

“I am the Bread of Life”

Bible reading: John 6: 25-51

The trouble with you people is that you look everywhere except at me. You loved that miracle yesterday when I fed you all. That really got you excited. But instead of wanting to get to know me, you just got all the more excited about what I could do for you. You’ve come back to me today, excited again, and you’ve brought your friends and family because you want to see things happen. Instead of having a one to one with me, you want to see what I can do, what stunts I can pull.

Imagine a child running into a room where there’s lots of food laid out on tables. He doesn’t notice me standing beside the tables; he just looks at all the food. His eyes widen and his fingers tingle. How much can he grab and eat before anyone else gets there and eats it all? You’re like that child. You don’t look at me, you don’t say thank you for the wonderful food; you don’t even really notice me. You just want to grab the goodies, everything you can get out of me, as quickly as you can. And when it’s gone, you’ll probably stamp your feet and shout for more.

You think you’re starving hungry, but actually it’s me you need. Instead of grabbing all that food, come to me. I’m standing right next to the table. I want you to notice me, and then I’ll reach down and pick you up and hold you. And I don’t want you to wriggle in my arms or to let me hold you but keep turned away from me so you can feast your eyes on the food. No, I want you to turn in my arms and to look at me. “I am the bread of life.” I don’t just provide you with food and lots of other goodies; “I am the bread of life.” Come to me; look into my eyes. You’ll find that it’s worth doing. You’ll suddenly find that you’re not so starving hungry after all. You won’t be so hungry or thirsty

because you'll get something different from me, something much more satisfying. In fact, if you keep looking at me, and trust me, you'll find that you're completely contented - forever! "Everyone who looks to me and believes in me will have eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day." You are safe with me, safe in my arms, safe for now and forever.

So stop looking at all those goodies on the table and stop wishing there were even more and better things. They won't satisfy you really. I'm here, standing right by the table. Just look at me, look up at me, and into my eyes. Haven't I always looked after you when you trusted me to, and won't I always? Just let me pick you up and hold you close in my arms. Look me in the eyes. "I am the bread of life." You won't be hungry; I will be yours, and I will look after you - forever.

I promise!

Chris van Straaten