

Subject: Necessity of Hearing the Gospel Preached

Title: The Words That I Speak

Text: John 6: 63

Date: October 15, 2009

Place: SGBC, NJ

In our study in Acts, we have been dealing with the work of the Lord through the Holy Spirit, through the Words of his Gospel, delivered through his earthen vessels. (Go back, listen to messages from Acts 18: 24-Acts 19: 23.) We have taken a little departure from Acts to build upon this subject of the importance of hearing the gospel. In addition to the messages from Acts, I ask you to listen again to: The Necessity of Hearing the Gospel, Way of Life Way of Death (from Acts), One in One. You will hear some things repeated but you will hear certain points developed further, we are building upon this subject, we need to hear these words.

Tonight we continue with this theme of the necessity of hearing the gospel preached. We are in John 6. The passage begins with Christ Jesus feeding a multitude, bread. Then Christ declares in his gospel, "I AM THE BREAD OF LIFE." Finally, the Lord Jesus Christ declares how it is that he feeds his children. This is how he did it then and this is how it feed his children now:

John 6: 63: It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing: the words that I speak unto you, *they* are spirit, and *they* are life.

Proposal: Through his gospel, the Lord Jesus speaks. His words are spiritual life to the spirit he has made new. It is by hearing his words that Holy Spirit quickens the inner spiritual man (the true believer) so that through the Spirit the fleshly man and his deeds are mortified.

I. THE FLESH PROFITS NOTHING

First, Christ Words turn us from our own fleshly wisdom and power to Christ the Power and Wisdom of God.

John 6: 5: When Jesus then lifted up *his* eyes, and saw a great company come unto him, he saith unto Philip, Whence shall we buy bread, that these may eat? 6: And this he said to prove him: for he himself knew what he would do. 7: Philip answered him, Two hundred pennyworth of bread is not sufficient for them, that every one of them may take a little. 8: One of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, saith unto him, 9: There is a lad here, which hath five barley loaves, and two small fishes: but what are they among so many?

Philip was believer. He knew the Lord Jesus had turned water into wine. He had witnessed the Lord heal helpless, hopeless, impotent men. But Philip turns to his own power and wisdom. By doing so, he turned a fellow brother to the flesh instead of to Christ.

Our flesh is leaven—a little flesh—leavens the whole lump. Thank God our Lord Jesus Christ feeds us so that we shall not be tossed to and fro—not by our own flesh, nor by the fleshly strength of men who feed the flesh.

What our Lord does next is what our Lord does through the gospel through the Spirit, through his pastors and teachers:

John 6: 10: And Jesus said, Make the men sit down.

That is Christ's word to me and to you—"O man of flesh, sit down."

John 6: Now there was much grass in the place. So the men sat down, in number about five thousand.

What will make a sinner sit down? Green-pasture! When the Shepherd commands his sheep to sit down, he makes us willing by leading us to Him who is our green-pasture.

John 6: 11: And Jesus took the loaves; and when he had given thanks, he distributed to the disciples, and the disciples to them that were set down; and likewise of the fishes as much as they would.

The Lord takes what is despised, what the flesh esteems as weak and base, he gives it to his despised servants and through them he feeds multitudes. Christ Jesus is the Bread who is despised. His gospel given to his messengers, but like those few loaves and fishes, what pleases God, is regarded as foolishness and unwise to carnal men. Yet this is how Christ Jesus feeds multitudes. We must hear his gospel so that we are turned from our power and our wisdom as were Philip and Andrew.

Secondly, Christ Words separates his children from the vain imagination that a sinner can make Christ King.

John 6: 14: Then those men, when they had seen the miracle that Jesus did, said, This is of a truth that prophet that should come into the world. 15: When Jesus therefore perceived that they would come and take him by force, to make him a king, he departed again into a mountain himself alone. 16: And when even was *now* come, his disciples went down unto the sea, 17: And entered into a ship, and went over the sea toward Capernaum.

The flesh can confess Christ with the mouth and follow him as the multitudes did. But the flesh vainly imagines that by doing so we make him King.

Christ is King and Savior. He came into this world already so.

Matthew 2:2: Saying, Where is he that is born King of the Jews?

Luke 2:11: For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.

The Lord separates the believer from that which is vanity. The Lord commanded his true disciples to part from these men and they obeyed. He does so by ministering to the hearts of his people in his High Priestly office. If these men could have made him King then his office of High Priest would have been bi-passed. Our High Priest must offer himself to God on our behalf. Christ our High Priest must minister grace to us—applying his blood to the ear, the thumb and the foot—purging our conscience, making his children to bow to our King and to cast our care on our Savior. Through his Word, he makes himself Prophet, Priest and King in our hearts.

