

## Eating and Drinking Jesus...

*"Jesus said to them, "I tell you the truth, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink His blood, you have no life in you.*

*Whoever eats My flesh and drinks My blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day.*

*For My flesh is real food and My blood is real drink.*

*Whoever eats My flesh and drinks My blood remains in Me, and I in him.*

*Just as the living Father sent Me and I live because of the Father, so the one who feeds on Me will live because of Me. "*

**John 6:53-57**

Jesus could have chosen no more offensive words, I think, than these. After all, he was probably talking to decent religious folks. Eating flesh and drinking blood is the stuff of nightmares! Many of His disciples left Him after this conversation.

Sometimes God has to offend our mind to get at our heart. Jesus was not speaking of natural things. Following the above words He said, *"The Spirit gives life; the flesh counts for nothing. The words I have spoken to you are spirit, and they are life."* (v. 63)

In the natural world, good people don't eat their leaders. With God, it is a matter of life or death. Eat Jesus and live. Drink His blood and live -- forever! Don't eat or drink Jesus and you will die!

To have fellowship with God, our natural mind needs to submit to things that are beyond our understanding. Our mind comprehends only that which we can see, touch, taste, or smell. Jesus was pointing from natural things to spiritual things. He was showing the way into communion with a heavenly God. God must get INSIDE of us, just like food!

To be a Christian is to RECEIVE God, not just believe in His existence.

*"To all who received Him, to those who believed in His name, He gave the right to become children of God-- "*

**John 1:12**

Jesus knew we must receive His life, not have just intellectual agreement about Him.

Because of this, He taught people that He is Bread. He taught them that He is Drink. He taught them that they must Eat Him and Drink Him. Jesus was not speaking of His natural body. He was speaking of His spiritual life, and this was too difficult for most of them to grasp...so many left Him.

In this case, what is offensive naturally is essential spiritually. From God's point of view, NOT eating and drinking Jesus is the offensive thing. That is empty religion.

On the night of His betrayal Jesus demonstrated clearly this need to feed on Him at the Passover supper. He instituted Communion -- the Lord's Supper -- as He took the bread and said, "Take eat, this is My body...." And as He took the cup and said, "Take, drink, this is My blood..."

We must eat God. Not just agree that He exists. We must drink God.

Jesus also taught this when He offered the "living water" to the woman at the well, and when He shouted out in public, *"Whoever is thirsty, let Him come to Me and drink!"*

Have you actually learned to eat and drink of Him, to feed your spirit with God Himself, like you take in food and drink for your body every day?

Many of us have trouble fasting, because our body and mind scream for food. Oh, that we would hear the cry of our own spirit as well -- crying out for the True Food and the True Drink!

How do we eat and drink the life God? We take in the life of Jesus, and the power of the Holy Spirit, and the love of the Father...by simple childlike faith. Faith does not just agree in principle. Faith receives. Faith takes in. Faith takes in living truth, just like food and drink. Faith takes in the life of God.

God made many ways for us to receive His life. The new birth, the Lord's Supper, anointing with oil, water baptism, the laying on of hands...these were all designed for us to receive more of Him. When we worship, when we wait on Him, and when we hear or read His Word...these are times He has set up for us to take in His divine life.

Like natural food and drink that goes into your body, which is digested and flows to every cell through your blood, so the life of God taken in by faith flows into your spirit and gives life and strength to your inner man.

From now on, as you read the Word, respond to God. Say to Him, "Let it be done -- to me and in me, according to Your Word." As you eat the bread of communion and drink the cup, tell Him, "Lord I receive your life right now." As you are anointed with oil for healing, let the same be true. "Lord, I receive You as my health." As hands are laid on you for blessing, say "Lord, I take you in as my Great Blessing."

As you worship Him and wait on Him, you can receive -- more of His love, His grace, and a fresh filling of His Spirit. It's as simple as leaning back and taking in a breath. It is the action of your heart more than your head. God made you this way -- to be able to simply receive more of Him when ever you need Him, and for whatever you need Him. (Which is always, and for everything!)

Mostly, it means quieting down on the inside, relaxing, and letting God love you and bless you.

Right now, right there, right where you are...feed on Jesus. Let your believing become receiving.

Take Him in. He is your spiritual food and drink.

John Matthews