Lord had? What is meant by "words of eternal life"? (5:24; 20:31; 1 John 5:13; Ro. 10:17.) Do His words really bring eternal life to those who receive them? What confession of faith did Peter make? Is a similar confession found anywhere else? (1:29, 41, 45-49; 11:27; 20:28, 31; Matt. 16:16.) Why did the confession mean more now than on former occasions? Did Peter go beyond believing that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God? Was he right? Are you sure that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the living God?

What did Jesus say of one of the twelve? What did He mean by saying that Judas Iscariot was a devil? (13:2; 8:44; 13:27; Acts 13:10; 1 John 3:8.) Did He ever call any one of the other disciples a devil? (Matt. 16:23.) CLASSIFICATION OF TEACHINGS

1. The Father

Living, source of all life, sent the Son, 57; gives to man to come unto the Son, 65.

2. Jesus Christ

(1). What He was:

Divine, Son of the living Father, knew men's thoughts, pre-existent, 60-64, 69, 71; human--had flesh and blood, 54, 55, 56; Son of man, 54, 56, 62; subordinate to, lived by, sent by the Father, 57; the Christ, 69; the true bread that came down from heaven, 58.

(2). His relation to man:

No life can be had except through Him, 53; every one who eats His flesh and drinks His blood has eternal life, 54; His flesh true meat and His blood true drink, 55; He dwells in the one who eats His flesh and drinks His blood, 56.

(3). What He did:

Taught in the synagogues, 51; imparted eternal life to those who fed upon Him, 58; knew men's thoughts, 61, 64, 70, 71; chose the Twelve, chose a devil among the Twelve, 70; spoke words of eternal life, 68; ascended again to the Father, 62.

(4). What He will do:

He will raise up at the last day every one who eats His flesh and drinks His blood, 54.

(5). How He was treated:

Murmured at by many of His disciples, 60, 61; betrayed by one of the Twelve, 64, 70, 71; forsaken by many disciples, 66.

(6). His words:

Sometimes hard to understand, 60; are spirit and life, 63; sometimes led professed disciples to desert Him, 66; bring eternal life, 68.

3. The Spirit

He quickeneth, 63.

4. The Disciples

(1). Professed but not real disciples:

Did not understand His teachings, 52; murmured, 61; stumbled at, 60; did not really believe His teachings, 64; deserted, walked no more with Him, 66.

(2). True disciples:

Recognized that our Lord had the words of eternal life, had no one else to whom to go except to Jesus Christ Himself, 68; believed and knew that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the living God, 69.

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