

You Need to Eat Jesus to Live

- Want be careful how say this, bec wrds/Xp. But: strange wrds; very graphic lang. **Vs. 53b; 54a; 55.** Very graphc lang, even offensive; or at very least, diff undrstd. Face it: sounds cannblsm. Even Jews: **vs. 52b.** And yet these: wrds/J that spoke prpsfly, intntnly, in order teach us & give us *life*. Look how many times: *life*; **vs. 51b; 53b-54a; 57b; 58b.** Obvsly J teaching us how have spirtl & etrn life. It's just that when talks re eatng flsh/drnkg bld, just so graphc/abrasive. You need eat me: what saying. And we want undrstd what that means, so can have life. So for this sermon, I'm going use lang that's just as abrasv as what J says here, & say to you: you need eat J to live.
- What you have remem re this sectn/Scrptr: we're in what's called BL discrs from Jn 6. Earlier in ch J fed 5k fams w/little boy's lunch. Ppl: amazd; fed; said: we want him be our leader – which promptd J next day speak this BL discrs. In vss before our les, J : **“I am BL. Whvr comes to me will nvr go hungry, and whvr bels in me will nvr be thirsty” (35).** Saying: “I know bread I gave you ystrdy was good; but I've come give you bread that's much more imp, food last forevr, feed not stomach but soul. This bread: my Word/Gos; it's me! And when you bel in me as Sav from sin (not just bread king); when trust in me as Lord/God; & when devour my Word by faith, as Xians, then you're eating BL.” So big contrast: earthly food (of course need) & hvnly food (really need).
- But here in our vss, J really ramps up lang, bigtime, from “I'm BL,” to: **vs. 53b-55.** Next lvl; graphc; shocking. So, need clear up 2 thngs to undrstd these wrds. 1) Not talking cannblsm. Not saying: need come up, sink teeth into J's arm, or into neck, drink blood like vampire. This vampire/cannblsm thing: not what J getting at. This: pic lang. To eat flesh & drink bld of J = receive/bel Wrđ/God, trust in J by faith. Now, it's very graphic pic lang! You need eat J to live. But not cannblsm. 2) J really not talking re HC here either. When hear **vs. 55,** might think re HC, bec as Luths we rightly bel real pres/Xp in sacrmnt, that we do consume his true bdy/bld in mirclous way when receive LS (later in service). But whole point BL discrs: eating J = belvng in J. On top of that, here, flesh used; evrywhr else in Bible when talks re Com, says body, not flesh. And finally, in these vss J: if you don't eat my flesh, drink bld, cannot go hvn. Well, thief on cross next J nvr had Com, but J promsd go hvn, bec only thng nec get hvn: bel in J as Sav. So eatng flesh, drnkg bld/Xp here = belng in J. Really not talking re HC. Wanted clear those 2 thngs up.
- So when says **vs. 54a & 57b,** could think like this: think person really into smthng; really engaged in it; love; comply focsd on it. Ex: fb season; thnk Pckr fan, gets go Lmb field 1st time in his life – he's watchng, cheerng, totally into it. What we say? Eating it up! Not litrly eating fb players. Just loves exprnc. Or think re girl in HS, really into her extrrcrlrs (sports, instrmnt, theater work, whtvr may be) – and she's really into it; most imp thng to her; totly engagd/focusd. What we say? She's drinkng it all in! Or think grprnts when see grkids. Gma: I could just eat you up. What saying? Need call cops? No: she's just saying she loves grkids! So we talk this way: eating it up, drinking in. We know: it's not literal eatng/drnkg. It just means: we're totally into this, love this, just can't get enough!
- That what J saying here! “You need eat me up; drink me in; got to be totally into me, comptly focusd on me. I cannot be: passive interest or occasional curiosity in your life; I have be most imp part of your life. You need me, like need food.” That's the comparison here: food! Think: how long can you go w/o food? Maybe can miss meal here/there; maybe on diet, watching what eat. But no one can survive w/o food. I miss meal, get hangry real fast. We have to eat to live; don't eat, don't live. J saying: you don't eat me, don't live; don't have spirtl life. We need to eat BL, flesh/Xp, to sustain our souls – just like need to eat physcl food to sustain our bodies.
- In fact, BL way more imp than earthly bread. J: **vs. 55.** And what he mean by real? Think like this: if you want real, authntc Mex food, where go? TBell? Prob not. I've got nthng vs TBell, but wouldn't say real, authntc Mex food. When smthng is authntc, top qualty, step above rest, we say it's real. So here, in this psg: yeah, you've got this fd/drnk, but then got real fd/drink. **Vs. 55.** J & Gos are authntc, top qualty, step way above rest. BL way more imp than earthly bread. J gives real life. Same cmprsn: yeah, you can have life, be alive on earth; but if don't know Xp/Sav, not really livng. Real life:

