

**DISCUSSION IDEAS**  
**THE BREAD OF LIFE**

Hebrews 13:7-16

July 26<sup>th</sup>, 2015

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♦ **DISCUSSION POINT ONE – BACKGROUND:**

To better understand what the preacher is saying in Hebrews 13:7-16, it helps to compare a statement by Jesus.

Remember that Jesus said he is the Bread of Life? What does that mean?

As you read through John 6:48 to 52, put yourself in the listeners' shoes.

How confusing was Jesus' statement? If you had never before heard of anything Jesus had taught, what would go through your mind?

Can you define what a metaphor is? Just now I said, "..., put yourself in the listeners' shoes". What does that mean?

Now, remember the Manna God had provided for Israel in the wilderness? What did that do for the Israelites?

Jesus' listeners were well acquainted with that history, and He was making a point using that idea.

How does the idea of Jesus giving Himself to us as food serve as a metaphor?

Read the rest of the conversation in John 6:53 to 58.

What point was Jesus getting across? (Think about the concept of "sustenance".)

How does Trust (Faith) enter into this idea?

♦ **DISCUSSION POINT TWO: DISCOURAGED AND FALLING BACK:**

Remember the situation with these Jewish believers?

How would verses 6-8 be encouraging to a discouraged believer?

How does what is stated in verse 8 impact our lives?

The listeners here were well acquainted with Jewish worship rituals. They knew that many sacrifices were actually eaten, some by the worshipers and some by the priests. They knew that the animal bodies were never taken into the Holy inner chambers of the temple. They knew that the animals sacrificed for the once-a-year atonement for sin had to be burned outside the city.

Discuss a bit of what we have learned about:

The Superiority of Jesus as high Priest.

The Superiority of Jesus as our sacrifice for sin.

Keep all this in mind as you read verses 9-11. How do these verses relate to Jewish ritual worship?

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How would the metaphor of eating a sacrifice relate to Jesus being our Bread of Life? What was the Jew trusting when he or she ate the sacrifice?

♦ **DISCUSSION POINT THREE: OUTSIDE THE "CAMP"**

How does verse 12 make clear the superiority of Jesus' sacrifice over the Temple Atonement sacrifice?

The Atonement sacrifice was burned to symbolically eradicate sins.

In what ways did Jesus suffering compare?

What is the challenge of verses 12 and 13?

Why are we asked to go out to Jesus? The Jews did not go out – they were the camp.

Consider our identification with our Saviour.

Think about how Jesus' Resurrection changes the outcome.

♦ **DISCUSSION POINT FOUR: A NEW CITY**

The listeners were wishing for a return to Jerusalem and the Glorious Temple with its wonderful pageantry.

Remember what was to happen to that temple five years later in 70AD?

How did Jesus' sacrifice make the temple obsolete? (Think about how often the pageantry had to be repeated.)

What city are we believers awaiting? (Big hint: Rev. 21:2)

♦ **REFLECTION: WHAT IS TO BE OUR RESPONSE?**

Think about the challenge in verses 15 and 16.

What sacrifices are we to offer?

Compare Romans 12:1 as well.

Review verse 9. Compare our relationship with God based on Grace, as compared to Works of Righteousness.

What gives us CERTAINTY about our future with God?

If I am worried about getting to Heaven, who am I really trusting?

Read slowly through Revelation 21:2-7. Let that soak into your thinking.