

The Passover - Part 5

by Les Wheeldon

Jesus teaches us that he is the bread of life, and that we must eat and drink his flesh and blood to have eternal life.

Duration: 57:24

Topics: "Passover"

Description

In this sermon, the preacher emphasizes the importance of having a heart that is moved by Jesus. He encourages the listeners to let go of worldly things and be broken in order to be filled with Jesus. The preacher also highlights that the measure of provision from God is not based on the measure of supply we bring to Him, but rather on His ability to provide abundantly with even the smallest offering. The sermon references the story of Jesus feeding the multitude with five loaves and two fishes, emphasizing that God can satisfy everyone's needs with even the smallest resources.

Transcript

Don't turn to it, but it tells us there's a prayer for kings and for all that are in authority. And this is what we're to pray for, that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty. For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour, who will have all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.

For there is one God, the one mediator between God and man, the man Christ Jesus. You know that when you enjoy peace, as we do, still tonight in our nation, I know the nation is at war in that technical sense, but we still have peace. And that means that unlike the nation of Afghanistan, we're not cowering in our rooms, afraid to go out, we're not looking around, storing food, we're at peace.

And I want to tell you something, very plainly from the word of God, that is the time to get rid of God, when you're at peace. Because there will come days when men will be so distracted, and so obsessed with survival, they will hardly have time to think of God. And you may say, well in times of trouble people think of God.

But the Bible says, pray for peace, because God wants men to be saved. And for you and me that means, use the peace while it's here. It's the time to preach, it's the time to share the gospel.

Maybe better days will come, but God says now is a good day, to go on with God. Amen. Well, I want to turn you tonight to John's Gospel and to chapter 6, where our theme this weekend is the Passover lamb and the blood of Jesus.

And we've looked at many of the great passages on this subject. We've looked at the chapter in Exodus, chapter 12. We've looked at John chapter 19 and the account of the cross.

We looked at Hebrews chapters 9 and 10. And now we're going to look for a while at the great chapter, chapter 6, in which Jesus speaks about his own blood. In fact, it's the only passage, the only time that Jesus spoke about the blood.

He mentioned the blood, of course, when he instituted the communion. And he gave the communion cup. He said, drink ye all of it, for this is my blood.

And one thing you cannot get away from is the shock of that statement. It is less shocking to us because we do it every week. It's familiarity, but the shock of that statement.

This is my blood. Drink it. It's shocking, isn't it? This is my body.

Eat it. You say, well, no, thank you. I don't want to eat a person.

I'm not a cannibal. Of course, it doesn't mean that at all. It does mean something, though.

And we need to understand what it means. Because Jesus said in chapter 6 of John's Gospel, this, as I said, the great chapter when he spoke about the blood. He said, that unless you eat and drink, you have no life in you.

It is in chapter 6, verse 53. Verily, verily, I say to you, except you eat the flesh of the Son of Man, and drink his blood, you have no life in you. But we need to go back to the beginning of this chapter, and just spend a little while being in the context of this chapter, because the chapter begins again with the Passover.

Remember, our theme this weekend is the Passover. So, let's read John chapter 6, and beginning at verse 1. After these things, Jesus went over the Sea of Galilee, which is the Sea of Tiberias. A great multitude follows him, because they saw his miracles, which he did, on men that were diseased.

And Jesus went up into a mountain, and there he sat with his disciples. And the Passover, the Feast of the Jews, was near. When Jesus then lifted up his eyes, and saw a great company flocking to him, he said to Philip, Where shall we buy bread, that these may eat? This he said to prove him, for he himself knew what he was doing.

Philip answered him, A thousand pounds worth of bread. I suppose that would make a thousand loaves of bread. Divided between 5,000 people.

A thousand loaves, divided between 5,000. Well, it would not be sufficient for them, that every one of them may take a little. And one of his disciples, Andrew Simon Peter's brother, said to him, There's a lad here, he's got five loaves.

Two small fishes, probably fresh from harvesting. Because near the Feast of the Passover is the Feast of the Firstfruits, of the barley harvest. And five loaves, and two small fishes, but what are they among so many? Jesus said, Make the men sit down, and there was much draft in the place.

