

“Jesus Is Better Than Food” ♦ Rev. John M. Fraiser
Matthew 14:13-21 ♦ July 31, 2011

- I. *Jesus is concerned about physical needs.*
- II. *Jesus is not concerned about physical needs more than spiritual needs.*
- III. *We must learn to value spiritual food over physical food – salvation over material gifts.* “Do not labor for the food that perishes, but for the food that endures to eternal life, which the Son of Man will give to you” (John 6:27).
 - A. Material gifts perish
 - B. Material gifts do not address humanity’s deepest need
- IV. *We must learn to appreciate the good gifts that Christ blesses us with but never to appreciate the gift more than the giver.*
 - A. Material Gifts
 - B. Salvation Gifts
- V. *The greatest gift that Jesus Christ offers is Jesus Christ himself. What we need more than anything else is Jesus Christ himself.*
 - A. Jesus is not a means to the ends that we want – he is the end in himself.
 - B. Receiving Jesus himself is what the sacraments (the word of the gospel, baptism, and the Lord’s Supper) are about and why we should value them so highly.
 - C. Christians are not called to present Christ to people as a way to get something they already want, but to show them that they have a need that they may not even know about.