



A SEAT AT THE TABLE

A Seat at the Table // Part 3

Introduction:

This week Matt continues a new series called 'A Seat at the Table' with 'Part 3'. What is the table and who gets a seat? If the church is the ultimate table, who is it for?

This week we are looking at a different chair at the table, the chair for the seeker. In this message we'll be looking at the bread God provided from heaven (manna) and the claim of Jesus to be the bread of Life. Who is the bread for? What does it mean to believe, and what does the bread have to do with believing? 'What is it' & why is any of that important for those sitting in the seeker chair?

Questions:

1. What does the Jewish word for 'manna' mean? How does that word correctly represent the attitude of the Israelite's? What was God saying to them when He told them to only collect enough manna for each day? **Exodus 16:15**
2. What is the work of God, and how can you do that? What is required of you to accomplish the work of God? How is that related to the idea of bread? Is it enough for you to believe? **John 6:26-29 & 35; Ephesians 2:8-9**
3. What does it mean to believe? How is the Jewish idea of 'believe' different from how we use the word believe? What changes in your life if you totally 'believe'? How can that revised definition alter the way you approach 'believing' and prevent you from claiming any responsibility for being saved?
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4. If you 'believe in the bread', and you are what you eat, what are you eating? How does that become part of you & make you into a new creation? **2 Corinthians**

5. What's the importance of the "I am" statements Jesus made in the book of John? How does Jesus illustrate being the Light (Truth), the Gate (the only gate), and the Vine (where you must remain)? Can all of these be true about Jesus at the same time? **John 8:12; John 10:9; John 14:6; John 15:1**
6. What is Jesus saying when He says 'I am the Bread'? What's the Jewish Midrash, and what did the Midrash get wrong about Moses? How did that lead to mistaken responsibility for the manna? **John 6:32-35**
7. What does it mean to be born with a 'manna mentality', what could solve that craving? If Jesus is the 'Living Bread', what makes that better than manna? What hunger does the 'Living Bread' satisfy? **John 6:32-35; John 6:44; John 6:48-52**

Key takeaway: *If you were to die today do you have eternal life? Have you ever put your faith and trust in Jesus Christ alone as Savior, have you ever eaten the Bread? "The work of God is this: to believe in the One He has sent."*

Summary:

- Manna in Hebrew means 'what is it'?
- The work of God is to Believe & be saved by faith, by God's grace alone
- Believe = complete assimilation to transformation; becomes part of you
- If you are what you eat, what are you eating?
- I am the Light(truth); I am THE Gate, not a gate; I'm the Vine; I'm the Bread
- Midrash - Jewish commentary; not Moses but God who provided manna
- Living bread from Jesus is not manna, better than manna