So the men sat down in number about 5,000, and Jesus took the loaves. And when he had given thanks, simply said, Thank you. He distributed to the disciples.

And the disciples to them that were sent down. And likewise with the fishes, as much as they would. When they were filled, he said to his disciples, Gather up those broken pieces that you see around everywhere, that remain, that nothing be lost.

Therefore they gathered together those broken pieces, and filled twelve baskets with the fragments of the five barley loaves, which remained over and to them that had eaten. They filled twelve baskets. Then those men, when they had seen the miracle that Jesus did, said, This must be the prophet that Moses prophesied of.

Then someone shouted, Let's make him a king. And as it grew, they went through the crowd, and they were shouting, Jesus the king! He left. Then, later on, his disciples were crossing the sea.

Jesus walks down from the mountain. I see him in my mind, walking down the mountain. He's seen the little boat on the sea.

He walks down the mountain, walks to the seashore. And I, in my mind, I don't see him even hesitate. I just see him walking straight across the sea, and put his foot on the water, and walk over.

I don't see him like, I think I would. Just see if it really works. I see that majestic step, without a wavering of unbelief.

But the perfect son of God, walks down, obedient to his father. And his father said, Walk over the sea to me. And he walked.

What a perfection of faith. If we want perfection, perfection of faith is part of it. You know, we can talk about all the perfections that are ours, but you know, there's a perfection of faith that has had it.

Where when God says, Do it, we know that no matter what obstacles may be in our way, we can walk right over them. And he walks over the sea. And you know, it doesn't show us in John's gospel, but when he got there, they were terrified when they saw Jesus walking over the water.

And he must have smiled and put them at ease, and Jesus said, Lord, if it's you, tell me to walk on the water to you. He's alright. Come.

And Peter, I see him not doing the same thing again. I can see Peter going like this. Yes, look at this.

He began to walk, and it worked. Peter's greatest moment must have been, in miracle terms, when Peter walked on the water. Forget for the moment that he fell, and just remember that he walked on the water.

And the other eleven, none of them had that privilege. Peter had it. He did it.

And then you know that he got distracted, and he took his eyes off Jesus and everything. There was one of them, he said, Lord, save me. The only apostle to have ever said that among the twelve.

Lord, save me. It was his daring that brought him into a disaster, that brought him to a great eviction, because he said, Lord, save me. Some of us are so cautious, we never get into disasters.

So we never cry out, Lord, save me. And then the Lord saved him. Isn't that wonderful, to be saved by Jesus.

And the Lord gathered him up in his arms, and Peter walked again with him on the water, back to the boat. Unless Jesus carried him, of course. We can't be sure which way it was.

But anyway, those are just little details in the story. They're not in chapter 6, they're in Matthew's Gospel. But then they got over immediately, when Jesus got in the boat, they got to the other side.

And then they got out of the boat, and then people started walking again, people were looking for Jesus, curious, and then eventually they found him, and they said, they questioned him, and Jesus spoke to them and said, you're seeking me for the least of all motives. He answered them. Motive? You're coming to me, but that's not why I want you to follow me.

I want you to long for the food, which endures and everlasting life. That's what he said. They said, what shall we do to do the works of God? He said, believe God.

And then they come back to the subject of bread, and they talked about bread in verse 34, they said, Lord, evermore give us this bread from heaven. Jesus said, I am the bread of life. He that comes to me shall never hunger.

He that believeth on me shall never thirst. He said that he came down from heaven. And he goes on, and he says this in verse 44, no man can come to me except the Father who has sent me joy, and I will raise him up at the last day.

It is written in the prophets, they shall be all called to God. Every man therefore that occurs in the blood of the Father comes to me. And he goes on to say, I am the bread of life.

And then he said, in verse 53, talking about the blood, introducing this subject, along with the subject of the bread, he brings now this subject of the blood, and says, except you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you. Verse 56, he said, he that eateth my flesh and drinketh my blood lives in me, and I in him. As the living Father hath sent me, I live by the Father, so he that eats me, I love that, there's a richness of it, he that eats me, even he shall live by me.

