

## Sermon Title: The Bread of Life and the Way of Wisdom

- **Jesus as the Bread of Life:**
  - Jesus' statement, "Unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you," can be difficult to understand and may seem repulsive, likened to cannibalism.
  - For the Jewish audience, drinking blood was forbidden, as blood was seen as the life force.
  - Jesus isn't speaking literally but is referring to eternal life, which begins now and continues beyond death.
- **Eternal Life:**
  - Eternal life isn't just about the afterlife; it's a fulfilled life here on Earth.
  - This life is described as knowing God and living in a relationship with Him.
  - Eternal life starts now, through living out the teachings of Jesus and seeking the wisdom of God.
- **Wisdom Personified in Proverbs:**
  - Proverbs personifies wisdom as a woman, "Lady Wisdom," who prepares a banquet, just as Jesus offers spiritual nourishment.
  - Lady Wisdom's banquet is inclusive, welcoming all, much like Jesus' invitation to eternal life.
  - Jesus' life, teachings, and sacrificial death represent the fullness of God's wisdom.
- **The Challenge of Intimacy with Christ:**
  - Some people, like the boys in "Oliver Twist," observe from a distance without truly partaking in the life Jesus offers.
  - True life in Christ requires more than intellectual assent; it demands total engagement, akin to consuming food that becomes part of us.
  - This intimacy affects every aspect of our lives, influencing our decisions, relationships, and values.
- **Daily Surrender to God:**
  - Living in intimacy with God begins with saying "YES" to His invitation and continues with daily surrender.
  - This path is challenging but leads to a life of fullness and wisdom.
- **The Choice Between Two Wisdoms:**
  - Proverbs contrasts "Lady Wisdom" with "Lady Folly," representing the world's wisdom.
  - The world's wisdom focuses on self-fulfillment, appearances, and despises weakness.
  - In contrast, God's wisdom values goodness, elevates the vulnerable, and calls us to humility and service.
- **Call to Respond:**
  - The sermon concludes with a call to choose God's wisdom over the world's, and to engage fully in the life Jesus offers.

## Questions:

1. **Reflecting on the Symbolism of Bread and Wine:** How do the bread and wine in John 6:51-58 serve as symbols of our spiritual life in Christ? What does it mean to "eat the flesh" and "drink the blood" of Jesus, and how can we understand this in a way that deepens our faith rather than feeling repulsed by the imagery?
2. **Understanding Eternal Life:** The sermon mentions that eternal life is not just about life after death but is a present reality. How do the passages in John and Proverbs help us understand eternal life as something that starts now? What practical ways can we live out this eternal life in our daily routines?
3. **The Comparison of Lady Wisdom and Jesus:** In Proverbs, Lady Wisdom invites all to her banquet, much like Jesus does in the Gospels. How do the qualities and actions of Lady Wisdom in Proverbs 9 compare to those of Jesus in the Gospel of John? What can we learn from this comparison about God's invitation to us?
4. **Engaging with God Intimately:** The sermon challenges us to move beyond intellectual acknowledgment of Jesus and to engage with Him intimately, like the example from "Oliver Twist." What does this intimate engagement with God look like in practical terms? How can we ensure that our relationship with God affects every aspect of our lives?
5. **Choosing Between God's Wisdom and Worldly Wisdom:** Proverbs contrasts the wisdom of God with "Lady Folly," or worldly wisdom. How do you see the tension between these two types of wisdom playing out in your own life or in society? What are some ways we can discern and choose God's wisdom over the world's wisdom in our decisions and lifestyle?
6. **Responding to God's Invitation:** The sermon ends by inviting listeners to say "YES" to God's wisdom and His way of life. What might it look like for you to say "YES" to God in your current circumstances? How can we support one another in making and living out this commitment in a world that often values different things?