



Midweek service. March 25, 2020

**Theme:**

## **Food for eternal life**

**Bible text:**

*Jesus answered them and said, "Most assuredly, I say to you, you seek Me, not because you saw the signs, but because you ate of the loaves and were filled. Do not labour for the food which perishes, but for the food which endures to everlasting life, which the Son of Man will give you, because God the Father has set His seal on Him."*

*John 6: 26–27*

**Message:**

Jesus grants eternal life to those who believe in Him.

**Introduction**

Through the feeding of the five thousand with five loaves and two fishes, Jesus demonstrated that He had been sent by His Father and equipped with authority ("God the Father has set His seal on Him"). At the same time, this miracle of feeding serves as a reference to the kingdom of God, in which abundance prevails.

***Understanding Jesus correctly***

However, the people did not understand the significance of this miracle. Some of them simply saw Jesus as the one who had come to liberate them from the yoke of the Romans. When He perceived that they wanted to make Him their king, He eluded the crowds and made His way to a mountain alone ([verse 15](#)). When the people came back to Him the next day, Jesus reproached them for following Him out of the wrong motivations. Some of them had only come back in the hopes that He would again perform a miracle for them ([verses 22–25](#)). Jesus responded to this expectation as follows: "Do not labour for the food which perishes, but for the food which endures to everlasting life" ([verse 27](#)).

***Jesus grants eternal salvation***

There are many Christians today who merely have a pragmatic faith: for them Jesus is primarily a Deliverer from difficulties. Certainly we can always turn to God in order to ask Him for help—and He is all too happy to grant it. The essential thing, however, is something completely different. Jesus Christ did not come in order to provide us with help that is of limited duration, but rather to liberate us once and for all from our captivity by the evil one, and to lead us into eternal fellowship with God.



Jesus did not want to be King of the Jews in any political sense. Many Christians see the gospel as a kind of ethical code which is to be imposed upon each and every individual. It is true that life in society would be much simpler if all human beings were to heed the commandments of Jesus, but this would not resolve the problem at its source. Human beings would still remain sinners and would not be in a position to liberate themselves from the rule of evil or attain salvation.

## ***The kind of faith that leads to eternal life***

Jesus admonished His listeners to focus on eternal life. Eternal life is granted by the Son of God. No one can earn it for himself. In order to attain it, one must:

- believe in Jesus, that is, in His incarnation, His sacrifice, His resurrection, and His return.
- accept the fact that we need a Redeemer. Our good works alone will not save us.
- believe in the gospel, particularly in the need to be reborn out of water and the Spirit ([John 3: 6](#)), and receive Holy Communion ([John 6:53](#)).
- deny oneself in order to live in Christ. This means that we must align our thoughts and actions by the example of Christ.

*Thoughts from the Chief Apostle*

## **Summary**

- Jesus Christ has been sent by God and equipped with authority.
- Many people did not understand the true significance of Jesus' miracles.
- Jesus Christ did not come in order to provide help that is of limited duration, but rather to liberate us from evil and lead us into fellowship with God.
- Jesus admonishes us to focus on our eternal future.