When Jesus said this, many of the disciples said, this is a hard thing, sclerosis, sclerosis, hard, a hardening, a hardening, sclerosis. Tough meat is the word used in modern Greek, hard, hard to chew, hard to bite, hard to swallow. You remember, I remember eating in Cameroon once, they gave me these big cubes of beef, and you couldn't cut it, so you put it in your mouth, and you chewed it, and you couldn't chew it, you might have chewed the same thing, I can see it.

And you chew it, and you chew it, and you chew it. I remember several times I didn't have the courage to spit it out, and I had to leave my post and eat it, I had to swallow this huge cube of meat like a crablet. Hard to chew, hard to chew, hard to eat, it is a hard thing.

Isn't that right? Jesus said, does it offend you? The words that I speak to you are the spirit and the life. Many turned back from Him in that time on. And the disciples were shaken by it.

Jesus said, will you also go away? And son of Peter said, well Lord, where can we go? You've got the words and the eternal life. And you can see the apostles together with Peter the spokesman here, come to

this point where they they were weakened in themselves, they were shaken, they were churched, they were ploughed up, they were all the things that come from being with Jesus for these months that they've been with Him. And yet they were persuaded there was nowhere else to go.

They believed that He was the Christ, the Son of the Living God. And that's the chapter we're dealing with. And so we begin then with the feeding of the five thousand.

A wonderful miracle. And how it happened, how you imagine it happening I don't know. But it happened.

The miracle of the five thousand. They must have gasped as they saw the bread increase. I don't imagine it fully because I just say broke it and then the bit that was broken doubled.

And it doubled again and I can't imagine how it happened but somehow in their hands as they were breaking the bread it was being broken and increasing and it was packed around. And then we come to this point when He fed these five thousand and it was such a miracle of grace because He was declaring to everybody I'll provide for you. Don't make it obvious.

I'll provide for you. There'll be days when you go hungry but there'll be days when I'll just provide for you. Can the disciples of Jesus go hungry? Servants of Jesus, can they go hungry? Oh yes.

They walked through the cornfield and you know what the disciples did? They were so hungry they picked the grains of corn and rubbed them and ate them and I can assure you that is not a nice meal. It's not the way you're supposed to eat it. But they were so hungry and they were allowed to by the law.

It was the Sabbath day that was the only thing they were challenged on but they were allowed to glean. The poor were allowed to glean. They were not disadvantaged.

They were poor men. And Jesus Christ could have provided them incredible riches. Do you know that when Stetsi, still I remember this story was told by Von Daley of Zora this year or Stetsi told the story of Ron I think he told it at Zora this year but he said that when Stetsi still got to the Congo and he was quite a kind of tough old stick of a missionary there are such people, tough really tough and he'd become hardened through many years of sacrifice and he'd got a heart to serve the Lord there in the Congo, wonderful story and the new recruits the new missionaries would come out and one year a new missionary came out and there was not much food going round and some days there'd be food and some days there wouldn't be food and one of these young missionaries was working directly with C.P.

Sturrock from the moment he came that's about six weeks of being with C.P. Sturrock he suddenly blew up and he said to C.P. Sturrock this can't go on some days we've got something and some days we haven't and we have got to live hungry and C.P. Sturrock looked at him and said well it's not absolutely necessary that we live we might die I remember the on that line not particularly connected with the when Ruth Graham, Billy Graham's wife was a girl she was brought up in China her mission was in China and one of the great riots that took place while the missionaries fled and they came back and the Chinese guard was still there the watchman who kept the house and he said to them oh you should not have fled I'm going to give you an Indian accent I'm not sure a Chinese accent I can't do anyway I can give you a Scottish accent not a Chinese one anyway I could if I wasn't so embarrassed but anyway anyway he said you should not have fled he said you should have stayed it wasn't so bad and they said we would have died if we stayed here no no you would only have died in the first few days that's a negative of your life that's a nice attitude to life I'm sorry these quotes are coming into my head now there's this we tell them

