

Taste the Goodness of the Lord **11-26-17AM**

It is remarkable when we consider how often worship and eating are identified together in the Bible. The feast days of the Jews revolved around food (consider the term “feast”). They met to break unleavened bread in memory of their deliverance. In the New Testament, our memorial to Christ’s death and life is a supper. Today we still offer thanks with food.

In John 6, a great meal took place. It was one of the few times where “all you can eat” meant all that they could eat. Jesus miraculously fed five thousand people. The next day they returned, looking to be fed a second time. However, Jesus instead preached to them one of the most difficult sermons they would hear. “*Unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink His blood, you have no life in yourselves*”. John tells us that after this many followers walked away from God.

Yet this was an important lesson. It was not about communion. Instead, it was about the Word of God. Jesus went on to tell His disciples that it was His words to which he referred; in verse 63 He clarified His teaching to those who returned to him: “It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing; the words that I have spoken to you are spirit and are life”. What Jesus was teaching them was nothing new; Moses told the Israelites that the purpose of Manna was to teach them that “*man does not live by bread alone, but man lives by everything that proceeds out of the mouth of the LORD*”.

There is a marvelous lesson found in considering the language of Scripture and the ability to taste. We have five taste buds that reveal five tastes: Sweet, Sour, Salty, Bitter and Savory. We have personal preferences to which ones we like; many do not like bitter or sour, but pursue sweet or savory. We might apply this to Scripture - *Your words were found and I ate them, and Your words became for me a joy and the delight of my heart; For I have been called by Your name, O LORD God of hosts* - Jeremiah 15:16 .

1. The Word of God can be Sweet: Psalm 119:103, Ezekiel 3:3. It is Sweet because it promises good things, and it gives us hope and peace.
2. The Word of God can be Sour: Isaiah 22:4, Matthew 19:21-22. It can be sour because it spoils worldly things we held dear.
3. The Word of God can be Salty: Job 6:6, Colossians 4:6. It can be Salty because it brings flavor to flavorless things and it keeps things preserved.
4. The Word of God can be Bitter: Revelation 10:9-10. It can be Bitter because it can cause division and heartache, and it can cause us to be persecuted and hurt.
5. The Word of God can be Savory: Psalm 34:8, 1 Peter 2:2. It can be Savory because it is rich in flavor and it is sustaining and filling in all ways.

There is a warning pertaining to tasting of the Word: *For in the case of those who have once been enlightened and have tasted of the heavenly gift and have been made partakers of the Holy Spirit, and have tasted the good word of God and the powers of the age to come, and then have fallen away, it is impossible to renew them again to repentance, since they again crucify to themselves the Son of God and put Him to open shame* (Hebrews 6:4-6). We need to consider that it is a taste that we cannot take lightly.