

April 7, 2024

# The View

“Sir, we wish to see Jesus” - John 12:21

## Welcome Visitors

Our goal at the Folsom church of Christ is to do everything according to God’s word, including respecting its silence. We are not a denomination, not part of anything larger than this local church; we have no earthly “headquarters.” The six elders oversee this church and, ultimately, we answer only to Christ. The comments you hear today are primarily for the benefit of our own members, as we examine Scripture and seek to be built up in our faith in Christ. If you don’t understand something, please do not hesitate to ask the preacher or one of the elders. We welcome and appreciate your comments and questions on any issue and especially if you see or hear anything that you feel does not correspond to God’s word. We are here to serve; please help us do that.

**Please fill out a visitor’s card and put it in the collection plate when it is passed.  
We do not solicit donations from visitors. See page 4 for more information.**

## Schedule

### The Lord’s Day

#### 9:30 AM Bible classes

*Auditorium: A Study of Nehemiah (Review)*

*Young Adult Class (room 12): Romans*

*Room 15/16: Ladies Class: Psalms*

#### 10:30 AM Assembly

Preaching Today : Jay Simmons

*Sermon: A Cloud of Witnesses IX: Enduring Faith (Heb 11:35-38)*

Livestream at 9:30 & 10:30AM at <https://tinyurl.com/5f2cbm3y>

#### Bible Class: 5PM @ the Building

*“Praying the Psalms” ( 5PM—Auditorium)*

High School Class, 5 PM - Sunday— David & Christie Posey’s home

*Young people monthly meeting (middle school): contact David Sanderson ([david.r.sanderson@intel.com](mailto:david.r.sanderson@intel.com))  
or Seth Reagan ([sethreagan@gmail.com](mailto:sethreagan@gmail.com))*

There are several on-going Bible classes in the homes of members. Check with David Posey or one of the other elders if you would like to join one of those classes.

#### Wednesday 7PM @ Building

Classes: same as Sunday 9:30 AM

2nd Saturday Men’s Bible Study: 7 to 8 AM

Bel Air Market on Bidwell in Folsom.

“Iron sharpens iron” (Proverbs 27:17). Mentoring (Titus 2:1-6).

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Articles published in the View reflect only the thoughts and opinions of the author alone, not necessarily the editor, the elders or any member of the church at Folsom.

# Come, Let Us Feast!

Dee Bowman

Jesus refers to himself as "the bread of life" (Jn. 6:35, 48). That statement is far more significant than it appears at first sight. First of all, He is the bread of life. There is none other. If there is to be life, there must be bread; and He is that bread—the only bread. Secondly, the implication is that He is that which sustains life, both here and in the hereafter. There is no quality life on earth without the manna from heaven, the one sent by God (Jn. 6:33), for it is the only bread which "gives life to the world." Finally, man is bound to die; it is his destiny (Heb. 9:27). But the bread of life makes possible his real life, an eternal abode with God. By it and because of it, man can be raised up "at the last day" (Jn. 6:40). He said, "I am the living bread which came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever" (6:51).

Please notice the practical essence of this great metaphor.

**Bread nourishes.** Bread has been called "the staff of life." It nourishes the body in a way that no other food can. It provides and it maintains—that is, it provides the food for the necessary growth and progress of the body; and it keeps it healthy. Jesus certainly does that for the inner man. He it is that nourishes the soul. He gives it the sustenance it needs, provides the means for its growth and progress. Without that bread the souls is famished, it flounders and falters; with it the soul becomes active, dynamic, durable. In this same context Jesus says, "No man can come to Me except the Father who sent Me draws him; and I will raise him up at the last day" (6:44). The sweet savor of His being draws us to him like hot, just-baked bread. Truly, He is our nourishment.

**Bread is tasty.** Man is fitted to enjoy his senses. There are beautiful sights to see for the eyes, wonderful music or conversation to hear for the ears, wonderful fragrances to smell with that sense, and there are wonderful things to taste, too. Good bread is one of the most tasty things in life. No matter where you go in the world, no matter the culture, no matter the degree of intelligence, bread is on the table. It just tastes good. And Jesus fills up our spiritual senses in a very real sense. He is the most distinctive flavor ever known to man. He alone can satisfy man's need for true flavor. Can you think of a greater pleasure than to taste something really good? He is that taste for the spiritual man. "If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever; and the bread that I shall give you is My flesh..." He said (6:51).

**Bread satisfies.** Satisfaction is one of man's supreme joys. Hunger is indigenous to man. It is this appetite that causes him to desire what is necessary to constantly rejuvenate his body. The same is true of the spiritual needs of man. "Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God," said the Lord. Physical bread is not the only necessary ingredient for a rich, full life. It takes spiritual bread as well. Jesus is that bread. It is He who makes us feel satiated, filled, sufficient. There is a close connection between satisfaction and

peace and Jesus is the means to both.

**Bread is basic.** Butter is not much good if you don't have some bread to put it on. Neither is jelly or peanut butter. And what about a sandwich without bread? Bread is basic; it provides the fundamental needs on which to build faith and a good life. Jesus is that bread. Without the basis of who and what He is, there is not much on which to build a good life. Jesus is the alpha and omega, the beginning and the end. And without the beginning, where-with the end?

