

Jesus Said What?

“Must Eat the Flesh & Drink the Blood of Jesus”

(John 6:1-71)

- Introduction:
1. Before I tell you what tonight’s topic is, I want to ask a question.
 - a. If a man obeys the gospel on Tuesday, dies two days later on Thursday, can that man be saved and have eternal life?
 - b. Now, I want you to remember your answer, because it will be helpful a little bit later.
 2. There are some hard things in the Bible.
 - a. Peter wrote that Paul said some difficult things (2 Peter 3:16).
 - b. Jesus also said some difficult things (John 6:60).
 3. In this series, we will look at some of the hard sayings of Jesus, and may branch out to some of the hard things said by other Bible writers (John 16:14).
 4. Some of the sayings of Jesus will not be so much hard to understand, but hard to accept.
 - a. Mark Twain – It’s not the things I don’t understand that trouble me, it’s the things I do understand.

I. You Must Eat the Flesh and Drink the Blood of Jesus

- A. Jesus has fed “the 5000,” and now they are following him for food (John 6:26).
- B. Jesus offers them food that will give them eternal life – sounds like what he told the woman at the well (John 4:13-14).
- C. Jesus reminds them how their fathers were fed by God with manna/bread from heaven and claims to be the “true bread” from heaven (John 6:31-33).
- D. Out of that discussion then comes these hard words (John 6:51-56).
- E. When they heard this, they said it was a “hard saying” and many of his disciples walked away from him (John 6:60,66).
- F. What does this statement mean?
 1. Some say it is a reference to the Lord’s Supper.
 - a. But let’s go back and remember the answer you gave to my original question.
 - b. If this has reference to the Lord’s Supper, then one who has obeyed the gospel, but died prior to observing the supper is lost.
 - c. This also turns the Lord’s Supper into a sacrifice rather than a memorial (1 Corinthians 11:24-25).
 - e. There is no efficacy connected to the Lord’s Supper in terms of remitting sins.
 2. Some said it had reference to cannibalism.
 - a. Early Christians were accused of cannibalism due to this language.
 - b. Rome thought Christians were a superstitious, sick cult.

- c. Transubstantiation – Literally turns into the body and blood of Jesus.
 - d. Consubstantiation – the elements are with the body and blood of Jesus.
 - c. 150 A.D. Tertullian – “Come plunge the knife into the baby, nobody’s enemy, guilty of nothing...catch the infant blood, steep your bread with it; eat and enjoy it.” – Sarcasm.
 - 3. This is a metaphor.
 - a. What Jesus is saying is that you must partake of me.
 - b. You must consume me.
 - c. Eat the book (Ezekiel 3:3; Revelation 10:9).
 - d. (John 4:34) - My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me.
- G. In other words, we must become partakers of Jesus if we want eternal life.
 - 1. So, that concept demands some reflection.
 - 2. Do you just “taste” Jesus, or are you sustained by him?
 - a. How many people who claim to be Christians are starving themselves, having not eaten in months?
 - b. Ills of CEO’s (Christmas and Easter Only).

II. **God Must Draw One To Him**

- A. This comes from the same section of Scripture.
- B. Consider (John 6:37,44,65).
- C. Ills of Billboard – One side said, “If the Lord returned today, would you be saved?” The other side said, “You can’t come to God, He Comes to You.”
- D. What are we to make of the passages that offer salvation to all (Revelation 22:17).
- E. The answer is in (John 6:45).
 - 1. Yes, God must draw one to Jesus.
 - 2. But he does that through being taught; hearing and learning.
- F. Remember, God is a God of justice and righteousness (Psalm 89:14).