Thirdly, through his Word, Christ saves us from the darkness of this world and from our own unbelief.

John 6: 17:...And it was now dark, and Jesus was not come to them. 18: And the sea arose by reason of a great wind that blew. 19: So when they had rowed about five and twenty or thirty furlongs, they see Jesus walking on the sea, and drawing nigh unto the ship: and they were afraid. 20: But he saith unto them, It is I; be not afraid. 21: Then they willingly received him into the ship: and immediately the ship was at the land whither they went.

In his Wisdom and Power the Lord sends us great waves of trial. We begin rowing. We know he walks on the waves of trial. Yet, our own unbelief will not allow us to receive him. That is until, the Lord Jesus Christ speaks his Word—“It is I, be not afraid.” HE makes us willingly receive him. And immediately we are delivered.

Fourthly, through his Word, Christ keeps the believer striving only for Christ the Bread.

John 6: 26: Jesus answered them and said, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Ye seek me, not because ye saw the miracles, but because ye did eat of the loaves, and were filled.

Natural men seek Christ for temporal gain. But Christ speaks his Words effectually into the believer's heart saying,

John 6: 27: Labour not for the meat which perisheth,

Food for the body is not food for the soul. Earthly riches are not heavenly riches. Sensual appetites—pleasures and honors from this world is bread of deceit.

John 6: 27:...but [labor] for that meat which endureth unto everlasting life, which the Son of man shall give unto you: for him hath God the Father sealed.

Everlasting life is Christ's gift given freely by Christ. God the Father has given his Son to give THAT MEAT. The Meat Christ gives endures unto everlasting life. It is quickening, spiritual, soul refreshing, soul strengthening meat by which believers are nourished, grown and supported.

Fifthly, Christ Words separate us from vain fleshly works and unbelief.

John 6: 28: Then said they unto him, What shall We do, that WE might work the works of God?.. 29: Jesus answered and said unto them, This is the work of God, that ye believe on him whom he hath sent.

Our fleshly nature seeks works of God whereby we separate ourselves and make ourselves accepted of God. Our fleshly nature exalts man over Christ. They said, Moses fed the children for 40 years, you have only fed 5000 one time.

John 6: 30: They said therefore unto him, What SIGN shewest thou then, that WE may see, and believe thee? what dost thou work? 31: Our fathers did eat manna in the desert; as it is written, He gave them bread from heaven to eat.

The natural flesh can not believe Christ.

John 6: 36: But I said unto you, That ye also have seen me, and believe not.

Unless we are fed Christ, and continue to be fed a steady diet of Christ the Bread, the flesh will be strengthened, puffed up in arrogance, as we see in these men. The diet of "bread that perishes" tosses men to and fro instead of giving life, instead of edifying the inner spirit, turning us from the flesh to Christ alone.

John 6: 63: It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing: the words that I speak unto you, *they* are spirit, and *they* are life.

II. THE WORDS CHRIST SPEAKS INTO THE HEARTS HE HAS MADE NEW, ARE SPIRIT AND LIFE.

First, Christ's Words Feed The Inner Man With Christ Himself, the Bread of Life.

John 6: 35: And Jesus said unto them, I AM THE BREAD OF LIFE: he that cometh to ME shall never hunger; and he that BELIEVETH on ME shall never thirst....47: Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that BELIEVETH ON ME hath everlasting life. 48: I AM THAT BREAD OF LIFE...50: This is THE BREAD which cometh down from heaven, that a man may eat thereof, and not die. 51: I AM THE LIVING BREAD which came down from heaven: if any man eat of THIS BREAD,

he shall live for ever: and THE BREAD that I will give is MY FLESH, which I WILL GIVE FOR THE LIFE of the world.

Christ Jesus the Son gave his flesh a sacrifice to God for his people. He gives his flesh unto his people through his gift of faith. Of his fullness has the believer received. Full obedience to God's law is ours through faith in him. Full justification from the law's penalty is ours through faith in Him. Full righteousness is ours through faith in Christ our Righteousness. Full perfection of holiness is ours through faith in Christ our Sanctification. Full redemption is ours through faith in Christ our Redeemer. Full acceptance is ours through faith in Christ the Beloved of the Father. For it pleased the Father that in him should all fullness dwell.

Colossians 1: 21: And you, that were sometime alienated and enemies in *your* mind by wicked works, yet now hath he reconciled 22: In the body of his flesh through death, to present you holy and unblameable and unrepveable in his sight: 23: If ye continue in the faith grounded and settled, and *be* not moved away from the hope of the gospel, which ye have heard, *and* which was preached to every creature which is under heaven; whereof I Paul am made a minister

Secondly, the soul strengthening Words of Christ are Words of assurance that in nothing will he leave us to depend upon ourselves.

