



**In Christ Jesus**

By: **Father Robert Valenza**

It was the day after they had been fed with a miraculous abundance of bread and fish that many of Jesus' followers turned away and walked no more with Him. Just the day before they had wanted to make Him their king; but after what He said this day, they wanted to have no more to do with Him. It was a strange turn of events to say the least, and this is how it happened.

Jesus somehow got away from the crowd He had just fed with the few loaves and fishes and had gone to Capernaum. It was the next day when the Jews found Him again and when they did, the conversation turned, for obvious reasons, to food. (They wanted another show of power.) "Our fathers ate the manna in the desert," they said; "even as it is written, 'Bread from heaven He gave them to

eat.'" But Jesus was not going to repeat yesterday's miracle; rather He would tell them of a much greater miracle which He would work when the time came. "I am the living bread that has come down from heaven," He told them, "and the bread that I will give is my flesh for the life of the world."

The crowd was obviously puzzled. "How can this man give us His flesh to eat?" Jesus knew they were troubled by what He had said, but He did not retract; on the contrary He put it still stronger: "unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink His blood, you shall not have life in you." And in a last attempt to convince the crowd that He meant exactly what He said, Jesus tells them, "My flesh is REAL food, My blood is REAL drink. He who eats my flesh and drinks my blood abides in me and I in him."

The crowd is puzzled no longer. "This is a hard saying," they said, "who can hear it?" The Jews had obviously taken Jesus literally, and simply cannot swallow what He has told them. As they turn to leave, Jesus Who is Truth itself, does not try to stop them with a figurative explanation of His meaning. Instead He turns to these specially chosen ones, the apostles, and asks quietly, "Will you also go away?" He would not retract, even if it meant the loss of His closest followers.

It was then that Peter made his magnificent act of faith in Christ for himself and for the other apostles.



Strips of bark hanging ready to be woven into chair bottoms in the shop of Wylie Blevin.

"Lord, to whom shall we go; You have the words of eternal life." But on that night before Jesus was crucified, He made good His promise. Taking a piece of bread into His hands He blessed it, broke it, and gave it to His disciples saying, "Take and eat, THIS IS MY BODY." After doing the same with the cup, Jesus commanded His apostles, "DO THIS in memory of Me." The apostles obeyed the command of Jesus as have their successors down through the centuries, even to our own day. Every kind of life has its own type of food. By Baptism we are brought into family of God, born into the LIFE which Jesus came to give. The food which nourishes this LIFE is "the true bread which comes down from heaven. . ." and " . . . he who eats this bread will LIVE forever."

**ADMINISTRATOR'S NOTICE  
NORTH CAROLINA  
YANCEY COUNTY**

Having qualified as Administrator of the Estate of Zeb Hughes, deceased, late of Yancey County, this is to notify all persons having claims against the Decedent to exhibit the same to the undersigned Administrator at his home at Rt. 2, Burnsville, N. C., on or before the 15 day of January, 1966, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery.

All persons owing the Estate will please make immediate payment.

This 15th day of July, 1965.

Scotty Hughes, Administrator of the Estate of Zeb Hughes, Deceased  
July 15, 22, 29, Aug. 5

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