



Lesson #21, Jesus, the bread of life.

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John 6:22-24, "On the following day, when the people who were standing on the other side of the sea saw that there was no other boat there, except that one which His disciples had entered, and that Jesus had not entered the boat with His disciples, but His disciples had gone away alone—however, other boats came from Tiberias, near the place where they ate bread after the Lord had given thanks—when the people therefore saw that Jesus was not there, nor His disciples, they also got into boats and came to Capernaum, seeking Jesus."

- The day after the miraculous feeding of the 5,000 and the night crossing of the Sea of Galilee, many of the crowd that was fed by Jesus and the disciples wondered where they went.
- Some of the crowd saw the disciples (without Jesus) leave in a boat, and
- They noticed that **Jesus was not in the area either.**
- **Other** people from Tiberias joined the crowd and heard of the miracle of the feeding of the crowd of probably over 15,000.
- As many of them as could get accommodated with boats headed toward Capernaum. "Avis Boat Rentals did not have enough boats (just kidding!)" Wonder how much it cost back then to rent a row boat?

Please don't think I am making fun of Scripture (I do hold Scripture sacred).

Why do you think the crowd headed to Capernaum and not some other town around the Sea of Galilee?

John 6:25-27, "And when they found Him on the other side of the sea, they said to Him, "Rabbi, when did You come here?" Jesus answered them and said, "Most assuredly, I say to you, you seek Me, not because you saw the signs, but because you ate of the loaves and were filled. Do not labor for the food which perishes, but for the food which endures to everlasting life, which the Son of Man will give you, because God the Father has set His seal on Him."

- **When did You come here?** Jesus did not answer this question.
Note: Instead of answering the question as to when and why He came, Jesus told them why they came – because they wanted more food miraculously provided by Jesus.
- ✓ Later in this chapter, John tells us that this took place at the synagogue in Capernaum at a Sabbath service (John 6:59).

- ✓ According to Matthew 15, Jewish leaders from Jerusalem came to Capernaum to question Jesus. They were also part of this crowd.
- ✓ Jesus made a contrast between *material* things and *spiritual* things.
- ✓ It is almost universally true that people are more attracted to material things than spiritual things.
 - A sign that says “**free money and free food**” will get a bigger crowd than one that says **Come and receive spiritual fulfillment and eternal life.**
 - “He struck at the root of the materialistic aspirations of these carnally-minded Galilaeans.” (Tasker)
- **Which the Son of Man will give you...Because God the Father has set His seal on Him**
 - ✓ “He avoids using the term ‘Messiah’ or any other which would have appealed to his hearers’ militant aspirations.
 - ✓ “Son of Man”—New term in the vocabulary of the Jewish people.
 - ✓ A seal was a mark of ownership and a guarantee of the contents.
 - They should have confidence in Jesus because God the Father has “guaranteed” Him to be God’s Son (At Jesus’ Baptism = “This is my Beloved Son; Whom I am well pleased”),

John 6:28-33, “Then they said to Him, “What shall we do, that we may work the works of God?” Jesus answered and said to them, “This is the work of God, that you believe in Him whom He sent. Therefore they said to Him, “What sign will You perform then, that we may see it and believe You? What work will You do? Our fathers ate the manna in the desert; as it is written, ‘He gave them bread from heaven to eat.’” Then Jesus said to them, “Most assuredly, I say to you, Moses did not give you the bread from heaven, but My Father gives you the true bread from heaven. For the bread of God is He who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world.”

- **These people who questioned Jesus seemed sure that if only Jesus told them what to do, they could please God by their works of God.**
For these people, as with many people today, pleasing God is found in the right formula for performing works that will please God.
What works will please God? Simple answer and comes straight from the mouth of the One who pleases His Father.
If we want to do the **work of God**, it begins with trusting Jesus.

Note: A parent does not *only* want obedience from their child; a relationship of trust and love is even more important to the parent. The hope is that obedience grows out of that relationship of trust and love. God wants the same pattern in our relationship with Him.

- **Our faith is the foundation for works that truly please God.**
The questions had to be coming from some Jewish leaders from Jerusalem. The crowd that heard Jesus at the synagogue in Capernaum

followed Him from the feeding of the 5,000...therefore, they had seen "the signs/miracles."

- **My Father gives you the true bread from heaven:** (paraphrasing), "What other work will I do? This is the work: to give you the Word of God and eternal life in and through Me. This is the spiritual bread you must feast on to have life."
- "The bread of God was He who came down from heaven and gave men not simply satisfaction from physical hunger, but life. Jesus was claiming that the only real satisfaction was in Him." (Barclay)

John 6:34-40, "Then they said to Him, "Lord, give us this bread always." And Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life. He who comes to Me shall never hunger, and he who believes in Me shall never thirst. But I said to you that you have seen Me and yet do not believe. All that the Father gives Me will come to Me, and the one who comes to Me I will by no means cast out. For I have come down from heaven, not to do My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me. This is the will of the Father who sent Me, that of all He has given Me I should lose nothing, but should raise it up at the last day. And this is the will of Him who sent Me, that everyone who sees the Son and believes in Him may have everlasting life; and I will raise him up at the last day."

- **Give us this bread always:** "What they wanted, he would not give; what he offered, they would not receive." (Bruce)
- **I am the bread of life:** In Jesus' answer, He hoped to lift up their eyes from material bread and earthly kingdoms, and on to spiritual realities. They needed to put their confidence in Jesus instead of material bread.
- **He who comes to Me shall never hunger:** Jesus explained that the one who comes to Him – that is, receives Him, believes upon Him – will find his spiritual hunger satisfied in Jesus.
- "Faith in Christ is simply and truly described as coming to him. It is not an acrobatic feat; it is simply a coming to Christ. It is not an exercise of profound mental faculties; it is coming to Christ. A child comes to his mother, a blind man comes to his home, even an animal comes to his master. Coming is a very simple action indeed; it seems to have only two things about it, one is, to come away from something, and the other is, to come to something." (Spurgeon)

A repenting of sin (come away from sin); Come to Jesus!

→ I truly think the action taken by the sinner when he or she comes to Jesus is "the act of the will." This is a most important step into stepping over into the Kingdom of God and away from the life of disaster and sinful acts.

- **All that the Father gives Me will come to Me, and the one who comes to Me I will by no means cast out: Jesus made it clear that coming to Jesus begins with the work of the Father, and He will receive all who come to Him.**
When Jesus saves, He completely saves.

I will raise him up at the last day...stated twice; repeating something in the same thought is making a “VERY IMPORTANT STATEMENT.”

NO! Jesus has already made this statement and when there have been statement after statement made...it is stating a “seal of approval from the Father.”

REMEMBER: John 5:24-29 “Very truly I tell you, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life and will not be judged but has crossed over from death to life. Very truly I tell you, a time is coming and has now come when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God and those who hear will live. For as the Father has life in himself, so he has granted the Son also to have life in himself. And he has given him authority to judge because he is the Son of Man. Do not be amazed at this, for a time is coming when all who are in their graves will hear his voice and come out—those who have done what is good will rise to live, and those who have done what is evil will rise to be condemned.”

Bread - of life (Jn 6:35, 48) - which came down from heaven (Jn 6:41, 51)	Light of the world (Jn 8:12; 9:5)	Door (Jn 10:9) of the sheep (Jn 10:7)	Good Shepherd (Jn 10:11, 14)
Before Abraham was Resurrection and Life (Jn 11:25)	I AM the Way, the Truth, and the Life (Jn 14:6)		
			Vine (Jn 15:1, 5)