John 6: 37: All that the Father giveth me shall come to me; and him that cometh to me I WILL IN NOW WISE CAST OUT. 38: For I came down from heaven, not to do mine own will, but the will of him that sent me. 39: And this is the Father's will which hath sent me, that of all which he hath given me I should lose nothing, but should raise it up again at the last day. 40: And this is the will of him that sent me, that every one which seeth the Son, and believeth on him, may have everlasting life: AND I WILL RAISE HIM UP AT THE LAST DAY. 43: Jesus therefore answered and said unto them, Murmur not among yourselves. 44: No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him: and I will raise him up at the last day.

God the Father gave a people to his Son to save. The Son shall save each one. The will of the Father and the Son are one. Our life began by the Father drawing us to Christ the Bread, by giving us life and faith to eat his flesh and drink his blood.

John 6: 53: Then Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except ye eat the flesh of the Son of man, and drink his blood, ye have no life in you. 54: Whoso eateth my flesh, and drinketh my blood, hath eternal life; and I will raise him up at the last day. 55: For my flesh is meat indeed, and my blood is drink indeed.

Believers continue to walk throughout our daily lives, quickened, strengthened and kept separate from the evil, by his Words abiding in us. Believers live continually upon our Living Bread through faith.

John 6: 56: He that eateth my flesh, and drinketh my blood, dwelleth in me, and I in him. 57: As the living Father hath sent me, and I live by the Father: so he that eateth me, even he shall live BY ME.

III. HOW ARE WE CONTINUALLY FED CHRIST THE BREAD?

John 6: 63: It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing: the words that I speak unto you, *they* are spirit, and *they* are life.

John 6: 45: It is written in the prophets, AND THEY SHALL ALL BE TAUGHT OF GOD. Every man therefore that hath heard, and hath learned of the Father, cometh unto me.

First, it pleased God to save them who are being saved through the preaching of Christ and him crucified. How shall they believe on him of whom they have not heard? How shall they hear without a preacher? How shall they preach unless they be sent? When he ascended, Christ Jesus gave pastors for the purpose of feeding, of edifying his children.

Not with wisdom of words—with Christ's Words. Do you see how plain our Lord has been in his gospel to this multitude? He was very clear and plain when speaking every time he preached. That is why Paul said:

I Corinthians 2: 4: And my speech and my preaching *was* not with enticing words of man's wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power: 5: That your faith should not stand in the wisdom of men, but in the power of God. [Christ is the Power of God.]

Through his Words, which set forth the glory of God in Christ Jesus—when he commands us to mortify the wicked works of trusting in our own works of sanctification or the wicked works of our fleshly sins, he strengthens us with this: righteousness is freely ours through faith in HIS PERSON and FINISHED WORK--Christ our Righteousness. Sanctification—separation from all uncleanness, mortification of the flesh in our daily lives—is through the Holy Spirit as he strengthens us to believe Christ our Sanctification. We are brought into liberty from sin and fear of death as he strengthens us to trust Christ our Redeemer. The believer grows in wisdom through faith the more we hear that—Christ is the Power and Wisdom of God—OUR Power and OUR Wisdom.

Secondly, we have proof that by his Words our Lord effectually separates his people from all uncleanness, to live upon Him alone. The Lord knew these followers were not his sheep and he did not reveal himself in them. By this he shows us—in a negative way—what we will do without his Words spoken into our heart through his gospel.

They could not separate themselves from unbelief. They could not separate themselves from the uncleanness of their fleshly religion, the love of the flesh, to believe him.

John 6: 60: Many therefore of his disciples, when they had heard *this*, said, This is an hard saying; who can hear it? 66: From that *time* many of his disciples went back, and walked no more with him.

Next, in a positive way, the Lord declares what he always accomplishes through the Spirit, through his gospel, as his Words abide in the hearts of his people.

John 6: 67: Then said Jesus unto the twelve, Will ye also go away? 68: Then Simon Peter answered him, Lord, to whom shall we go? THOU HAST THE WORDS of eternal life. 69: And we believe and are sure that thou art that Christ, the Son of the living God.

Matthew 16: 17:...Blessed art thou, Simon Barjona: for flesh and blood hath not revealed *it* unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven.

This is why the continual hearing of the gospel of Christ is a necessity to every believer: **The words that [he] speaks unto you, are spirit, and are life.**

This is exactly why Christ Jesus gave the apostle Paul the Words to write:

I Corinthians 1: 23:...we preach Christ crucified, unto the Jews a stumblingblock, and unto the Greeks foolishness; 24: But unto them which are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God, and the wisdom of God. 25: Because the foolishness of God is wiser than men; and the weakness of God is stronger than men.