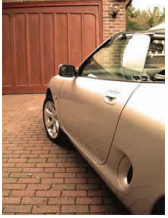


Fix Him Good Meals

Topic: The need for good works

John 4:31-34 HCSB In the meantime the disciples kept urging Him, "Rabbi, eat something." **32** But He said, "I have food to eat that you don't know about." **33** The disciples said to one another, "Could someone have brought Him something to eat?" **34** "My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me and to finish His work," Jesus told them.

1. Picture of a car in a driveway



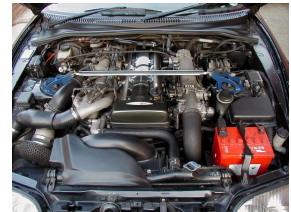
A man is asleep in his house getting a good night's rest. Outside in the driveway this man has a car. That car has four wheels with tires on them. What holds those tires up? What sustains them, keeps them in working order? Air. Air holds them up, keeps them working right.

2. Picture with statement "What sustains you?"

What sustains you?

3. Picture of motor

Under that hood is a motor. If there's no gas for the motor that motor won't run a lick. With that gas in there for that motor it can drive that car on down the road.



4. Picture of statement "What drives you?"

What drives you?

5. Picture of man eating breakfast



The morning comes. That man wakes up. He comes in to the kitchen, sits down at the table to a well balanced, nutritious, energizing breakfast - the most important meal of the day. Feed the body. The food creates chemical reactions in the brain, the muscles and the organs of the body. That food energizes the body. It gives the body energy to face the day ahead.

6. Picture of statement "What energizes you?"

What energizes you?

What can we gather from this statement Jesus made? Yes He said some things before, He made this statement and He went on to say some others. But what can we glean from this one statement He made right here in the middle of many? You've heard people talk about some activity that for which they have an appreciation say, "I eat this up!" What is it that Jesus loves? What kind of food can we prepare for Him? What kind of meal does He want to share with us?

7. Picture of word "Devotion"

Devotion

I would like to submit the possibility that Jesus feeds on devotion. In another place Jesus said,

- **Matthew 6:21 HCSB** For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

Here He said, "My food is to do the will of Him that sent Me". Doing the Father's will was His meat and potatoes. He loved the Father. He treasured the Father. His devotion to His Father allowed Him to go forward through all the persecution, all the ignorance, all the hatred, all the apathy.

My food is what sustains me, keeps me going. It drives me. And what should be my food? It should be the mission set before me. My love for my Father, my passionate zeal to do His will. That's what energizes Me. Because I know He loves and honors devotion.

8. Picture of word "Determination" and Colossians 1:24 underneath it

Determination

- **Colossians 1:24 HCSB** Now I rejoice in my sufferings for you, and I am completing in my flesh what is lacking in Christ's afflictions for His body, that is, the church.

Is Paul saying that there was something wrong with Jesus' work? Is he saying that what He did on the cross was not enough? Is he saying that Jesus' atoning sacrifice was insufficient to bring about our salvation? No – not at all.

9. Picture of Christ carrying the cross



You see while the Master was with us here on earth, Satan sought to harm him.

- He got Herod to try to kill Him by massacring the boys in Bethlehem.
- He got the people to try to stone Him.
- He got the people to try to push Him off a cliff.
- He tried to get the elements to brew up a good storm and drown Him.
- Then finally Satan got the Pharisees to whip the crowd up into a frenzy.
 - They whipped our Lord with a cat o' nine tails. The Bible says He wasn't even recognizable as a man.
 - They stuck a crown of thorns on his head.
 - Then they beat Him about the head with sticks.
 - They took Him out to Golgotha and they nailed Him to a cross.
 - And when He gave up the ghost, they stuck a spear into His side just to make sure.

I believe with all my heart when Jesus Christ, the Son of Almighty God came up out of those baptismal waters in the Jordan river He set His eyes like a flint to Calvary. He never wavered to the left nor to the right. When He got there He laid His life down on that old rugged cross and allowed them to drive those three rusty nails in His hands and feet. Then they raised Him up in the air and dropped that old cross down in that hole and for hour after lonely hour He hung there suffering in great pain and agony.

Then hanging there between two thieves - in His last moment and with His last breath He cried out "It Is Finished" "Tetellesti". Paid in full. It is done.

Then He descended into the deepest, darkest pits of sheol to set the captives in Paradise free. Then came back. Rose up from the dead. Walked out of that cold dark tomb victorious over death, hell, and the grave.

