

Christmas Unwrapped
“The Bread of Heaven”
John 6:51

Introduction

– [Slide #1]

- Pepperidge Farm
- Arnold’s
- Brownberry
- Holsum
- Beefsteak
- Gardner’s
- Home Pride
- All American
- Captian John Derst’s
- Baker’s Inn
- Cinnabon
- Cobblestone Mill Selects
- IronKids
- Dave Caporale’s
- Don Pancho
- Francisco
- Oroweat
- Schwebel’s
- Sun-Maid
- Wheat Montana Farms
- Sunbeam
- Country Kitchen
- Thomas’
- Colonial
- Mrs. Baird’s
- Bon Gateaux
- Rainbo
- Bar-S
- Milton’s
- Aladdin
- Baby Bunny
- Bimbo
- D’ Italiano
- Bread Du Jour
- Village Hearth
- Bunny
- Country Hearth
- D'annunzio's
- Earth Grains
- Butternut
- Family Finest
- Gateway
- Bunny
- Food for Life
- Roman Meal
- Aunt Hattie’s
- Healthy Choice
- Healthy Life
- King’s Hawaiian
- Merita
- Chef Pierre
- Monk’s
- Wonder Bread
- Mrs. Freshley’s
- Nature’s Own
- Nickle’s
- Old Tyme
- Manischewitz
- Sarah Lee

- I’ve been thinking about bread all week. It’s been a personal quest all week to track down as many brands of bread as I could find because I’ve been about something Jesus said. He said, *I am the bread of life. He who comes to me will never go hungry, and he who believes in me will never be thirsty. I am the living bread that came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever. This bread is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world.*¹

¹ John 6:35, 51.

- Do you know when Jesus said these words? He said these words to a mob of hungry people, five thousand strong, that had just been fed by five small barley loaves and two fish. He said these words to those whose ancestors had eaten manna. Do you remember the story of the manna? The Jews were the recipients of God’s manna that miraculously appeared on the ground each morning for forty years. By the way, do you know what the word manna means? It means “what is it?” The Jews had no clue as to what they were eating. All they knew was that it was *white like coriander seed and tasted like wafers made with honey.*² And it took away their hunger—a day a time.
- And Jesus says to this crowd, *I am the bread of life. He who comes to me will never go hungry.* What does this have to do with Christmas? It has everything to do with Christmas. Part of what it means to unwrap Christmas means unwrapping Jesus’ claim that, if you should choose to let him, as the bread of life,...

Proposition

- **He can satisfy your deepest hunger**
- Christmas is about hunger isn’t it? It’s about the hunger for a better world. A better family. A better life. God’s answer to our hunger is Jesus. To eat a meal implies that it is wholesome, nourishing, and real. The Christmas story is the story of a meal that finally satisfies once and for all. Living manna. Bread from heaven.
- The hope of Christmas, the wonder of Christmas, the joy of Christmas is the promise of being filled more fully than you’ve ever been filled before. Not uncomfortably filled like after eating too much. But filled so soul full, so full of the life of Christ that you hunger for nothing else. Christmas unwrapped is about being satiated by the living bread from heaven. Bread by any other name is just empty calories.
- The irony of all ironies is that during the holidays, when people long for true bread, they fill themselves with spiritual equivalent of Wonder Bread. The 42-inch Plasma is Wonder Bread. It feels good going down but ultimately won’t satisfy. It’ll always leave you hungry; always on the hunt for another manna-like experience. Let me remind you this Christmas Eve, there is only one true bread that satisfies. Christ, the bread of life. Eat him. Fill your life, your Christmas with Christ, the bread of life.
- The greatest challenge facing you tonight, Christmas Eve 2008, is your choice of bread. Christ is not just another fruitcake. Dense. Heavy. Useless. He is everything you want this Christmas and more. *I am the bread of life. He who comes to me will never go hungry, and he who believes in me will never be thirsty. I am the living bread that came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever. This bread is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world.* This Christmas may you eat and be filled. May you find, in the person of Christ, what you’ve been searching for your whole life—a meal that truly satisfies.

Conclusion

- When the theologians have all figured out there are things we can never know, when some songwriter has composed the last original melody,

² Exodu 16:31

and the poets have died from
too much consecrated wine,
the people will invent their own gods.

- In the midst of these
darkened days, a
baby will be born to
a pure woman and we -
descendants of those who
parted seas, hoarded manna -
will miss it
again.³
- Don't miss the meal that God has prepared for you. Joy to the World and Merry Christmas!

³ Bryce Alan Flurie