

## THIS WEEK'S MESSAGE

MARCH 26TH, 2023 // GOSPEL OF JOHN

### BREAD FROM GOD (JOHN 6:22-33) SEARCHING FOR JESUS

The crowds witnessed a boat with the disciples attempting to cross the Sea of Galilee without Jesus onboard. The next morning, when Jesus had not returned from the mountain, the crowds went looking for Him.

- Once they found Jesus on the other side of the sea in Capernaum, they asked Him, **"Rabbi, when did you get here?"**

### HE KNOWS OUR TRUE INTENTIONS

Instead of answering their question, Jesus knowing their hearts, told the crowds why they came.

- Jesus had provided for them by feeding them. Though their intentions were to have Jesus meet their physical needs, He knew **there was a deeper need they had not yet discovered.**

### ADDRESSING THEIR TRUE DESIRE

Jesus spoke to the crowd's desire to find Him so that He could supply food for their bodies.

- He doesn't ignore the need but points out that the food they worked for would eventually go bad. **Where the food they sought for Jesus to supply sustained life, they should seek Him, who gives life.**

### WHICH WORKS ARE PLEASING TO GOD?

Jesus told the crowd to work for **"the food that lasts for eternal life,"** which led them to ask what type of works they needed to do to gain favor from God.

- Jesus could not have made it any clearer to the crowds. The first step in doing work that is truly pleasing to God is **"to believe in the one He has sent."**

### ARE ALL WORKS FILTHY RAGS? (ISAIAH 64:6)

The necessity of good works is not removed from the Believer (James 2:26; 2:18). Paul said, **"we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good work, which God prepared ahead of time for us to do"** (Ephesians 2:10).

- Our faith is not a substitute for good works. Instead, it is the foundation for works that are pleasing to God.

### "WHAT SIGN...?"

It was taught that the Messiah would duplicate the miracle of Manna (Exodus 16), so they asked Jesus to perform this miracle so they could "see and believe." They wanted Him to feed them as God fed their ancestors.

- Faith that is built on signs only and not the truth of Scripture opens us up to be led astray (2 Thessalonians 2:8-10; 2 Corinthians 11:14).

### THE BREAD OF GOD

Jesus tells them the bread their ancestors ate was not from Moses but from Heaven, and His Father would provide **"true bread."**

- God provided bread necessary for the physical survival of His people during the Exodus, but **Jesus is the Son of God sent down from Heaven to provide spiritual sustenance to all people.**

### THE BREAD OF LIFE (JOHN 6:34-51) "SIR, GIVE US THIS BREAD ALWAYS."

They missed what Jesus claimed, so to clarify, Jesus gives the first of seven "I am" statements in John by claiming to be the bread of life.

- God revealed Himself to Moses as the great "I Am" (Exodus 3:14). God is the eternally existent One who "is, and...was, and...is to come" (Revelation 1:8). **Jesus is unmistakably claiming to be God when using the name "I Am."**

### JESUS' CLAIMS

John records who Jesus is and other great truths about our Lord and Savior.

- Jesus alone satisfies our spiritual hunger. Jesus came to accomplish the Father's will and not His own. **Those who choose to believe in Him who was sent believe in the Father who sent Him and will receive eternal life.**

### THE CROWD STARTS GRUMBLING

Jesus claimed to come down from Heaven, and the crowd responded with grumbings, saying, "He isn't from Heaven! He's from Nazareth. We know His parents! That's Joseph's boy."

- If we do not look past who we think Jesus is or should be, we will never see who He really is.

### TWO OPPOSING IDEAS?

Jesus tells the crowd that no one comes to Him unless the Father draws him in. **God calls us to Him, and we choose to come.**

- Salvation involves both divine sovereignty and human responsibility. **Though we may not understand how these two doctrines work together, with God, there is no conflict.**

### CORRELATION BETWEEN MANNA AND JESUS

Manna literally means, "What is it?" The Israelites did not know what to make of this food given to them (Exodus 16:15), the same way Jesus was a mystery to those who saw Him.

- Manna was provided at night to a rebellious people, and Jesus came likewise, providing the same choice: **eat or trample underfoot!**

### EAT AND LIVE (JOHN 6:52-71) HE IS GREATER!

Jesus never claimed to be like Manna; He claimed to be greater! Their ancestors ate Manna and eventually died, but those who "eat" of the bread of life will live forever.

- **"Eating"** is a metaphor meaning "to take within one's innermost being." It is not a "taste," **it is digging in, partaking of Him, and having Him in us!**

### AN ARGUMENT ABOUT EATING AND DRINKING

Jesus used human analogies to convey spiritual truths in the same way He did with Nicodemus and the Samaritan woman at the well.

- Yet again, we see people misunderstanding a spiritual truth by taking it literally, causing **a dispute between those "following" Christ.**

### MASSES "FOLLOWING" JESUS

At this point, a crowd has encamped around Jesus, so He spoke to the heart of those "following" Him.

- There were many "following" Jesus because of what they could get from Him. **Not everyone "following" Jesus is a disciple. "If you continue in my word, you really are My disciples"** (John 8:31).

### "THIS TEACHING IS HARD. WHO CAN ACCEPT IT?"

The group that followed Jesus in the flesh became offended by His claims and rejected Him. It was too much for them, and His teachings opposed their thoughts and opinions, so they departed.

- Jesus' teachings are not hard to understand, but they can be hard to accept once they are understood.

### "YOU DON'T WANT TO GO AWAY TOO, DO YOU?"

Jesus exposed every fleshly motive for following Him, then turned to the twelve and asked them if they also wanted to leave.

- Peter spoke for the group and declared their faith (except for Judas) by saying, **"Lord, to whom will we go? You have the words of eternal life. We have come to believe and know that you are the Holy One of God."**

### "TO WHOM WOULD WE GO?"

- Have we come to a place with God where we can say, "Where else would I go?"
- Even through hard and difficult times, are we convinced that there is no other way but with The Way (John 14:6)?
- We must stand in agreement with Peter and not the crowds that depart from the message of the cross.

### FOUR RESPONSES OF THE CROWD

- There were those **"seeking"** (v22-40).
- There were those **"grumbling"** (v41-51).
- There were those who **"argued among themselves"** (v52-59).
- There were those that **"departed"** (v60-71).
- What will our response be to the Bread of Life be? Will we "eat" and live or starve and perish?