



Lesson #22, Personal Bible Study presented by Gerald E. Cumby

John 6:41-46, “*The Jews then complained about Him, because He said, “I am the bread which came down from heaven.” And they said, “Is not this Jesus, the son of Joseph, whose father and mother we know? How is it then that He says, ‘I have come down from heaven?’”* Jesus therefore answered and said to them, “*Do not murmur among yourselves. No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him; and I will raise him up at the last day. It is written in the prophets, ‘And they shall all be taught by God.’ Therefore, everyone who has heard and learned from the Father comes to Me. Not that anyone has seen the Father, except He who is from God; He has seen the Father.”*

- ✓ “Six times in this immediate context (chapter 6), Jesus says that he ‘came down from heaven’ (6:33, 38, 41, 50, 51, 58). Jesus statement that “He came down from heaven” is proven to be “verily, verily true.”

Just think...the disciples will later hear Him say, “In My Father’s house are many mansions. If it were not so, I would have told you so!”
Emphasis: “You have heard me say this over and over again...Guys, believe it!”

- ✓ **The Jews then complained:** It was in the synagogue...of course they were Jews (they were looking for something to accuse him of “Blasphemy.”)
- ✓ **Murmured** indicates discontent, anger, and in opposition. Like most people, when someone is making them look bad, have “lack of knowledge”...or generally questioning their lack of truth, they react accordingly (jealousy does a lot of things to individuals).
 - **Jealousy** = “*Do not let your heart be envy (be jealous) of sinners, but be zealous for the fear of the Lord all the day;*” **(Proverbs 23:17)**
 - “*Do not envy wicked men, do not desire their company; for their hearts plot violence, and their lips talk about making trouble*” **(Proverbs 24:1-2)**
 - **Proverbs 27:4** - “*Wrath is cruel, anger is overwhelming, but who can stand before jealousy?*”

- **Proverbs 14:30** - “A tranquil heart gives life to the flesh, but envy makes the bones rot.”
- ✓ **No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him:**
 - ✓ “Unless God draws (The Holy Spirit convicts); , no man will ever come to Christ; because none could, without this drawing, ever feel the need of a Savior, or ever have a repentant heart.”
 - ✓ This understanding of God’s initiative in salvation should make us *more* confident in evangelism, knowing that God *is* drawing people, and we can expect to see those whom the Father draws come to Him.
 - ✓ “*Drawing*, or *alluring*, not *dragging* is to be understood.
 - ✓ This expression does not remove our part in the coming, but rather shows that “He is willing IF we are willing.” The work was done at the cross. Our work is yielding to the truth found at the foot of the cross.
- **And I will raise him up at the last day:**
 - ✓ **All those who do come to Jesus drawn by the Father will receive eternal life and will be resurrected at the last day.**
- **And they shall all be taught by God:**
 - ✓ Jesus quoted from Isaiah 54:13. “All your children *shall* be taught by the LORD.” What He quoted, of course, was truth.
 - ✓ All those who belong to God are **taught by God**, being drawn to Him (**everyone who has heard and learned from the Father comes to Me**).
 - “God will teach His people within their hearts. Only those who are taught in this fashion (God ordained Word) will come to Jesus.”
 - “This was as much as to say, ‘The Father has never taught you. You have learned nothing from him, or you would come to me; but in your rejection of me you prove that you are strangers to the grace of God.’” (Spurgeon)
 - To hear and learn from the Son is to hear and learn from the Father.
 - Jesus insisted on His *unique* relationship to God the Father. He claimed a relationship and connection with God the Father that no one else had.

John 6:47-51, “Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me has everlasting life. I am the bread of life. Your fathers ate the manna in the wilderness and are dead. This is the bread which comes down from heaven, that one may eat of it and not die. I am the living bread which came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever; and the bread that I shall give is My flesh, which I shall give for the life of the world.”

He who believes in Me has everlasting life:

- We read this staggering statement with two (2) main thoughts in mind.
 1. First, *what it means to "believe" in the sense Jesus meant*; that is, to trust in, rely on, and cling to.
 2. We think of *this astounding claim*. No other prophet or holy man of the Bible ever said such a thing; **"Believe in me and find everlasting life."**
- *A continued theme...Belief in Jesus and what He was teaching...and you will have eternal life. It was good for Nicodemus (and it is good for ALL who are willing to believe it).*
THAT STATEMENT HAS CONTINUED TO BE THE TRUTH UNTIL TODAY AND WILL BE TRUTH TOMORROW!

I am the bread of life: Jesus repeated this metaphor again and again.

- ✓ As bread is necessary for physical life, so Jesus is necessary for spiritual and eternal life.
- ✓ The spiritual bread Jesus offers is even greater than the manna Israel ate in the wilderness. What they ate only gave them temporal life; what Jesus offers brings eternal life.

I am the living bread which came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever:

- ✓ Jesus spoke in a figure of speech. The metaphor of eating and drinking was common in Jesus' day, and pointed to a taking within one's innermost being.
- ✓ "He is saying: 'You must stop thinking of me as a subject for theological debate; you must take me into you, and you must come into me; and then you will have real life.'" (Barclay)

The bread that I shall give is My flesh, which I shall give for the life of the world:

- ✓ Jesus plainly explained what He meant by **bread** in this context. That bread was His **flesh**, given **for the life of the world**.
- ✓ It was His soon-coming work on the cross when He gave His life as a sacrifice pleasing to God the Father and as a substitute for guilty sinners.
- ✓ Jesus explained that receiving Him as *bread* was not receiving Him as a great moral teacher, example, or prophet. It was not receiving Him as a good or great man or noble martyr. It was receiving Him in light of what He did on the cross, His ultimate act of love for lost humanity.

8. (52-59) *Receiving Jesus in the fullest sense.*

John 6:52, "The Jews therefore quarreled among themselves, saying, "How can this Man give us His flesh to eat?"

- It's probable that the Jewish leaders **willfully misunderstood** Jesus at this point. He just explained that the bread was His body that would be given as a sacrifice *for the life of the world* (John 6:51). They **willfully twisted His words to imply a bizarre cannibalism.**
- The result of Jewish leaders quarreling among themselves:

- ✓ “They differed in their judgment of Him.
- ✓ Some impatiently denounced Him as insane; others suggesting that there was truth in His words.” (Dods)

SOME PEOPLE (INCLUDING THEOLOGIANS) DISCOUNT A RIVAL’S WORDS AS HERESY. THEY LOOK FOR “LIKE PEOPLE” AND THEIR BELIEFS/WORDS TO PROVE OR UPGRADE THEIR OWN BELIEF. IT STILL DERIVES FROM A JEALOUS AND ENVIOUS ATTITUDE IN ORDER TO PROVE A POINT.

NOTE: THERE ARE NARCIISTS NOW AND THERE WERE NARCIISTS THEN. A “I AM RIGHT; YOU ARE WRONG” BELIEF SYSTEM THAT WILL GET WORSE AS TIME GOES ON...UNLESS THE CROSS, THE HOLY SPIRIT’S CONVICTION STEPS IN.

Kneel At the Cross

Kneel at the cross, Christ will meet you there...Come while He waits for you

Listen to His voice, leave with Him your cares...And begin life anew.

*Kneel at the cross, kneel at the cross...Leave every care, leave every care
Kneel at the cross, kneel at the cross...Jesus will meet you there.*

Song by The Louvin Brothers



Enduring Word Bible Commentary John Chapter 6, David Guzik