there's an island in the South Pacific and these missionaries are being dropped on this island and this wild tribe on the island the captain of this ship tried to turn them back he said look he said this is so dangerous I don't want to leave you here you might die on this island and the leader of the party turned to him and said we died a long time ago before we came here Captain Cook said of one of those islands he said nobody will ever come here there's no gain to be made no profit no pleasure nobody will ever come here but the missionaries did but the message of this chapter simply is that Jesus Christ will provide for us in his wisdom and authority and power he will provide for us and I remember reading that story of a in China when this this pastor was put in prison and he was put in a cage like an animal and he was given no food and one evening he heard a noise a rat came in and the rat brought a piece of bread in see he's changed left the piece of bread and left went and he ate the bread and every day the rat brought him a piece of bread and then they stuck another prisoner in a little cage they put a second prisoner in and then the next day the rat came bringing two pieces of bread in you can read the story in Brother David Godsmother's Chinese you can read it it's there, that's where I read it God will provide supernaturally for his people he will not suffer us to starve he will keep us and if we have to die then we die but he's our God he's our Lord and our Master and as C.D.

Starr said not necessarily you don't have to read there's an alternative you can go to glory but don't mistake it he is our Lord and he will provide he looked on the multitude and he was moved with compassion because they were hungry and they were as sheep without a shepherd and he was the one who could provide for them and he let them go hungry obviously in that way he let them he could have done that miracle the first day but he provided for them and one of the tests for them was that they were more hungry for Jesus initially at least than for food they didn't go home and then we come to verse 13 Jesus said to his disciples when they were filled he said to his disciples oh there's some left over now one of the things about bread is that it is bio-degradable this is not true of chewing

them it is true of if you leave chewing gum on the pavement it will stay there until it reaches somebody's shoe anyway these terrible habits of chewing gum you should give it up but anyway the bread is bio-degradable if you leave bread all over the ground the rain will come if it doesn't rain it will feed the birds I don't know what will happen but it will go it will disappear but Jesus said this he said look there's all these broken pieces of bread and the thing that I can see he could have he did not need those broken pieces just think of it he just stole 5,000 from 5 loaves why should he then want those broken pieces why did he want them he could have just said oh don't worry about it but I believe he helped them I believe he helped row the boat when they were rowing the boat I believe

all these I believe he he was there with them he said come on let's gather up these fragments that remain let nothing be lost that word passed into my mind when I was about to throw some food in the bin one time so much food we've got how much we can put in the bin just put it in the bin and it flashed into my mind nothing be lost nothing be wasted don't throw it away of course there are times when you have to I'm not saying it's utterly wrong to there are moments when that's putting condemnation on somebody or legalism but generally speaking keep it for another occasion it's amazing the kind of character and witness Jesus will build into you in your character while all around you are becoming all worldly and extravagant and wasteful and negligent you can become a man of godliness and so

forth the virtues of another kingdom Jesus said no no no we want to keep these but I see another dimension here because the thing is particularly in our culture today we are the culture of dustbins whatever we don't use keep it out and it's rubbish not worth a day's work on it and a man's work is worth well how many if a man works for a whole day I don't know how many pounds that's worth not worth it just

throw it away but the point is here Jesus is saying oh no I'm a saviour and every broken piece is precious to me now I don't believe this is a coincidence but I believe that God looks on every person's life in this room however broken however empty however useless and you are precious to him you are as precious to him as the most shining new loaf in some shop window you are as precious

to him and I can't expect it to you in the way that Jesus would want to I can try but I want you to know that when he gives the blood to somebody his own blood that's what he's talking about he's going to give you his own blood he's talking about broken useless lives we're not trying to say we are something or I'm something I've still got some great value in society today I would suspect that if I died today Britain would hardly notice maybe somebody in some office would say oh good that's one less pension to pay for economically I might be better dead for some people but I praise God my life is not estimated by bureaucrats or by the society in which I live my life is estimated by the son of God who thinks I am absolutely wonderful and I want to say the same thing you are absolutely

wonderful precious you are a treasure to him and he sees where every broken piece lies and is overlooked by the impatience of disciples he will be in the field and he will pick you up he will not allow one fragment to be lost you are a wonderful thing the fact that he has destined you to receive his blood is the measure of the value of your soul you are most precious in his sight now that that is the opposite and the reason this must be said is because one of the things that so afflicts the human race is the feeling that you are inferior we heard it in the prophecy of no value you're this is instilled upon us into us by by misguided parents sometimes who give us rewards when we meet at the church I heard this misguided parent who one day said to his son he said if you pass your 11 plus