knowng J by faith, and spndng etrnty w/him in hvn. That's real life! J: vs. 54; you hav a res to etrn life in your future when eat BL & bel/J. Also vs. 56; you'll be filled w/J when eat him. They say you are what you eat. If eat junk food all time, that's what you'll be filled w/. If healthy food, that's filled w/. But if eat J, bring him into self by consumng his Wrđ, then you'll be filled w/J, and he'll dwell/ remain w/in you. Paul once wrote: **"I no longer live, but Xp lives in me"** (Gal 2:20). J wants have rel w/you that's so close/intimate that he fills you, dwells/remains w/in you.

- How this going happen? Remem: you need eat J to live. How eat J? Think 1st Les, Eph 5; Paul: don't be filled w/alcohol; **"Instead be filled w/Sprt, speaking to oa w/Pss, hymns, & songs from Sprt. Sing & make music from your hrt to Lord"** (18-19). That's a ref to wrshp. When you come to ch to wrshp, you eat J, enjoy banquet/J. Here at ch you receive food/Gos, flesh/Xp, which strngthns & sustains your soul. So you need wrshp J at ch, reglrly, wkly; you need be here. We all need be here, coronvrs ntwthstndng. We need encourage oa be here, bec this is where we dine on BL. What else? Think Ps we sang, Ps 1: **"Blessed is the man...[whose] delight is in law/Lord, and on his law he meditates day/night."** God's law: his Word. Ps 1 says we should study GW all the time. I'm excited re Sept. I want start up Wed AMBC; new membrshp class; & Sunday AMBC – and I want you come! Let's fill chairs in mtg rm. I know we're down a pastor, but come BC. I want start up SS, too, but not even sure we'll be able have SS this yr, bec don't have enough volntrs teach it. What's a ch w/no SS! **"On his law meditates day/night."** Let's make that a priority for our cong, that BC is imp to us.
- If I say: you need eat J to live, sounds pretty graphic/shocking, right? But no diff from what J says here: vs. 54a, 55. J wants you to devour him, consume his Word, his Gos, bring it into yourself, bec eating this food gives real life. So eat him up; drink him in. Jews were shocked by this graphic lang; and at first it's a little jarring to us, too. But today the Word made flesh, the BL, invites you to eat his flesh, drink bld, which means receive & believe Gos by faith. You need this meal. You need to eat J to live. And when you do, you will have real life.

John 6:51-58

⁵¹ I am the living bread that came down from heaven. Whoever eats this bread will live forever. This bread is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world."

⁵² Then the Jews began to argue sharply among themselves, "How can this man give us his flesh to eat?"

⁵³ Jesus said to them, "Very truly I tell you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you. ⁵⁴ Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise them up at the last day. ⁵⁵ For my flesh is real food and my blood is real drink. ⁵⁶ Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood remains in me, and I in them. ⁵⁷ Just as the living Father sent me and I live because of the Father, so the one who feeds on me will live because of me. ⁵⁸ This is the bread that came down from heaven. Your ancestors ate manna and died, but whoever feeds on this bread will live forever."

