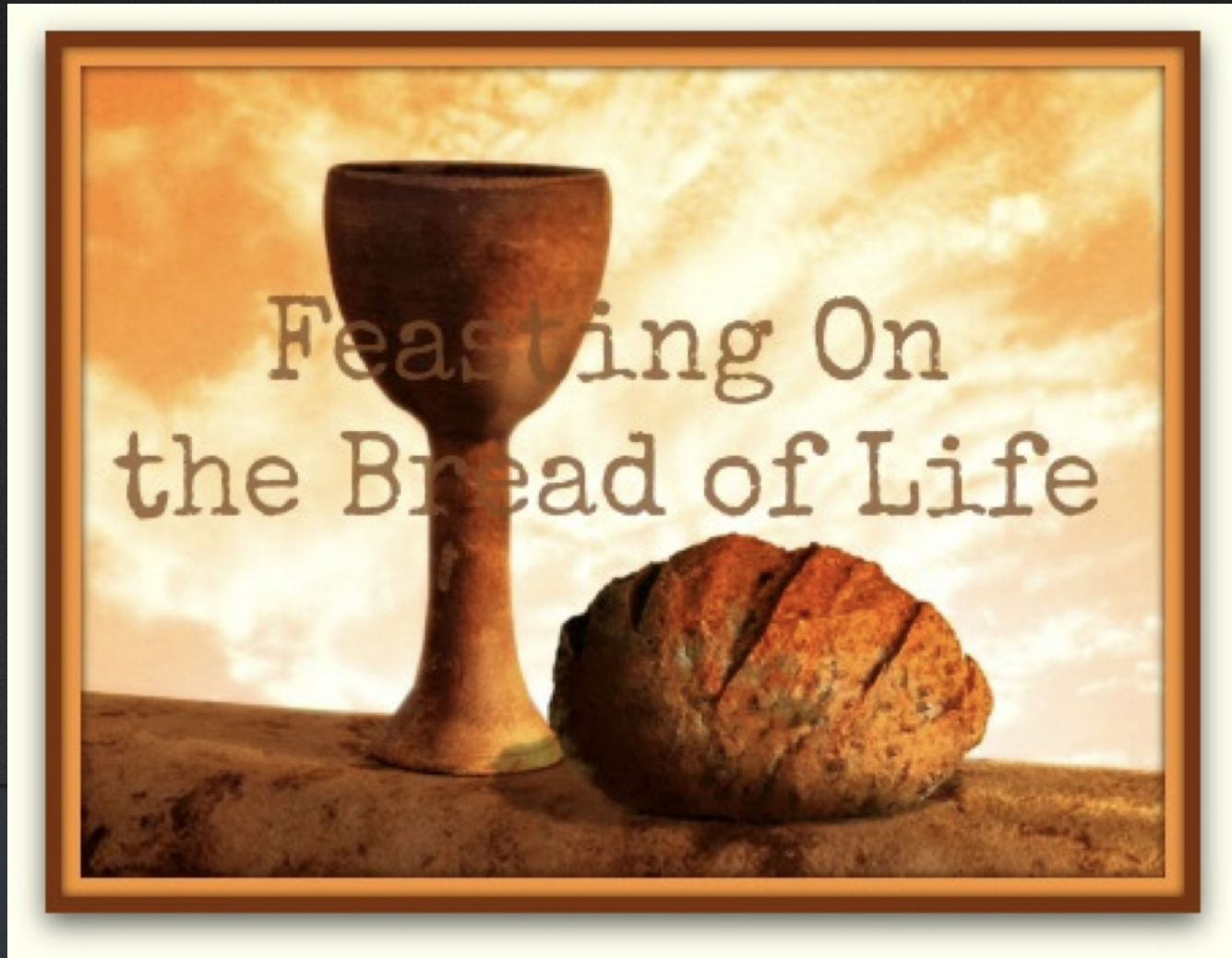


March 27–April 2
Matthew 14; Mark 6; John 5–6
“Be Not Afraid”



The Bread of Life

Mark 6:31-34

What do we learn about Jesus' popularity at this time?

The Bread of Life

John 6:8-15

How did the people feel about Jesus after this miracle?

Why do you think they wanted to force Jesus to be their king?

The Bread of Life

Matt 14:24-33

How did His disciples respond to this miracle?

What can we learn from Peter's desire to walk out and meet Jesus?

Adrián Ochoa

“I am in awe of Peter’s faith. At Jesus’s simple invitation to ‘come,’ he left his storm-tossed ship. He seemed to know that if Jesus Christ invited him to do something, he could do it. Peter trusted the Savior more than he trusted his boat. And that faith gave him power to act with courage during a stressful, frightening situation....

“As he walked toward the Savior, Peter was frightened by the wind and began to sink. But when Peter realized what was happening, he did not try to tread water on his own or swim back to the ship. Rather than let go of his faith in Christ, he held on more tightly, crying, ‘Lord, save me. And immediately Jesus stretched forth his hand, and caught him.’...

“The Savior saw in Peter the potential for so much more. ‘O thou of little faith,’ He said, ‘wherefore didst thou doubt?’

“Peter could have resented this rebuke. But he accepted it humbly. He continued to seek greater faith in Jesus Christ. Through many additional faith-building experiences—some of them very, very difficult—Peter eventually became the rock-solid leader the Lord needed him to be. He accomplished great things in the Lord’s service.” (CR, April 2022)

Marcus B. Nash

"Fear distracts from and undermines faith in the Savior. The Apostle Peter looked to the Lord one stormy night and walked on water—until he averted his gaze and ‘saw the wind boisterous [and] was afraid’ and then sank into the stormy sea. He could have continued walking if he had not feared! Rather than our focusing upon and fearing the boisterous wind and waves in our lives, the Lord invites us to “look unto me in every thought; doubt not, fear not’ (D&C 6:36).” (CR, Oct. 2012)

The Bread of Life

John 6:25-29

Why did they seek Jesus?