I'll take you to Florida and if you fail I'll take you to North Wales now I don't know what you can do just from that at least where you are we could pray you didn't take him to Manchester I would in Manchester you know one man said this a theologian once said this a theologian who said he didn't believe the Bible he didn't believe much about the Bible such theologians shouldn't be allowed to speak to people about the Bible but they do but he said this when he was asked what he thought of when he thought of God he said when I think of God God is the voice in me that keeps on saying you're not quite good enough and that's what he lived by that's legalism in its worst form you're not quite good enough your prayers aren't quite good enough your faith's weak and threadbare and your your joy's

never quite at the strut and your peace you're just not good enough and God says to you that is not my voice God says your prayers are precious to me most precious to me when they are weakest when you feel it when you're least able to pray when you lift your voice to say thank you to God and you're croaking it because you feel so weak and bereft and you still say thank you then you delight his heart he leaps for joy he esteems things totally differently to the way men esteem them and when people gather together to seek his faith they may feel like nothing, they may feel weak they may feel condemned in comparison with books they've read or examples they've heard of, but you have to know that when you gather for God no matter how weak and condemned you feel, you must hear the voice of God

that welcomes you and delights in you and loves to hear you pray he comes like this to a field of broken bread, he says come on let's gather this up let's gather it all here then and he picks up useless bits of bread in the world, eyes of men maybe the disciples were groaning while they did it do I have to pick up that one too? how big do I have to pick it up?

Lord come on, give me some guys, I can't go to these fields all day and all night give me some, give me some go and pick it all up, I want everything gathered in they're precious you're precious you're precious you cannot be esteemed it cannot be esteemed no matter how precious you are he laughs alright now we move on down the chapter and the thing is here, also look at this, I want you to see this, the measure of provision is not to be measured by the measure of supply supply what did you say? could you repeat that? alright I'll try and repeat what do I mean?

I mean this what you bring to God is not the measure by which he will use you to meet a need God didn't say 5 loaves, well that would do 500 but 4,500 would actually go to 100 he said 5 loaves 2 fishes it's enough and with this we'll satisfy everyone now man thinks oh we've got this amount, that will meet that amount, this is what we can do with this, but the resources we have are not the measure of the provision that shall be made if the resources we have are the measure of the provision then we're not going to do anything the resources are, if you like only there to be mixed in the hands of the saviour multiplied to the faith of the saviour and distributed throughout the whole world to meet limitless need in the hands of you know, God doesn't need many he really only needs one often the

tragedy is he didn't even get the one but if he can get one man to believe it is said that Aaron Roberts prayed before the Welsh Revival he said, oh Lord give me 100,000 souls and 6 months later that was a reality was that the answer to one man's prayer of faith he says he will give the answer to that, but the Welsh Revival was an indication it is not by the measure of the supply it's the measure of the hands of God when people believe and there is abundance when lives are yielded to Jesus Christ and are believing him that in his will and in his timing there shall come a mighty harvest whatever it be, as long as we are in that place of faith there is no limit there is no limit with what God can do with our lives and so many are calculating we've got this one and we've got that one and

we're not very strong because we've got this and we've got this we need to be bigger, we need bigger stronger, we've got sufficient in lives that are yielded to God, that's all we need well is your life in his hands no use looking to somebody else, you're alright because he's yielded to God, so we'll be fed, no is your life yielded to God, and so now we come on down this chapter we come to this great word of Jesus, when he said in verse 35 he said I am the bread of life he that cometh to me shall never hunger he that believeth on me shall never thirst and in those words are words of incredible spiritual reality and truth he was saying and we can say it very simply here as we begin this subject of the blood and the body of Christ, he was saying don't think of my body and my blood in the

