

John 6

1 After this Jesus went away to the other side of the Sea of Galilee, which is the Sea of Tiberius. **2** And a large crowd was following him, because they saw the signs that he was doing on the sick. **3** Jesus went up on the mountain, and there he sat down with his disciples. **4** Now the Passover, the feast of the Jews, was at hand.

- It is interesting that what is about to take place is at Passover. Some translations say it was near, but the ESV says it was upon them.
- Passover was the feast where they celebrated the Exodus and all things involved in the Lord delivering them from Egypt and providing for them in their transition to the promise land.

5 Lifting up his eyes, then, and seeing that a large crowd was coming toward him, Jesus said to Philip, **“Where are we to buy bread, so that these people may eat?”** **6** He said this to test him, for he himself knew what he would do.

- Jesus has a plan
- Whenever Jesus questions us, He is testing us to see what we believe about Him. This testing is for our benefit! We need to know what we believe and don't believe about God. Jesus was caring for Philip, because He wants to reveal to Philip some area of unbelief concerning Jesus' authority.
- This was David's prayer in Ps. 139:23-24

23 Search me, O God, and know my heart! Try me and know my thoughts!
24 And see if there be any grievous way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting! Ps. 139:23-24

2 Prove me, O Lord, and try me; test my heart and my mind. Ps. 26:2

- **We need Jesus' help to reveal to us what is in our hearts and to lead us in paths of eternal life.**

7 Philip answered him, “Two hundred denarii worth of bread would not be enough for each of them to get a little.”

- They don't have the resources
- 200 denarii was more than 6 months wages, and they would only get a little bit each! Basically, Philip is saying that it's not worth it.
- Even if they had the resource, how are you going to get that much bread baked? We often look to natural resources to get God's work done in a small way. He wants to provide heavenly resources to get it done in a big way!
- **How many times do we look for the natural solution rather than looking to Jesus for His Spirit led solution? There is a Spirit led, Heavenly, Supernatural**

solution that the Holy Spirit needs to give us the eyes to see and the faith to act upon.

8 One of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, said to him, 9 "There is a boy here who has five barley loaves and two fish, but what are they for so many?" 10 Jesus said, "Have the people sit down." Now there was much grass in the place. So the men sat down, about five thousand in number.

- It says that 5,000 men are there, but say that some of them had wives and children with them, so let's add another 2,500. Now how much money would you need to take all of these out to a meal where they could eat as much as they wanted? Well, let's say they went to fast food because it says they had barley loaves, and those weren't the best. It takes about \$10 at a fast food place to eat as much as you want. This would be around \$75,000 for one meal.
- How much would it have taken Jesus in today's money to feed Israel in the wilderness for 40 years if the average American spends \$7.20 a day on food? Two million people X \$7.20 X 365 days X 40 years = two hundred ten billion two hundred forty two million dollars!
- Jesus has the power to provide for us, but He does way more than just buy the food for His people, He can create the food from nothing!

11 Jesus then took the loaves, and when he had given thanks, he distributed them to those who were seated. So also the fish, as much as they wanted. 12 And when they had eaten their fill, he told his disciples, "Gather up the leftover fragments, that nothing may be lost." 13 So they gathered them up and filled twelve baskets with fragments from the five barley loaves left by those who had eaten. 14 When the people saw the sign that he had done, they said, "This is indeed the Prophet who is to come into the world!"

- The Prophet who is to come into the world
 - 15 "The Lord your God will raise up for you ***a prophet*** like me from among you, from your brothers— ***it is to him you shall listen***— 16 just as you desired of the Lord your God at Horeb on the day of the assembly, when you said, 'Let me not hear again the voice of the Lord my God or see this great fire any more, lest I die.' 17 And the Lord said to me, 'They are right in what they have spoken. 18 I will raise up for them a prophet like you ***from among their brothers***. And ***I will put my words in his mouth***, and ***he shall speak to them all that I command him***. 19 And ***whoever will not listen*** to my words that he shall speak in my name, ***I myself will require it of him***. Deut 18:15-19
 - The crowds call Him The Prophet, but the very next revelation He declares to them, they reject. The warning of Deuteronomy 18 is that if you don't listen to The

Prophet and heed what the Lord commands through Him, then God the Father will hold you accountable for not listening to Him.

