

## “All You Can Believe Buffet”

Have you ever been so completely hungry that your mood changes? Maybe you felt fatigued or just not yourself. I'm reminded of the Snickers commercials where various celebrities take the place of people who “aren't themselves when they're hungry”. I think I relate more to being like the late Ozzy Osbourne; sluggish and incoherent. Kendall calls it being “hangry”: Hungry and angry at the same time. I personally think she turns into more of a Roseanne type when she's hangry. I'm kidding. Don't tell her I said that. She claims to have hypoglycemia which is a condition caused by low blood sugar, which is your body's main source of energy. When we first started dating I thought she was joking. I quickly found out it was not a joke. When she would get hangry, I'd look at her and laugh and say whoa where's this coming from? Which is probably the worst thing ever I could have done or said in that moment. I eventually have learned to drop what I'm doing and go with her to get something to eat.

Following on the heels of the feeding of the 5,000, and still continuing in John chapter 6, Jesus is still being followed by the relentless crowd. Although they are less hangry now, having been fed the day before. They are now looking to Jesus to be their King, their Provider, so that their hunger will never come back. But Jesus doesn't want to be their earthly king and provide for their earthly desires. Jesus wants them to see that there is something so much more than what they are asking of Him. He addresses their persistence: “You are looking for me for all the wrong reasons. Don't become preoccupied with the food that still leaves you hungry, but with the food that endures for eternal life.” Jesus can hardly be blamed here with ignoring the physical needs of hungry people. After all, he just fed them all they could eat. At the same time, Jesus is teaching them, life is more than eating, and until the crowds understand that, they will not grasp who Jesus really is and what he is sent by God to do.

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We are getting real close to the heart of what John’s Gospel message is: and that is: Jesus’ miracles are huge deeds that cure the situations of needy people. Namely: the sick, the hungry, the dying. But the results of the miracles aren’t lasting unless they are also seen as signs pointing to the eternal gift of God through Jesus. The crowd’s preoccupation with what pleases them in the now has hindered them from seeing what really matters. Are we not the same as the crowd sometimes? We who endlessly pursue other remedies, other satisfactions, endless gratifying buffets that have no ultimate significance, and overlook the life giving manna (bread) that is the Son of God?

So then what really matters if we are so blinded by the fleeting pleasures of this world? The miracle that really matters is the miracle of faith, when God breaks through the all you can eat buffet and gives us the all you can believe buffet! Meaning he reveals to us in our self-centered world the revelation of God’s Son, Jesus Christ.

Yet, some of the crowd need proof, like many of us we need a sign from Jesus. Still we ask Jesus to do it again, to be our source for physical things, like the crowd in asking for physical food. They compare the feeding to the manna their ancestors ate in the wilderness during the Exodus with Moses, quoting the OT saying, “He gave them bread from heaven to eat”. Jesus immediately offers a reinterpretation of the text. First, it wasn’t Moses who gave the bread from heaven, but “my Father” and he not only gave the bread but gives the bread freely without limit. And lastly, the true bread from heaven is not manna, but Jesus himself.

Today, we will partake in this true bread given from heaven. We will eat the bread of life given at the Communion celebration and be hungry no more. This is the point of John’s gospel, Jesus is the source of everlasting life. All who accept it will taste eternity and know and believe

John 6:24-35

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in the everlasting life offered freely as a loving gift to us. In the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.