

Welcome to Rev Darren King's Bible Study – 18 August 2024
PENTECOST 13
EAT ME, DRINK ME

Opening Prayer (please pray together)

Almighty God, you have given your only Son to be for us a sacrifice for sin: Give us grace to receive thankfully the fruits of his redeeming work, and to follow daily in the blessed steps of his most holy life; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever, Amen.

Welcome 🙏

Q 1 What did you think of the Olympics?

Did you enjoy the different countries competing in the different events?

Read Psalm 130 together - A song of ascents.

¹ Out of the depths I cry to you, LORD;

² Lord, hear my voice. Let your ears be attentive to my cry for mercy.

³ If you, LORD, kept a record of sins, Lord, who could stand?

⁴ But with you there is forgiveness, so that we can, with reverence, serve you.

⁵ I wait for the LORD, my whole being waits, and in his word I put my hope.

⁶ I wait for the Lord more than watchmen wait for the morning,
more than watchmen wait for the morning.

⁷ Israel, put your hope in the LORD, for with the LORD is unfailing love and with him is full redemption.

⁸ He himself will redeem Israel from all their sins.

Music Worship 🎵

Suggestions Be still for the glory of the Lord

Hosanna, Hosanna

As the deer pants for the water

Word; John 6.35, 45-51

³⁵ Then Jesus declared, "I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never go hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty.

⁴⁵ It is written in the Prophets: 'They will all be taught by God.' Everyone who has heard the Father and learned from him comes to me. ⁴⁶ No one has seen the Father except the one who is from God; only he has seen the Father. ⁴⁷ Very truly I tell you, the one who believes has eternal life. ⁴⁸ I am the bread of life.

⁴⁹ Your ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness, yet they died. ⁵⁰ But here is the bread that comes down from heaven, which anyone may eat and not die. ⁵¹ I am the living bread that came down from heaven. Whoever eats this bread will live forever. This bread is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world."

COMMENTARY Why doesn't the crowd believe?

They have seen Jesus perform the miraculous sign of feeding over five thousand people with five loaves and two fish. They have also seen him heal the sick. They have been with him and have heard at least some of his teaching. Our text is showing us that sinful and fallen human beings – human beings whose hearts are in rebellion against God – even if they see Jesus and his works ... left to themselves, they still will not believe. For this crowd has seen, and as Jesus points out in verse thirty-six, they still do not believe!

The unbelief of the crowd confronts us with the fact that unbelief towards Christ is not caused by lack of knowledge or lack of direct empirical evidence. Unbelief can come up even in those who see the truth with their own eyes.

They see ... but they still reject Jesus.

What we can see in the reading is our fallen nature as human beings – because of our selfishness and self-centeredness, left to ourselves we can willfully reject God as he is. But how about the people who have believed from their earliest age? And the ones that have turned to Jesus?

**Q 2 What do you understand by Jesus saying eat me and drink me?
How would you explain it to a child or a person from another faith?**

Q 3 Clearly Jesus is talking more about physical or biological life. He is talking about life that is beyond words, indescribable and yet we know it when we taste it. Discuss

Q 4 Is there life within you?

This question pushes us to discover the hunger within us and the life Jesus wants to feed us. Jesus is the bread of life – Please discuss

Works

Who can we pray for or visit this week? Pray for everyone, for even if they reject the Lord, they are still loved by the Lord.

Ending Prayer (please pray together)

Almighty God, we praise your name because you have lovingly made each one of us. May your intended purpose be made real here on earth, even as it is already done in heaven. Feed us today with the things we truly need, and may we share our abundance with others. through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever, Amen.

Shalom Rev Darren King (Roots on the web, The Message)