**Eating God’s Word (Ezekiel 2:8-3:3)**

 Eating God’s Word leads us to put it into action.

 Greetings to you dear brothers and sisters as we study today one of the most extraordinary prophets (in Scripture), Ezekiel, who conveyed his visions and messages from God both before and after the time of the exile of the Jews (in 586BC). Very often, when we read one of the prophets, we hear God’s message through images. The same is true with Ezekiel, whose importance for our faith is great, because his call for repentance and presentation of the future Messiah’s resurrection power throughout his book remind us directly of Jesus’ identical call to repentance and his three-year ministry full of miracles. Therefore, we’re going to talk about a portion from the first section of the prophecy, having to do with his calling to the office of prophet, which contains (thru a vision) the invitation to accept God’s word as sustenance or food. Remember, eating God’s Word leads us to put it into action. Having said that, it is not enough to simply know the contents of the Bible – rather, there is more to what God requires of both Ezekiel and us…

 In order to live our lives in faith, we are called to accept the Word of God as our nourishment and food. It is interesting that God told Ezekiel to “eat” four different times in today’s short passage. We know that a repeated command or word denotes an important concept or message in the Bible. If something is repeated three times, it is extremely important. But if it is repeated four times, it is so important that it is impossible to live without obeying or doing what is being demanded or commanded. Getting back to the vision, though the scroll given was completely covered in woes, lamentations and mourning both front and back, perhaps symbolizing that absence of any leeway for Ezekiel to add to God’s message from his own thoughts, God’s Word was still sweet to Ezekiel when he ingested it in the experience… In other words, though the mission was difficult for the prophet because the messages to be preached were not encouraging in nature, but his supernatural experience with God, specifically the sweetness of the scroll within him, seems perhaps to lessen the weight of the task given. Obviously, Ezekiel would succeed in conveying God’s messages; this was because he obeyed God and ate the scroll that he was told to eat.

 There was once a father who sent his son with a letter to a village, pointing out a trail over which the lad had never gone before. "All right, father, but I don't see how that path will ever reach the town," said the boy. "Do you see the trail as far as the big tree down there?" answered the man. "Oh, yes, I see that far." "Well, when you get there by the tree, you'll see the trail a little farther ahead, and so on until you get within sight of the houses of the village." There is in our pilgrimage of faith an element of obeying without seeing, of sheer faith.

 What does this all mean, then? When God present His Word to us, it is extremely indispensable to accept it and to have it as our primary source of sustenance. Even when God’s inspired direction for us seems difficult or strange, (if we obey it,) we will be consoled by the fact that it is God’s message that we will be bringing to others. Obeying God is called to be our joy and source of nourishment in our lives. As Jesus said when he was ministering, “My food is to do the will of the One who sent me, to accomplish His work”.

 May God grant that we not hesitate to speak or to perform a task when He calls us to do so for the sake of His plans. May obeying God’s Word be our first source of nourishment. In order to live our lives in faith, we are called to accept the Word of God as our nourishment and food. Eating God’s Word leads us to put it into action. So, eat the Scriptures! Accept its message! And, obey its demands! The Lord Bless you. Amen.