

The Body & Blood of Christ

⁵³ So Jesus said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you. ⁵⁴ Whoever feeds on my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day. ⁵⁵ For my flesh is true food, and my blood is true drink. ⁵⁶ Whoever feeds on my flesh and drinks my blood abides in me, and I in him. ⁵⁷ As the living Father sent me, and I live because of the Father, so whoever feeds on me, he also will live because of me. - John 6:53-57

I. THE CLUTTER OF LIFE

A. The Spiritual life that Jesus talks about exists ... just beyond reach

1. Drowned out by the noise of every-day living

³¹ And he said to them, "Come away by yourselves to a desolate place and rest a while." For many were coming and going, and they had no leisure even to eat. ³² And they went away in the boat to a desolate place by themselves. - Mark 6

2. The importance of sacred spaces

⁴² It shall be a regular burnt offering throughout your generations at the entrance of the tent of meeting before the LORD, where I will meet with you, to speak to you there. ⁴³ There I will meet with the people of Israel, and it shall be sanctified by my glory. - Exodus 29

3. Elijah - the low whisper

¹¹ And he said, "Go out and stand on the mount before the LORD." And behold, the LORD passed by, and a great and strong wind tore the mountains and broke in pieces the rocks before the LORD, but the LORD was not in the wind. And after the wind an earthquake, but the LORD was not in the earthquake. ¹² And after the earthquake a fire, but the LORD was not in the fire. And after the fire the sound of a low whisper. ¹³ And when Elijah heard it, he wrapped his face in his cloak and went out and stood at the entrance of the cave. And behold, there came a voice to him and said, "What are you doing here, Elijah?" - 1 Kings 19

B. What Does This Imply for us?

1. We grow from the inside out!

2. A hollow tree looks good

3. But a hollow tree can be a death trap

II. JESUS' CLAIM TO BE OUR INNER LIFE:

A. His Claims:

John. 4 - ¹³ Jesus said to her, "Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, ¹⁴ but whoever drinks of the water that I will give him will never be thirsty again. The water that I will give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life."

John 6 - ³⁵ Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in me shall never thirst.... ⁵⁶ Whoever feeds on my flesh and drinks my blood abides in me, and I in him. ⁵⁷ As the living Father sent me, and I live because of the Father, so whoever feeds on me, he also will live because of me. ⁵⁸ This is the bread that came down from heaven, not like the bread the fathers ate, and died. Whoever feeds on this bread will live forever."

John 10 - ⁹ I am the door. If anyone enters by me, he will be saved and will go in and out and find pasture.

John 11 - ²⁵ Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, ²⁶ and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die. Do you believe this?"

John 15 - ⁵ I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing.

B. His Promise

John 16 - ⁷ Nevertheless, I tell you the truth: it is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you. But if I go, I will send him to you.... ¹⁵ All that the Father has is mine; therefore I said that he will take what is mine and declare it to you.

III. THE CHALLENGE OF FAITH

A. Amidst the Clutter It's Hard to See

¹² For now we see in a mirror dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I have been fully known. - 1 Corinthians 13

B. Take a Lesson from a Very Strong Weakling: Samson

- 1) Live life knowing where your strength/life comes from
- 2) Look to God to supply it

IV. THE GIFT THAT HELPS YOUR FAITH

A. The Visible Invisible Mystery

B. See beyond the Merely Physical

C. The Veil between "Heaven" and "Earth"