Let us feast on this great bread today. Let us be nourished by it, let its taste pervade our senses, let it satisfy our longings, for it is the basis for all that we are. How sweet and wonderful is that bread. Thank God for the bread of life!

## Behold Your God!

Bill Moseley

On the tableland of God's inspired volume, the Bible, there is one book that has always to this writer risen as a towering monument to the greatness of God – the great prophecy of Isaiah. It is there – lofty, majestic, issuing great promises to the remnant under the Messiah, and at the same time threatening judgments to the enemies of Jehovah. It was this great prophet who called upon Judah to "behold your God!" (Isa. 40:9). Yet an ungrateful nation had rejected God, even as the world by and large has today. It is high time that people, especially those that are His, again begin to "behold our God."

The prophet begins to show God's greatness by setting beside Him the universe which He created. This is the God that "measured the waters in the hollow of his hand" (v. 12). He is the one who "meted out the heaven with the span" (ibid.). Here is a picture of God, holding forth the "span," which was about nine inches, reaching from the tip of the thumb to the tip of the little finger of outspread hand. When God made this world, it was almost as if was saying, "here is my span; my world shall be as this to me." And so it was. He is pictured holding a vessel, and in it is the dust of the earth, and he knew every grain. The prophet shows us Judah's God with a scale in his hand, weighing the very mountains! Truly, we serve no puny God!

Isaiah then shows man's insignificance compared to this God. What man is there that is in a position to tell God anything (v. 13)? There is not a one! When God set about His great creative work, to whom did He have to go for advice? Who had knowledge about this process that God did not have? Not a one. Here is a God possessed of omnipotence and need not ask advice of any man.

Every nation is subject to the decrees of God (v. 15). All through Old Testament history the nations were moved at the decree of God. If he decided to use them to achieve

his purpose, they achieved it. If, because of their wickedness, God destroyed them, they sat there – immobile and impotent while the stroke of his fury reduced them to nothing. Truly, the nations are "as a drop of a bucket" compared to him. All the earth and all that it contains is not sufficient to give Him what He truly deserves. "Lebanon is not sufficient to burn, nor the beasts thereof sufficient for a burnt offering" (v. 16). If every cedar was hewn down from Lebanon; if every beast was brought as a sacrifice, they would still far short of a truly sufficient sacrifice. And so in His mercy, God allows man to make the sacrifices that he can make – and God will accept them if they are what he has asked for.

God is far superior to the idol-gods of man (v. 18f). Their gods of sticks and stones, yea even of gold and silver, are nothing compared to Him. The workman may make them, but when they are finished, there they sit – they "shall not be moved" (v. 20). Whatever idol; whatever "god" a man may have will not benefit him. They are merely the work of men's hands and will be destroyed.

And so, "have ye not known? have ye not heard ...?" (vv. 21, 28). Here is a God that never wearies; never grows faint, and will bear those up who will worship and serve Him as the God of the universe. He "hath given power to the faint" (v. 29), to the extent that they "shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint" (v. 31). This is probably an allusion to the joyous times when the captive nation would return from bondage of Babylon. But can we not enjoy this promise today? As we seek to leave one day what Ronald Reagan once called "the surly bond of earth" and "touch the face of God," do we not realize what a God we have at our disposal?

Yes, "Judah, behold your God!" But also to God's people today, "behold your God!" Serve him; worship him and enjoy his blessings. Fail to recognize his greatness at your own risk and eternal peril.

## Looking Back

Bubba Garner

Jesus turned the minds of his audience back to a familiar account when He said, "Remember Lot's wife" (Luke 17:32). Isn't it interesting that He didn't have to say, "Remember Lot's wife... you know, the one who became a pillar of salt." They knew her story. They may not have even known her name, but they knew her lot in life. Yet, they continued to turn back from God. In reflecting on this story, perhaps Jesus wanted the people to remember these lessons.

God does not ask you to do the impossible. There was nothing difficult about what He commanded Lot and his family to do. "Escape for your life! Do not look behind you," was His message through the angel (Gen. 19:17). That was clear, simple, and straightforward, without any room for misunderstanding or misinterpretation. He didn't require them to do something they were incapable of doing. That's because His commandments do not create burdens, they relieve them. The burden is on us to prove otherwise.

God does not give partial credit. Lot's wife almost got it right. She escaped for her life, she left the city, she fled to the mountains. So far, so good. But she looked back and became a pillar of salt (Gen. 19:26). With God, there is no such thing as partial obedience. To obey in part is to disobey. You can't pick and choose parts of His law that you want to follow and discard the rest. Do it all or you have done nothing at all.

God does assess punishment on those who disobey. She became a pillar. This woman became a testimony to all generations of what happens when you don't follow the commandments of the Lord. "It is our business to see that we do right. God will see that we come out right" (Donald Barnhouse). In due season, that is.

Remember Lot's wife. It's a story worth looking back at over and over again.



Read your Bible