symbolic form alone nor think of them as something on a cross 2000 years ago nor think of blood, shed blood that's all drinking, nor think of the body of Christ as some kind of broken morsel somewhere, no what is the bread of life what is the cup we drink, here it is I am not I was but I am the bread of life how do I eat here's the answer who shall never hunger he that cometh to me you just come into the living presence of Jesus and you allow his presence to so enter you and change you and enter you and pervade you and fill you and as the presence of Jesus enters your being you're eating it you know the first thing that enters your body when you want to eat do you know what it is it's through the Holy Father and there you go you smell something you know you're going past the baby shop is

he mouth-watering already you can smell that fresh bread oh that's wonderful and oh there's certain beautiful wonderful smells you know when you go past somebody who's a kid you just you didn't, the smell did not ask permission, may I enter and you know that the first taste of Jesus is when you smell his presence, I don't mean he comes through your nose, I'm not saying that I'm saying that in your spirit you

sense and before you know what's happening you know when that woman came and broke the alabaster box and she did it she worshipped Jesus there and the allergies were they were turning away before they could stop it the smell had gone into their nose the beauty of it, the power of it the lovingness of what she had done came into their being and they didn't appreciate it they rejected

it, even though it was beautiful and the truth is this when we we've got to get appetite we've got to get we've got to get hunger and the truth is this, how do we get hunger the answer is, Jesus comes saying some something some herald of his presence something, he's there you know how fast does a smell reach at first, I don't know I can't remember the physical laws of it but open up a bottle here of a strong smelling thing in a few seconds those molecules have reached someone's nose right over there and smell's travelling at an incredible speed before you can understand it before you can think it now smell will be a warning as well as a drawing if something that you smell smells God's given this power in our spirit and you don't put it to your spiritual mouth, you don't eat because God

has given you warning, no don't eat you smell it already you couldn't put your finger you couldn't define, but God said no don't and something in you says, no I'm not going to do that but then comes this fragrance of Jesus through the worship of the saints you know I believe one of the most powerful evangelistic forces is the worshipping life in the worship itself there is there is the power to win souls but I also believe that when you're a worshipper and you leave your house in the morning as a worshipper, and you enter your office as a worshipper and you work your way as a worshipper I don't think you're singing songs or waving your arms but you are in the presence of Jesus the fragrance of your life makes people hungry to know why you are what you are and there is no greater opener of

a man's heart I remember James Medlock saying once he came to work, he used to go to work he was a managing director, he used to go to work and every day he was going to work and then one day he got to work, passed his offices you have many people who have all passed his offices, and he went into his own office, and this man got up and walked into the office after him and said what is it about you that's so wonderful he was boiling mad with frustration with himself he couldn't stop himself, this man was so lovely I was one to Christ particularly by one man just looking at his face there was something there, something unique something Christ like that made me hungry for God I smelt the bread before I ate it and didn't he I am the bread of life he that comes to me shall never hunger, you

come to me really come to me as I want a man to come to me and yield to me and bow to me and let my love and my authority and my presence enter him and fill him and just be in him he'll never hunger for anything else he that believeth on me that mysterious action of the soul when you believe shall never thirst and so we go on down the chapter Jesus said I am that bread of life he said except except you eat the flesh of the son of man and drink his blood you have no right in him but what is he saying when he says eat my flesh and drink my blood really what he's saying is this he's saying that the great thing for any man to do is to eat the essence of what makes Jesus Christ Jesus Christ he's not talking about physical he's talking about the essence of himself I want you to eat if I can put

it this way reverently distilled me concentrated me me as I am reduced to my real self when everything else is gone I want you to have me as I am in the depths of my being as I really am drink my blood you see they wanted the miracle of the blows others wanted the miracle of healing but those twelve men at the end they said we want you as you are in your essence in us in us we want your blood in us and Jesus said you've got to you've got to eat it and he can't pour it out to you unless I die on that cross that's what he was saying therefore you cannot I've said those words again they run up our tongues like little words but I

want to tell you I've just said the most incredible thing Jesus Christ the son of God had to be crucified he had to be crucified so that you might have him living in

