

Teaching A Spiritual Truth

TO THE EDITOR:

This is my second response to Jeff [redacted] letter of March 6. Jeff mentioned John 6 as support for the mass but this passage has been misinterpreted by the Catholic Church. Jesus plainly tells us in scripture that He speaks and teaches in such a way that those who are earthly minded will not be able to understand the spiritual truths behind His teachings (Matthew 13:13-15). Jesus' parables and physical illustrations always carried a weightier spiritual meaning.

Jeff wrote "four times He (Jesus) said they would have to eat my flesh and drink my blood." However, Jesus uses the word believe six times and five times he says "come to me." John uses the word believe or some form of it (believer, belief, etc.) approximately 90 times throughout his gospel. Clearly Jesus is using a physical metaphor to teach a spiritual truth. The disciples who were only thinking of the physical benefits of being a follower of Christ were not able to discern the spiritual truth behind Jesus words.

When looking at John 6 you will see that Jesus parallels coming to Him and believing in Him (verses 35-47) with eating His flesh and drinking His blood (verses 48-58). Therefore, coming to Jesus, believing on Him and

feeding on His words, much like Martha's sister Mary did in Luke 10:38-42, is the same metaphorically as eating His flesh and drinking His blood.

Jesus tells the woman at the well that He has the water that can give her eternal life. She thinks and responds in physical terms, "sir give me this water so I will not be thirsty nor come all the way here to draw." Jesus continues dialoguing and explains "God is spirit and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth." Jesus tells her He is the Messiah. She tells others who return and the scriptures say that many more believed because of His word. (John 4:1-42) They recognized the spiritual truth behind having their thirst satisfied. How? By hearing and believing Jesus' word that He is "the savior of the world." Peter recognized how to satisfy his hunger and thirst spiritually "Lord to whom shall we go? You have words of eternal life. And we have believed and have come to know that you are the Holy One of God." (John 6:68-69) As Jesus said "The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and are life." (Jn. 6:63).

Taste them and see that they are good. (Psalm 119:103, 104)

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