**Satisfying Our Hunger**

***25****When they found him on the other side of the sea, they said to him, “Rabbi, when did you come here?”****26****Jesus answered them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, you are seeking me, not because you saw signs, but because you ate your fill of the loaves.****27****Do not work for the food that perishes, but for the food that endures to eternal life, which the Son of Man will give to you. For on him God the Father has set his seal.”****28****Then they said to him, “What must we do, to be doing the works of God?”****29****Jesus answered them, “This is the work of God, that you believe in him whom he has sent.”****30****So they said to him, “Then what sign do you do, that we may see and believe you? What work do you perform?****31****Our fathers ate the manna in the wilderness; as it is written, ‘He gave them bread from heaven to eat.’”****32****Jesus then said to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, it was not Moses who gave you the bread from heaven, but my Father gives you the true bread from heaven.****33****For the bread of God is he who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world.”****34****They said to him, “Sir, give us this bread always.”*

***35****Jesus said to them, “I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in me shall never thirst. (John 6:25-35, ESV)*

 Our true hunger is only satisfied through accepting Jesus and through Him, establishing a relationship with God. Greetings dear brothers and sisters in Christ as we talk today about an aspect of communion, namely the truth of the satisfaction of our spiritual hunger. As human beings, we have an insatiable hunger on the inside of us. No object, victory or material success can ever fulfill that spiritual hunger. Thus, today we are going to speak about how it is possible to satisfy that hunger or thirst, which no meal can fill, satisfy, satiate, or calm. Especially in these days, when our brothers and sisters have become wanderers, homeless, and poor within their own homeland, our peace, emotions, and thoughts may become agitated. We know what the answer to our spiritual and psychological satisfaction is, of course – but let us go into more detail about that… Once again, I stress that our true spiritual hunger is only satisfied when we establish an ongoing relationship with God through accepting Jesus Christ. Let’s see how this plays out a bit more…

 Jesus said that whoever wanted to be satisfied should come to Him, because He is the Bread of Life. We have all heard these words before, but the background is important to take into consideration. In the same chapter, Jesus had fed five thousand men plus their families with five loaves of bread and two fish. Then, he had joined his disciples as they trekked across the sea of Galilee, but by walking on water to catch up with them. Finally, it was the following day that the crowd, having used the empty boat that the disciples had left behind, found Jesus again. However, their goal was to receive food again; they had not come to Jesus to benefit spiritually. For that reason, Jesus could say that the signs (miracles) that He did were not so important for them. So, the Lord pointed out their wrong concept of life and corrected what should have been their focus.

 The crowd had faulty life goals. They were going after temporary satisfaction, when the Eternal Food embodied was standing right in front of them(!). The correct lifegoal was to believe in Jesus and to follow Him. Not only that, but the spiritual food that they thought they had already received, the manna in the desert some millennia ago, was not that at all. Rather, the genuine spiritual nourishment they needed was the Savior Himself, His whole life, and His teachings. They had misunderstood what life was all about. They were not receiving true spiritual sustenance. Jesus was saying that He was that Sustenance that they were looking for, and that whoever came to Him would not be rejected or denied.

 A story is told about a couple whose house burned down on their 6th wedding anniversary. The first thing the wife did, when she could safely go back to search among the rubble, was to find the family albums. When she went to tell her husband that the albums had survived, she saw that the husband was picking up singed, charred papers and placing them in a box. They were their courtship love letters. The wife, when telling the story, said the following: “As I watched my husband kneeling among the ashes, I was overcome with the certainty that we were meant for each other. In that greatest, most tragic state of affairs, our first thoughts were not about our material losses, but about the potential loss of those precious parts of our life together.” She continued, “As I knelt to help him with the letters, I was certain that we hadn’t lost anything that mattered after all.”

 Today is the day to clarify our life goal and to satisfy our deepest longing. It is the time to remember that material things will never satisfy us. It is only Jesus who can fill, calm, and satisfy our pains, doubts, and emptiness. This is why we are the Jesus people. We are Christians – followers of Christ. We are called to have a peace that will make the unbeliever jealous. That peace will not come, however, from our material successes, or our great logical and philosophical stances. Even political peace in our country will not bring that about. It is only a life connected to Jesus that has that kind of peace.

 Therefore, if your peace has been shaken today, why don’t you renew your faith and focus onto Jesus again? Find your first love, Jesus Christ again, because whoever goes to Him will never be refused (that’s His promise to us all). We will never be rejected, because He is the Bread of Life, and we can only be satisfied and at true peace in this life through Him, no matter what our circumstances are around us.

 Our true spiritual hunger is only satisfied when we establish an ongoing relationship with God through accepting Jesus Christ. The Lord bless you all. Amen.