What did Jesus offer them that was much more valuable?

What is the work they must do to obtain this bread of life?

Dieter F. Uchtdorf

"What shall we do? This was the question the multitude asked Jesus on the banks of the Sea of Galilee. It is a starting question for us as we contemplate becoming disciples of Jesus Christ....

"To all who are searching for answers, truth, and happiness, I do offer the same counsel: keep searching with faith and patience. Ask, and you will receive. Knock, and it will be opened unto you....

"As we set aside pride and approach His throne with a broken heart and a contrite spirit, He will draw near to us. As we seek to follow Jesus Christ and walk the path of discipleship, line upon line, the day will come that we will experience that unimaginable gift of receiving a fulness of joy." (CR, April 2021)

The Bread of Life

John 6:30-35

What did the people expect from Jesus before they would believe that He was the promised Messiah?

What was Jesus' response?

Alexander B. Morrison

"If we do not constantly receive the spiritual nourishment needed daily, we will soon—as individuals and societies—be in dire straits, bereft of God's protection, cut off from the healing influences of the Spirit. Just as one who is weakened by malnutrition soon may fall prey to infectious disease, so, too will we, if spiritually weakened, be ready prey for the adversary and his legions of dupes and devils.

"What, then, is the source of the spiritual nourishment we need? Where can it be found? Jesus, as always, had the answer. To the Samaritan woman at Jacob's well, He proclaimed, 'Whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst; but the water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life' (John 4:14)... Jesus, then, is the living water which we require for constant nourishment of our spirits.

"Jesus' position as the source of essential spiritual sustenance is further illustrated in His glorious sermon to the multitude at Capernaum, as described in the sixth chapter of John. 'I am the bread of life,' He said; 'he that cometh to me shall never hunger; and he that believeth on me shall never thirst' (John 6:35).

"Jesus, then, is both the bread of life and the living water needed to nourish our spirits and to keep us spiritually strong." (CR, April 1992)

The Bread of Life

John 6:47-58

What promises did Jesus make to those who would partake of His flesh and blood?

How do we eat His flesh and drink His blood?

James E. Talmage

“To eat the flesh and drink the blood of Christ was and is to believe in and accept Him as the literal Son of God and Savior of the world, and to obey His commandments. By these means only may the Spirit of God become an abiding part of man's individual being, even as the substance of the food he eats is assimilated with the tissues of his body....

“The sacrament of the Lord's supper, established by the Savior on the night of His betrayal, perpetuates the symbolism of eating His flesh and drinking His blood, by the partaking of bread and wine in remembrance of Him. (Jesus the Christ, pg. 342-343)

The Bread of Life

John 6:60-66

Why do you think Jesus chose not to soften this message since He knew it would turn many away?

Do we have any doctrine or principles in the restored gospel that turn people away?

Bruce R. McConkie

“Before entering the synagogue in Capernaum to preach his great discourse on the Bread of Life, Jesus was at the height of his popularity. Great multitudes of the common people followed him gladly.... Now the time had arrived to begin to separate the chaff from the wheat, to test the faith of his disciples, to learn who, following him at all hazards, were worthy of him. Unable to believe and accept his strong and plain assertions about eating his flesh and drinking his blood, even many classified as disciples fell away. And this process of sifting, trial, and testing was to continue with increasing intensity for the final climactic year of his mortal ministry.”

(Doctrinal New Testament Commentary, 1:361-62)

Albert E. Bowen

“The multitudes followed so long as they were recipients of his material benefactions.... Then when he began to unfold to them the personal requirements devolving upon recipients of his teaching they melted rapidly away, and the record says, ‘They walked no more with him.’ They had no belief. They were seekers after personal gain without appetite for reformation from practices which centered in themselves.” (CR, Oct. 1945)

Neal A. Maxwell

“The very process of daily living makes and breaks followers. Life’s stern seasons and storms overturn those not grounded and rooted. However, those who ‘believe and are sure’ (John 6:69) about Jesus’ divinity do not panic, for instance, at the arrival of a new volley of fiery darts; they merely hold aloft the quenching shield of faith.” (CR, Oct. 1988)

The Bread of Life

John 6:67-69

What does Peter's reply tell us about him?

D. Todd Christofferson

“I don’t know if, at that moment, Peter and his Brethren understood what the Lord was teaching any better than the disciples who were now abandoning the Master, but Peter did know by the certain witness of the Spirit that Jesus was the Christ, the Son of the living God and that salvation could be found nowhere else. He was therefore fully committed to follow Jesus regardless. If he had questions, they could be resolved in due course, but he would not be dissuaded from loyalty to the Son of God—setting a wonderful example for us all.” (CR, Oct. 2017)

M. Russell Ballard

“As these disciples left, Jesus turned to the Twelve and asked, ‘Will ye also go away?’ ...

“In that moment, when others focused on what they could not accept, the Apostles chose to focus on what they did believe and know, and as a result, they remained with Christ....

“Today is no different. For some, Christ’s invitation to believe and remain continues to be hard—or difficult to accept. Some disciples struggle to understand a specific Church policy or teaching. Others find concerns in our history or in the imperfections of some members and leaders, past and present.... For these and other reasons, some Church members vacillate in their faith, wondering if perhaps they should follow those who ‘went back, and walked no more’ with Jesus.

“If any one of you is faltering in your faith, I ask you the same question that Peter asked: ‘To whom shall [you] go?’. (CR, Oct 2016)

Next Week:

April 10–16

Matthew 15–17; Mark 7–9

“Thou Art the Christ”

