

Jesus is the True Bread from Heaven

John 6:16-71

The previous day Jesus had fed a crowd of five thousand with five loaves and two fish. He then withdrew by Himself from the crowd. He now comes walking upon the water to the disciples who are in their boat just as a storm approaches (16-21). Realizing that Jesus was gone, the crowd He had just fed got into boats to search for Him (22-24). Jesus accuses the crowd's motives (25-27). They profess a desire to be instructed (28). Christ preaches to them, and shows them that He is the *Bread of Life*, and that they who reject Him are without excuse (29-40). They are offended, and grumble (41-42). Jesus establishes and illustrates Himself as the *Bread of Life* (43-51). The people argue again, and Christ gives further explanation (52-59). Several of the followers of Christ find this teaching too difficult (60). Jesus shows them that His words are to be spiritually understood (61-65). At this time many of the crowd turned back and no longer follow Christ (66). He asks the twelve if they too will leave Him (67-69). Jesus then declares that Judas will betray Him (70-71).

Begin by answering these questions: (1) Why are you a follower of Christ? (2) What does John 4:23-24 mean to you?

Read & Discuss: John 6:16-21

v.16-17 - Mark tell us that Jesus instructed His disciples get into the boat (Mark 6:45). He knew exactly what He was doing and the lesson that the disciples would soon learn when He put them into this boat.

In the first storm (Matthew 8:24), Jesus was present with them in the boat. But in this storm, He asks them to trust his unseen care and concern for them. Look up: John 20:29

Read & Discuss: John 6:22-40

v.26 – Why did these people, like many today, follow Jesus? Look up: John 6:11

v.29, 40 – What is the “*work*” and “*will*” of God?

v.30-31 – The crowd raises the subject of “*bread from heaven*” not so much as an example of a miraculous sign that would finally convince them that Jesus is the Messiah, but because they wanted to be fed again. Look up: Exodus 16:4

v.32-33 – What words are used to describe the Bread from Heaven?

v.35 – How do individuals receive the True Bread from Heaven? Look up: Matthew 11:28-29, Romans 10:9

v. 33-39 – What gifts of the Father are described in this passage? Look up: John 3:16

Read & Discuss: John 6:41-59

v.41-42, 52 – What two objections to the claims of Christ did the crowd raise? Look up: John 3:3-4

v.43 – God, not man is responsible for our salvation. We like to feel as though we are in charge and that we give ourselves to God. The fact is we only respond to the urging of the Holy Spirit. And we can respond one of two ways.

v.45-51 – Carefully read and dissect these verses. What credentials does Jesus give? (Re: v.45 - Look up: Jeremiah 31:33,34)
v.45 - *Jesus is alluding to an Old Testament view that people are taught directly by God. He says He and the Father are one. We are taught by God through the Bible (2 Timothy 3:16) and our interaction with other believers (Rom 10:17, Col 3:15-16).*

v.47 – “*believes*”, means “*continues to believe*”. We do not merely believe once; we keep on believing in and trusting Jesus? Look up: Hebrews 12:3, Revelation 3:10-13

v.58 - Jesus offers us heavenly bread for eternal life, but we must eat it. Faith in Jesus is not compared with mere tasting or admiring, but with consuming. Jesus says that we must have Him within us, and we must abide by Him.

Seeing a loaf of bread on a plate will not satisfy our hunger. Knowing the ingredients in the bread will not satisfy our hunger. Taking pictures of the bread will not satisfy our hunger. Telling other people about the bread will not satisfy our hunger. Selling the bread will not satisfy our hunger. Playing catch with the bread will not satisfy our hunger. Nothing will satisfy our hunger and bring us life except actually partaking of the bread. Look up: Luke 22:19-20

v. 59 – Notice where it is that the crowd finds Jesus. Look up: Luke 2:49

Read & Discuss: John 6:60-71

v.60 – “*Disciple*” = a follower, a seeker of knowledge, sometimes applied to the followers of John the Baptist (Matt. 9:14), and even of the Pharisees (22:16), but principally has become known to be followers of Christ. A disciple of Christ is one who (1) believes his doctrine, (2) rests on his sacrifice, (3) possesses His Spirit, and (4) imitates his example (Luke 14:26, 27, 33; John 6:69).

These “*disciples*” were of those following, not “*the twelve*” that Jesus had chosen (v.70)

v.64 – Why do many turn back after professing to be a follower of Christ?

v.70 – Why did Jesus refer to Judas as the devil? Look up: John 13:1-3, John 13:27, Romans 6:16

v.67-71- The disciple's willingness to follow Christ even when they don't understand it all serves as an example to us all. Look up: Job 37:5, Proverbs 3:5