you I'm shocked at myself how I can say it so easily the most incredible truth of all that the son of God was crucified because he wanted to live in me it's the price he had to pay to live in me it's the price he had to pay to save me it's the price he had to pay to go to the utmost length to be the one last broken crumb on that field that it was made and he did it he wants us to eat his flesh and drink his blood he wants us to yield our lives to be filled with his presence to let him be all in all to us to let the essence and the love of God that's what he is in his essence he's love and one of the things you understand about God is that God does not have two sides to his character he is one and every act he does is the act of one so whenever he's angry it's love that's angry he's not

stopped loving while he's angry God cannot divide himself he cannot be less enthusiastic one day about this to be more enthusiastic about another thing another day God is one the unity of his being and then we read this strange verse we'll come to an end in a few moments but just read this strange verse in verse 44 when Jesus said this no man can come to I said to you you've got to come to Jesus and here's Jesus saying you can't come except the father who was sent to draw him and I will raise him up at the last day it is written in the prophets they shall be all taught of God every man therefore that has heard and learned of the father cometh to me now here's the word of Jesus come to me here's the word of Jesus you can't come to me what do you mean Lord explain it to me what are you

saying every word of Jesus that is a barrier to you is actually a stepping stone it seems a barrier but it's a stepping stone and every obstacle in your path is not a barrier it's a stepping stone everything God is surrounding us with aid and help to make us be able to go with him to fulfil his word to end all the effort here's one of those examples he said no man can come to me except the father who was sent to me draw him and so you can imagine the disciples I suppose there was people with a Calvinist tendency in those days because Calvinism wasn't invented by Calvinism the sovereignty of God it is not Calvinist you should never attach that name to that doctrine they are the doctrines of God man take them man dress them up man asks them man banishes them man explains them certain

emphases and so on those are what we call Calvinist true as they may be but watch out that you don't swallow swallow otherwise you will swallow the emphasis of a man and that's not what God is doing and so what do you mean no man can come to me I can't come to you I'm not going to come to you and if nobody can come and I said there's nothing I can do about it so there we go and Jesus said oh no no that's not what I mean what I mean is this you cannot determine in your heart that you will just up and go there's only one way you can ever eat the flesh and drink the blood of the son of God there's only one way possible for a human being to do it is to reach out their hands to Jesus and be led step by step step by step like a lamb you charge him he's like somebody who'll go I'll charge and do

it they don't even know where they're going they don't even know the way but one of the things I find about true prayer is this when I get to true prayer when God really brings me into true prayer and the spirit of prayer is on my life and I'm in prayer before God this is what I invariably find one of the qualities in my life is that I'm like a lamb true prayer melts me the true spirit of prayer makes me not struggle I'm seeking and I'm being led and here's Jesus saying no one can come to me except the father who has sent me and he's saying this the father will bring me there's two voices you hear now my voice and the spirit of God speaking in your heart and the spirit of God speaking in your heart is gathering you up inside and enabling you and unless you yield to the enabling and the

prompting and the aiding of the spirit of God within your heart you cannot come and eat the flesh and drink the blood you are strengthened you are weakened in your manly strength but strengthened in your godly faith and God the holy ghost is working on the inside of us by the word of the father and he's working to draw us all from working at all and as the word goes forth the spirit speaks in our heart and gathers us up and we're brought, we're humbled, we're thirsty we're longing and we come and before we know what's happening the spirit that helps us drink and we're in the present and all that is in Jesus is in us and Jesus said that's what I want that's what I want that's what I want for you and when he gave the communion cups and he said drink you all of it they put it to their lips

like this there's a dispute whether Judas was there or not but if Judas was there he could have taken that cup put it to his lips and drunk it of course not everybody can but not everybody can do that with the presence of Jesus to do that you've got to have the heart that's moved on you've got to be led you've got to let go of things you've got to be broken you've got to let things disappear from you let go of things and as you do you find the spirit of God strengthening your heart more and more until you drink and you're overflowing and you're wondering how it ever began but you're filled with Jesus the greatest thing a man can be is filled with Jesus so that his looks, his eyes his attitudes, his words everything he's doing is speaking of another blood, another life another person well

it comes to the end but really it's just the beginning you've got to now let him speak alright do you want to drink? well let's do it, come on, let's drink

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