- We need to pay attention to this warning. We can say with our lips the truth of who Jesus is, but reject and be offended by the words that come out of His mouth and turn away and not follow the true Jesus. Some people do this, and say they are following Jesus, but it is not Jesus as He is revealed in His word. **We must believe in who He is by receiving all that He says. We must pray for ears that truly hear what He says and willing and loyal hearts to obey.**

15 Perceiving then that they were about to come and take him by force to make him king, Jesus withdrew again to the mountain by himself.

- **24** But Jesus on his part did not entrust himself to them, because he knew all people. **25** and needed no one to bear witness about man, for he himself knew what was in man. John 2:24-25
- If this were you or I, we would probably have a need inside of us to receive this public validation, but Jesus does not need any man to let Him know His identity. He receives it from His Father. His Father has given Him the spirit without measure and places all things into His hands.

Jesus Walks on Water

16 When evening came, his disciples went down to the sea, **17** got into a boat, and started across the sea to Capernaum. It was now dark, and Jesus had not yet come to them.

- Matthew says that Jesus was by himself on a mountain, praying.

18 The sea became rough because a strong wind was blowing. **19** When they had rowed about three or four miles, they saw Jesus walking on the sea and coming near the boat, and they were frightened.

- Matthew says this was the fourth watch of the night, which is between 3am and 6am; Jesus comes walking out on the waves to meet them. Where John says they were frightened, Matthew says they screamed out that it was a ghost!

20 But he said to them, **“It is I; do not be afraid.”**

- This is where the other Gospels tell us that Peter asks Jesus that if it is really Him, He should command Peter to come out and meet Him. Jesus says to come out and Peter walks out to Jesus on the sea.
- I wonder if Peter experienced such an overwhelming peace from Jesus’ command to not be afraid, that He had the presence of mind and lack of fear to make such a bold request.

- Of course, Peter sees the wind, becomes afraid again, begins to sink, and Jesus saves him, and asks Him why He doubted.

21 Then they were glad to take him into the boat, and immediately the boat was at the land to which they were going.

- I think the point here is we need Jesus in our boat! Jesus was teaching His disciples that there is real danger apart from His presence, and real peace and safety, and supernatural provision in His presence no matter what the physical conditions are around them.
- I'm curious to know if they remembered this when Jesus told them that apart from Him, they could do nothing. I wonder if they said, "We couldn't even cross a lake apart from Him, and most of us were fisherman!"
- They were doing something so normal, so mundane, something they had done a thousand times before, but they didn't have Jesus with them. Jesus was teaching them that they needed Him in all things.
- ***How many times do we go to work, to school, to meetings, travel, and we leave without Jesus in our boats. There is struggle and storm without Him, and peace, safety and supernatural help with Him.***

5 I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for ***apart from me you can do nothing.*** John. 15:5

I Am the Bread of Life

22 On the next day the crowd that remained on the other side of the sea saw that there had been only one boat there, and that Jesus had not entered the boat with his disciples, but that his disciples had gone away alone. **23** Other boats from Tiberias came near the place where they had eaten the bread after the Lord had given thanks.

24 So when the crowd saw that Jesus was not there, nor his disciples, they themselves got into the boats and went to Capernaum, seeking Jesus.

25 When they found him on the other side of the sea, they said to him, "Rabbi, when did you come here?" **26** Jesus answered them, ***"Truly, truly, I say to you, you are seeking me, not because you saw signs, but because you ate your fill of the loaves. 27 Do not work for the food that perishes, but for the food that endures to eternal life, which the Son of Man will give to you. For on him God the Father has set his seal."***

- ...Seeking Jesus... You are not because you saw signs, but because you ate your fill of the loaves.

- Jesus knew their hearts. They weren't seeking Him for who He was as the Messiah, they were seeking Him to get something from Him. This is the roller coaster Christian. I am going to seek You to get my material needs met instead of seeking you as my treasure.

- Do not work for food that perishes, but for the food that endures to eternal life

- Does this mean we quit our jobs and stop providing for our families? No! This is saying our real pursuit should be for Jesus. If our hearts are set on Him, if we believe in Him, then we will receive an inheritance. Eternal life.

10 For even when we were with you, we would give you this command: If anyone is not willing to work, let him not eat. 2 Thess. 3:10

23 Whatever you do, work heartily (work at it with all your heart), as for the Lord and not for men, **24** knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward. You are serving the Lord Christ. Col. 3:23-24

28 Then they said to him, "What must we do, to be doing the works of God?" **29** Jesus answered them, "**This is the work of God, that you believe in him whom he has sent.**"

- This is the work of God, that you believe in Him whom He has sent

- What will please God? What action will God honor? - Belief in His Son
- This is why we search the scriptures! To find out who He is so that we may believe in Him! When we see Him as Provider, we trust Him in that. When we see Him as our Righteousness, we trust Him in that. When we see Him as Creator of the Universe, as the rightful Heir of all Creation, as the King, as the Judge, as the Good Shepherd, as the Gift of God, as the Love of God, BELIEVE!
- This is my process. I ask the Holy Spirit to *reveal* Jesus as I am spending time in the Word, then when I see Him, I ask the HS for help to *believe* Jesus for who the Bible says He is. Most of the time, I don't understand, but I ask for revelation and grace to put my trust in Him. You can't trust someone you don't know and haven't experienced. We want to believe, but we sense unbelief in our hearts, so we have the Holy Spirit to help us believe. He's named the Helper for a reason, and His greatest desire is for us to experience Jesus, obey Him and have passionate affection for Him. Like the father in Mark 9 we say we believe, but help our unbelief.

23 And Jesus said to him, "If you can't! All things are possible for one who believes." **24** Immediately the father of the child cried out and said, "I believe; help my unbelief!" Mark 9:23-24

2 Beloved, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is. 1 John 3:2

17 So faith (Belief) comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ. Rom 10:17

30 So they said to him, "Then what sign do you do, that we may see and believe you? What work do you perform? 31 Our fathers ate the manna in the wilderness; as it is written, 'He gave them bread from heaven to eat.'"

- This shocks me. He as just fed 5,000 people, and they ask Him to give them a sign. Not only for a sign, but for the same sign. Do that bread thing again. I feel as if this proves that they still have their hearts bent on the physical bread rather than believing Jesus.

32 Jesus then said to them, ***"Truly, truly, I say to you, it was not Moses who gave you the bread from heaven, but my Father gives you the true bread from heaven. 33 For the bread of God is he who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world."*** 34 They said to him, "Sir, give us this bread always."

- Jesus makes clear that Moses didn't give them the manna in the wilderness, but the Father, and now the Father is giving them the true bread from heaven. He is saying that manna from heaven wasn't the real bread, though it was physical bread. There is a greater reality manna was pointing to. The real bread that will sustain forever is Jesus.

35 Jesus said to them, ***"I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in me shall never thirst. 36 But I said to you that you have seen me and yet do not believe. 37 All that the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never cast out. 38 For I have come down from heaven, not to do my own will but the will of him who sent me. 39 And this is the will of him who sent me, that I should lose nothing of all that he has given me, but raise it up on the last day. 40 For this is the will of my Father, that everyone who looks on the Son and believes in him should have eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day."***

- I am the bread of life
 - This is the first of the 7 "I am" statements of Jesus in the book of John.
- 11 Characteristics of the Bread of life
 1. Never hunger
 - This is both spiritual, and in the resurrection, physical
 2. Never thirst
 3. Comes down from heaven

4. Requires coming to Him
 - The Father gives
 - We come
 - Jesus will never lose us
5. We will be raised up on the last day
6. One may eat it and not die
7. It is living
8. We can eat it (partake of it)
9. It is the flesh and blood of Jesus, given for the life of the world.
10. Not like the bread in the wilderness (Manna)
11. If we eat, we abide in Jesus and He in us.

41 So the Jews grumbled about him, because he said, “I am the bread that came down from heaven.” **42** They said, “Is not this Jesus, the son of Joseph, whose father and mother we know? How does he now say, ‘I have come down from heaven?’” **43** Jesus answered them, “Do not grumble among yourselves. **44** No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him. And I will raise him up on the last day. **45** *It is written in the Prophets, ‘And they will all be taught by God.’ Everyone who has heard and learned from the Father comes to me—* **46** not that anyone has seen the Father except he who is from God; he has seen the Father. **47** Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever believes has eternal life. **48** I am the bread of life. **49** Your fathers ate the manna in the wilderness, and they died. **50** This is the bread that comes down from heaven, so that one may eat of it and not die. **51** *I am the living bread that came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever. And the bread that I will give for the life of the world is my flesh.*”

- Jesus takes this idea all the way to the cross.

10 Yet ***it was the will of the LORD to crush him;*** he has put him to grief; ***when his soul makes an offering for guilt,*** he shall see his offspring; he shall prolong his days; the will of the LORD shall prosper in his hand. Isa. 53:10 ESV

18 For ***the word of the cross is folly*** to those who are perishing, but ***to us who are being saved*** it is the power of God. 1 Cor. 1:18

52 *The Jews then disputed among themselves, saying, “How can this man give us his flesh to eat?”* **53** *So Jesus said to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you.* **54** *Whoever feeds on my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day. 55* *For my flesh is true food, and my blood is true drink. 56* *Whoever feeds on my flesh and drinks my blood abides in me, and I in him. 57* *As the living Father sent me, and I live because of the Father, so whoever feeds on me, he also will live because of me. 58* *This is the bread that came down from heaven, not like the*

bread the fathers ate, and died. Whoever feeds on this bread will live forever.” 59 Jesus said these things in the synagogue, as he taught at Capernaum.

- Again, this was during passover when they were about to eat the passover lamb and celebrate God’s deliverance. Jesus is probably pointing to that passover lamb by saying that they had to eat him! He is the lamb that is going to die and be taken in by His people through the Holy Spirit.
- What is amazing is that Jesus could have explained that He was going to the cross at this moment. He could have told them that He has to shed His blood for the remission of sins, but he is intentionally keeping it cryptic. Those who stay with Him are going to have understanding in the future.
- ***We have to stay with the hard sayings and teachings of Jesus before we walk in the revelation of them.***
- There are many hard teachings and concepts to grasp in the teaching’s of Jesus and in Scripture, and there is a process of revelation. We must continue to cling to and continue to meditate and not pick and choose. The crowds loved the miracles and other teachings, but when they heard something they didn’t agree with, they turned away. There are many things in the word that our natural understanding opposes. God creating the earth in 6 days and resting on the 7th; Jesus being the only way of eternal life; The coming Antichrist; Jesus literal 2nd coming and 1,000 year reign; A New Heavens and New Earth; All the supernatural elements of the Bible? Did the sun really stop for Joshua at Gibeon? Did the Red Sea really part?
- We cannot stop following Jesus when biblical truths get hard. We must press in and ask the Lord for further revelation.

The Words of Eternal Life

60 When many of his disciples heard it, they said, “This is a hard saying; who can listen to it?” 61 But Jesus, knowing in himself that his disciples were grumbling about this, said to them, “Do you take offense at this? 62 Then what if you were to see the Son of Man ascending to where he was before? 63 It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh is no help at all. The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life. 64 But there are some of you who do not believe.” (For Jesus knew from the beginning who those were who did not believe, and who it was who would betray him.) 65 And he said, “This is why I told you that no one can come to me unless it is granted him by the Father.” 66 After this many of his disciples turned back and no longer walked with him. 67 So Jesus said to the twelve, “Do you want to go away as well?” 68 Simon Peter answered him, “Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life, 69 and we have believed, and have come to know, that you are the Holy One of God.”

- You have the words of eternal life
 - The thing kept the 12 with Him was that they had experienced life in His words in other contexts. Peter was trusting that though He didn't have understanding, that these words were going to manifest life as well!
 - He had resolved that He was the Holy One of God. When you don't understand something of the Holy One of God, it is not because He is at fault. He is Holy! Perfect! That's it. We align to Him and He does not align to us.
 - That is what the crowd didn't get. They wanted Jesus to align to them and He refused to.
 - This is what we have to get! We align to Him. We align to His teaching and in our lifestyles.

- We have believed, and have come to know
 - I think it is interesting that they ***believed in the past*** and ***progressively came to know*** that Jesus was the Holy One of God.
 - We believe in who He is, and the belief is true, but it is not complete. The benefits of that belief are secure (salvation), but our understanding in who we are putting our trust in grows. I am walking in a lot more revelation of who Jesus is than I did when I was eighteen, and I know that I will walk in a lot more revelation 10 years from now if I continue to come to and hunger for the Bread of Life!
 - It all starts in believing that Jesus is who He says He is, even if we don't understand it fully.
 - There is continual, eternal, never ending understanding of Jesus that will bring life to us forever.

70 Jesus answered them, “**Did I not choose you, the twelve? And yet one of you is a devil.**” **71** He spoke of Judas the son of Simon Iscariot, for he, one of the twelve, was going to betray him.