

John 6:53

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Then Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you,
Except ye eat the flesh of the Son of man, and drink his blood,
ye have no life in you.

Analysis

'Then Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except ye eat the flesh of the Son of man, and drink his blood, ye have no life in you.' This shocking statement intensifies the discourse. 'Eat' and 'drink' are metaphors for appropriating Christ's sacrificial death. Without personally receiving what Christ offers through His death, there is no spiritual life. The language anticipates the Lord's Supper while primarily describing faith-union with Christ.

Historical Context

This language would have been particularly offensive to Jews, for whom consuming blood was forbidden (Leviticus 17:10-14). Jesus deliberately uses scandalous imagery to emphasize the necessity of personally appropriating His sacrifice. Many disciples left over this teaching (verse 66).

Related Passages

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. What does 'eating flesh' and 'drinking blood' metaphorically represent?
2. Why does Jesus use deliberately offensive language to describe coming to Him?

Interlinear Text

εἶπεν	οὖν	αὐτοῦ	ὁ	Ἰησοῦς	ἀμὲν	ἀμὲν	λέγω	ὑμῖν	
said	Then	his	G3588	Jesus	Verily	Verily	I say	unto you	
G2036	G3767	G846		G2424	G281	G281	G3004	G5213	
ἐὰν	μὴ	φάγητε	τὴν	σάρκα	τοῦ	υἱοῦ	τοῦ	ἀνθρώπου	
G1437	G3361	ye eat	G3588	the flesh	G3588	of the Son	G3588	of man	
		G5315		G4561		G5207		G444	
καὶ	πίητε	αὐτοῦ	τὸ	αἷμα	οὐκ	ἔχετε	ζωὴν	ἐν	ἑαυτοῖς
and	drink	his	G3588	blood	no	ye have	life	in	you
G2532	G4095	G846		G129	G3756	G2192	G2222	G1722	G1438

Additional Cross-References

1 John 5:12 (Parallel theme): He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life.

John 6:55 (Blood): For my flesh is meat indeed, and my blood is drink indeed.

John 15:4 (Parallel theme): Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me.

John 6:47 (Parallel theme): Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me hath everlasting life.

John 3:3 (References Jesus): Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.

Revelation 2:17 (Parallel theme): He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the

hidden manna, and will give him a white stone, and in the stone a new name written, which no man knoweth saving he that receiveth it.

John 3:36 (Parallel theme): He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him.

Matthew 18:3 (Parallel theme): And said, Verily I say unto you, Except ye be converted, and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven.

John 3:5 (References Jesus): Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.

Luke 13:5 (Parallel theme): I tell you, Nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish.