

Sunday School Lesson

LESSON TEXT: John 6

"What shall it profit a man if he gain the whole world and lose his own soul?"

These were the words of Jesus Christ, Savior of mankind...and they are as true today as they were all those centuries ago when they were spoken! For the true Christian readily recognizes that only in Christ can our deepest needs be met—He is the "living bread" of man's soul, just as bread is the "staff of life" of our corporeal existence.

The miracle of the feeding of the five thousand is well-known enough that we do not have to labor the details. Suffice it to say that it was of the utmost importance...as witness the fact that all four Gospels record it.

"I am...the bread of life" said Jesus; those who came unto Him and accepted Him as their Savior, the Son of God descended upon men, would never hunger, nor would they thirst! For unlike the manna that had been promised and provided the Israelites in their flight from tyranny (promised by Moses through the auspices of God) Christ, accepted, had no end in regard to provisions for the sustenance of mankind. It would not have to be physically garnered; it would not cease when the Promised Land was attained; it would continue into infinity! Christ, in fact, was speaking figuratively to the people, and He never claimed otherwise.

Detractors from the Bible tend to be literal in their interpretation. They were in Biblical times; they are today—and probably will be tomorrow! But for the true believer, within its pages the Bible carries many messages: the message of faith; the message of hope; the message of love...and the message of comfort for man's soul. For it matters not the circumstances of the individuals there are millionaires who rejoice in their monetary riches, but who are impoverished spiritually, just as there are poor in the area of worldly possessions who are, nevertheless, blessed with spiritual riches beyond belief!

In this complex world in which we live today, many panaceas are sought for what ails mankind; alcohol as a crutch to weather heartbreak and disappointment; drugs to remove the user from a world he is not able to accept...either mentally or emotionally.

But do they cure the ailments of the soul? No. The same problems exist when their effects have worn off; they have not disappeared—rather, they have been compounded!

How much better to be the servant of Christ than the slave of addiction! How much more constructive is the strengthened soul, than the debilitated one! For the answers to the problems of mankind is not going to be found in a pill, or a bottle...but in God.

In reviewing the miracle of the feeding of the five thousand, let us not make the same mistake as some of those who witnessed it! Let us not be awed from a materialistic standpoint, as were some who attended on that occasion; let us, rather, be awed by its spiritual portent!

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