

The Bread Of Life

John 6:22-59
Duluth Bible Church
All Believers' Conference

Outline

John 6:22-40
Bread of Life

John 6:41-59
The
Rejection

The Background

- Jesus had an incredible following
- People who longed to hear
- Miraculously, Jesus feeds the 5,000
- This would be the perfect place to start the revolution!
- But Jesus instead departs...by walking on water
- Which is way cooler than walking away from an explosion

Confirming the Miracle

- The people saw:
- The disciples left in the boat
- There was no other boat
- Everyone hitched a ride to catch up to Jesus

Hard Truths

- These folks showed dedication
- Can I tell you how excited any pastor would be if people responded, "Please teach us more!"
- Yet, Jesus knows that they responded to the free meal, and not the passion for the things of God.
- Jesus uses the metaphor of food to tell them what they really needed
- People need to eat, but it is a short-term use.
- Prioritizing the things of God is a choice.

Application Point

- Where are your priorities?
- Is your focus on the Lord, or upon earthly things?
- Colossians 3:1-4
- On your troubles, or your position in Christ?
- On keeping up with the Joneses, or the hope of the Gospel?
- On the fears of this world, or the hope of Christ's return?

Faith vs. Works

- Faith and works are juxtaposed in Scripture.
- Salvation is by faith through grace and NOT by works
- Ephesians 2:8-9
- What God desires from them is NOT work, but rather FAITH in Jesus Christ.

For them

- Jesus told his audience what to do:
- To believe that He is the Messiah—the Savior.
- Biblical History built up to this moment – this presentation.
- Had Israel accepted her Messiah, world history would have changed.
- They needed to believe in the Messiah, Jesus Christ.

For Us

- This gospel is special in its purpose
- This message applies equally to us today
- All three phases of salvation are achieved by faith through grace
- Not one is a matter of works, but growth in Grace by faith.

Moses and Jesus

"For the law was given through Moses, but grace and truth came through Jesus Christ."

(John 1:17 NKJV)

- Jesus points out in verses 32-33 – that it wasn't Moses who provided bread from heaven, but the Father
- That was a vivid picture of the provision of eternal life that the Father would provide by giving Jesus Christ– The Bread of Life
- They, quite reasonably, ask for the Lord to give them this bread...
- Jesus replies that He is the bread of life.

Seven “I am” statements in John’s Gospel

- I am the Bread of Life (John 6:35)
- I am the Light of the World (John 8:12)
- I am the Gate (John 10:7)
- I am the Good Shepherd (John 10:11,14)
- I am the Resurrection and the Life (John 14:6)
- I am the True Vine (John 15:1)

Explaining the Metaphor

- “He who comes to Me shall never hunger, and he who believes in Me shall never thirst.” (John 6:35b NKJV)
- **Eating** – Coming to Christ
- **Drinking** – Believing in Christ

The Nay-Sayers

- Jesus' opponents have:
- Seen Him
- Do NOT believe. (2nd person plural present active indicative)
- Others, having seen, come to Jesus.
- The difference is in the response. Not the call.
- Those he will by no means cast out.
- The Father has given all those who believe in the Son – and he will not cast them out.
- They have a future – to be exalted on the last day.

Jesus Doesn’t Lose ANYTHING

- “Shall never hunger”
- “Shall never thirst”
- “I will by no means (never) cast out”
- “I should lose nothing”
- “everyone who sees the Son and Believes in Him may have everlasting life”
- “I will raise him up at the last day”

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Offended

- Those who had rejected Him were offended at His statement
- They knew it was a statement of deity – and of Messiahship
- They knew his family, where he had grown up...
- They did not recognize the Messiah’s supernatural origin

Affirmation

- “No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him; and I will raise him up at the last day” (John 6:44 NKJV)
- “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.” (John 6:45 NKJV)
- The Father drew those who heard and learned from the word of God.

Eternal Security – Extraordinarily Clear

“Most assuredly, I say to you, **he who believes in Me has everlasting life.** I am the bread of life.”

(John 6:47-48 NKJV)

“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.””

(John 6:51 NKJV)

Eat my flesh

- Jesus then turns up the symbolic language to drive the point home
- The early church was accused of cannibalism for this!
- The shocking nature of this revelation caused many of his disciples to depart from him (John 6:66)
- Jesus asked the 12 if they also wanted to leave:
- “But Simon Peter answered Him, “Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. Also we have come to believe and know that You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.”” (John 6:68-69 NKJV)

The Key

- People think that Bible interpretation is difficult– especially regarding symbolic language.
- The Catholic Church will see the Eucharist in the passage...but it ain't here!
- General Rule of Thumb: If Jesus gives you the answer– that's the answer.
- Jesus, claiming to be the I AM, then opens by explaining the metaphor:
- “He who comes to Me shall never hunger, and he who believes in Me shall never thirst.” (John 6:35b NKJV)

Trust Jesus

- Jesus Christ is the Bread of Life
- He came from Heaven and provided all that we need for salvation, for life, and for godliness
- His sacrifice on the Cross paid the penalty for our sin
- If you have trusted in Jesus Christ for salvation, you can know, beyond a shadow of a doubt– that you are saved and safe eternally.
- Let's tell everybody!