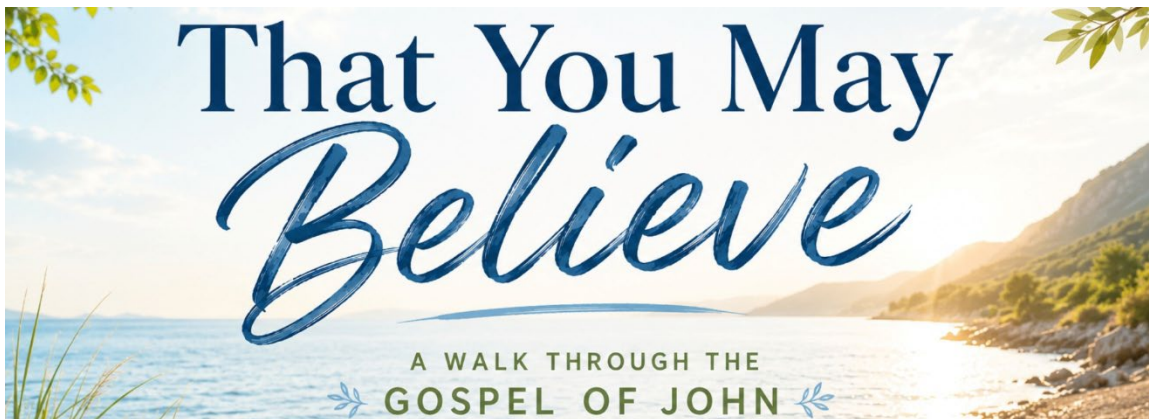




That You May Believe: A Walk Through the Gospel of John - Wk 8

(John 6:25-52)

Sunday, July 19, 2026

5-Day Devotional: Hungering for the Bread of Life

Day 1: Beyond the Miracle to the Miracle-Worker

Reading: John 6:25-29

Devotional: The crowds followed Jesus not because they understood who He was, but because He filled their stomachs. How often do we approach God the same way—seeking His benefits rather than His presence? Jesus confronts this tendency directly: "Don't work for food that spoils, but for food that endures to eternal life."

Consider your own prayer life. Are you coming to God primarily when you need something—healing, provision, direction? Or are you seeking Him simply because He is worthy? Jesus tells us the work God requires is belief in the One He sent. This isn't about performing religious duties; it's about relationship. Today, examine your motives. Are you chasing miracles or pursuing the Miracle-Worker Himself?

Reflection Question: What am I currently seeking from Jesus—His gifts or His presence?

Day 2: The Bread That Satisfies

Reading: John 6:35-40

Devotional: "I am the bread of life," Jesus declares. Bread was the most basic sustenance in ancient times—essential, daily, life-giving. Jesus positions Himself not as an occasional supplement to our lives but as our fundamental necessity.

Physical bread must be consumed to provide nourishment. You cannot simply look at bread and be satisfied. Similarly, knowing about Jesus intellectually isn't enough. We must "consume" Him—taking

Him into the deepest parts of our lives, allowing Him to transform us from the inside out. The promise is profound: "Whoever comes to me will never go hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty." This isn't about temporary satisfaction but eternal fulfillment. What emptiness are you trying to fill with temporary things when the Bread of Life offers permanent satisfaction?

Reflection Question: In what areas of my life am I still hungry, and how can I invite Jesus to fill those places?

Day 3: Precious Beyond Measure

Reading: 1 Peter 1:18-19; 1 Peter 2:4-6

Devotional: Peter describes Jesus as a "cornerstone chosen and precious." The Greek word for precious implies something of immeasurable value, something to be treasured above all else. We were ransomed not with perishable things like silver or gold, but with the precious blood of Christ.

Patrick Henry's dying words echo this truth: if his children had faith in Christ but nothing else, they would be rich; if they had everything else but not Christ, they would be poor. Do you view your relationship with Jesus as your most valuable possession? In a world that constantly tells us to accumulate more—more money, more status, more comfort—Jesus asks us to treasure Him above everything. When we truly see Him as precious, our priorities realign, our anxieties diminish, and our joy increases. He becomes not just useful but utterly desirable.

Reflection Question: If I lost everything but my faith, would I consider myself rich or poor?

Day 4: Desperate for His Presence

Reading: Psalm 42:1-2; Psalm 63:1-5

Devotional: "As the deer pants for streams of water, so my soul pants for you, my God." The psalmist describes a desperate, life-or-death thirst for God's presence. This isn't casual interest; it's urgent need.

Like Shackleton's men scanning the horizon daily, crying "Is that him? Is that him?"—are we that desperate for Jesus? Do we wake each morning with the thought, "I cannot face this day without Him"? Or have we become comfortable with a casual, convenient Christianity? Jesus wants us to hunger for Him the way a starving person hungers for food, to thirst for Him the way someone dying of dehydration thirsts for water. This level of desperation transforms our spiritual lives from routine to radical, from obligation to obsession. When we truly hunger for God, everything else becomes secondary.

Reflection Question: Do I approach each day desperate for God's presence, or have I become spiritually complacent?

Day 5: Consuming the Bread of Life

Reading: John 6:51-58; 1 Corinthians 11:23-26

Devotional: Jesus' teaching about eating His flesh and drinking His blood scandalized His audience. But He was illustrating a profound truth: salvation requires complete consumption and integration of Christ into our lives.

At the Last Supper, Jesus clarified this metaphor: "This is my body, broken for you. This is my blood, shed for you." His broken body and spilled blood on the cross purchased our redemption. To "consume" Christ means to believe in His sacrifice, to receive His gift of salvation, and to allow Him to become the sustaining force of our existence. Just as food becomes part of us—giving us energy, building our bodies, sustaining our lives—Christ must become inseparable from who we are. The question isn't whether we admire Jesus or acknowledge Him, but whether we have truly taken Him in, allowing Him to transform us completely.

Reflection Question: Have I truly consumed the Bread of Life, or am I still standing at a distance, merely observing?

Closing Prayer:

Lord Jesus, You are the Bread of Life. Forgive me for the times I have sought Your miracles more than Your presence, Your gifts more than Your heart. Create in me a desperate hunger for You—not for what You can do, but for who You are. Help me see You as precious, as my greatest treasure, as the one thing I cannot live without. Transform my casual faith into consuming passion. May I wake each morning crying out for You, and may my life reflect that You alone satisfy my deepest hunger. In Your precious name, Amen.