He finished His Father's work. He ascended to heaven and He is now out of the reach of the devil. So guess who the devil's after now? Christ's body – the Church – you my friends. And I want to take on the sufferings of Christ. My food is also to finish the Master's work. I want to do my part to shoulder some small part of the world's burdens. Taking on the burdens that the Master chose to carry is my motivating force. I will do His will. I choose to finish His work.

10. Picture of field “white unto harvest”

In this same conversation recorded in John 4 He went on to say to His disciples, as He says to you and me, "Lift up your eyes, look on the fields. For they are white already for the harvest".

As you and I go out into the fields let's watch our diets.

- Let's dine with God.
- Let's fix Him a meal that He'll appreciate.
- Let's prepare His favorite food.
- Let's indulge in our devotion to doing His work, His will.
 - This is what will sustain us.
 - This is what makes life worth living.
 - This is where we get our energy.
- Let's be determined to continue His work.
- Let's take on the task He has set before us.
- Let's take full advantage of the drive that has been planted down deep within our souls by the Holy Spirit.
- Let's fight a good fight.
- Let's run the race forever knowing that the gates of hell cannot prevail upon this type of faith.



So I ask you, "What sustains you in your own personal life?"

- Is it a paycheck?
- Is it that drink you look so forward to after a long hard day at work?
- Is it that pack of cigarettes lying by the bed that you reach for every morning before going out to face the day?
- Is it a family member (child, spouse, parent) that dictates every move you make?

Or is it a deep, passionate, longing, burning desire to feed, gorge on, and digest the word of God as He nurtures your very existence and your faith that the just walk by.

11. Picture of Peter confronting Ananias



Remember Ananias and Saphira? They gave only a portion of what was required of them and wanted to keep the rest. They thought that money would sustain them, rather than their obedience to God. It did not. It only led to their destruction. God, His word, His work, His will. These are what sustained Jesus. Eat that stuff up.

What drives you?

- Is it fame, glory, and praise that some seem to so desperately crave when taking on a task?
- Is it a sense of power from being in charge?
- Is it the expectation of getting special recognition or something tangible in return for your efforts?

Or is it the healing, cleansing, saving, securing power of Jesus Christ and His marching orders for you to carry out and accomplish in His time, in His power, within His will?

12. Picture of Jesus and the rich young ruler

Do you remember the encounter Jesus had with the rich young ruler? His riches, his worldly possessions and wealth **drove** him. They **drove** him. In fact they drove him right away from the saving



knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ. He never got to know thrill of the passionate drive to serve the Lord of all the ages.

What energizes you?

- Is it the buzz you get from that drink, that cigarette or tobacco, that drug?
- Is it that thrill you get when you go down town and buy something new no matter how much or how little it's needed?

Or is the sweet, refreshing, comforting presence and leadership of God's Holy Spirit dominant in your life? Is it revealing to you the thread of possibility that runs throughout your life according to the mind and will of God?

Conclusion

Remember the church at Laodicea in Revelation 3? She got lazy and puffed up with pride. She had no energy. She was neither hot nor cold. She was lukewarm. The members of that church had even convinced themselves that they were rich with a house full of goods.

But in verses 15-16 God says they were wretched. He said that He would spew them right out if His mouth. Their complacency and apathy sickened Him.

By the way, it is within the context of a complacent, self-satisfied, apathetic church that Jesus extended the famous but often misquoted invitation.

Picture of famous painting of Jesus knocking at the door with verse Revelation 3:20



- **Revelation 3:20 HCSB Listen! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and have dinner with him, and he with Me.**

This passage is often wrongly used as an invitation to the lost. But that is not its intention. Church - Jesus is wanting in here. I want you to notice that there is no door knob on the outside of that door. Jesus is wanting in here and we must actively let Him in. We need to make sure that our church doesn't get so busy, grow so big or get so exciting that we fail to notice whether or not Jesus is truly in our midst.

- This church was established as a place to worship Him.
- This church was established as a place to serve Him.
- This church has Jesus Christ as its object of wonder.
- Jesus Christ is our purpose.
- Jesus Christ is our goal.
- Jesus Christ is our "raison d'être", our reason for being.
- We only want to know the resurrected Christ.
- Anything else is junk food.
- Anything else is saccharine.
- Anything else has enough food additives to choke a horse and we don't want it.

So, let us examine ourselves, you and me. What is our level of devotion? How determined are we?" Can we honestly say, "My meat is to do the will of our Heavenly Father and to finish His work that He has sent us to do?" Let's fix the Master a meal fit for a king.