

This week there will not be a paper hand-out. We will openly discuss and focus upon these words:

In truth, in very truth I tell you, the believer possesses eternal life. I am the bread of life. Your forefathers ate the manna in the desert and they are dead.⁵⁰ I am speaking of the bread that comes down from heaven, which a man may eat, and never die. I am that living bread which has come down from heaven: if anyone eats this bread he shall live forever. Moreover, the bread which I will give is my own flesh; I give it for the life of the world.'

This led to a fierce dispute among the Jews. 'How can this man give us his flesh to eat?' they said. Jesus replied, 'In truth, in very truth I tell you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood you can have no life in you. Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood possesses eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day. My flesh is real food; my blood is real drink.⁵⁶ Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood dwells continually in me and I dwell in him. As the living Father sent me, and I live because of the Father, so he who eats me shall live because of me. This is the bread which came down from heaven; and it is not like the bread which our fathers ate: they are dead, but whoever eats this bread shall live forever,'

THIS WAS SPOKEN in synagogue when Jesus was teaching in Capernaum.

The Words of Eternal Life Many of his disciples on hearing it exclaimed, 'This is more than we can stomach! Why listen to such talk?'¹ Jesus was aware that his disciples were murmuring about it and asked them, 'Does this shock you? What if you see the Son of Man ascending to the place where he was before? The spirit alone gives life; the flesh is of no avail; the words which I have spoken to you are both spirit and life. And yet there are some of you who have no faith.' For Jesus knew all along who were without faith and who was to betray him.

- 1. The people in the synagogue*
- 2. The goal is life*
- 3. Living THROUGH the Father – now Jesus*
- 4. The bread and drink of life*
- 5. The Flesh is of no avail???*
- 6. The words (rhemata)*
- 7. The reference to the future ascension*

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