

## *Valley Bible Church – Sermon Notes*

**Sermon Notes for November 27-28, 2004**

**"The Bread of Life"**

**John 6:52-59**

The Apostle John used the "feeding of the 5,000" and "Christ walking on water" as a transition into the "Bread of Life" discourse in John 6:22-71. The first part of the "Bread of Life" discourse began with a challenge in John 6:22-27. The second part of the "Bread of Life" discourse consisted of a promise in John 6:28-40. The third and final part of the "Bread of Life" discourse consisted of various responses in John 6:41-71.

The first response could be entitled "we know where you came from" in John 6:41-51. The second response could be entitled, "How could He give us His flesh to eat?" in John 6:52-59.

The Jews were arguing with one another most likely because some Jews understood Christ's comment about eating His flesh literally while others understood it metaphorically.

Jesus does not retract one iota of His statement. In fact, He adds to His statement the words "and drink His blood" in verse 53 and will repeat this same thought in verse 54.

The Mosaic Law forbade the drinking of blood, therefore Christ's statement would have only made them more upset (Leviticus 17:10-13).

John 6:54, when compared to what Christ said earlier in John 6:40, is a key to understanding exactly what He meant by the words "eating His flesh" and "drinking His blood."

When Christ spoke of eating His flesh and drinking His blood, He was speaking metaphorically of appropriating through a sincere faith, the benefits of Christ's atoning death (John 6:51).

When we choose to eat His flesh and drink His blood we enter into the benefits of Christ's atoning death by being joined to Him and to His life by a mutual indwelling (John 6:56).

## *Valley Bible Church – Sermon Notes*

Because Jesus has life in Himself, He not only possesses life but also gives life to those who are joined to Him by eating His flesh and drinking His blood (John 6:57, compare John 5:26).

Jesus, in seeking and saving that which was lost, did not seek to make people comfortable by what He taught.