

John 6:1-21

II. Jesus Reveals Himself to the World (1:19-12:50)

J. The Third Discourse – The Divine Son (5:18-47)

K. The Fourth & Fifth Signs – Feeding the Multitude & Walking on Water (6:1-21)

L. The Fourth Discourse – The Bread of Life (6:22-40)

Our last time together, we read about Jesus' feeding of the five thousand men out of five loaves of bread and two small fish. We especially took note of how Jesus asked Philip concerning where they could buy bread for that large of a crowd (v. 5). The question was designed to cause Philip to actually think about who Jesus was and what He could do. This Man who could turn water into wine, heal the sick from a distance, and heal the lame on the spot. . . hmm. . . what could we do?

As we arrive this morning in v. 22, John notes that it is now *the following day*, and Jesus is going to begin teaching those who had followed Him. Yet, His teaching isn't going to be unrelated or disjointed; He's going to continue the Bread Theme. It's as if He's saying, "Did you like what I did with those five loaves yesterday? You're going to love this other bread that I offer!" He begins in v. 27:

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.

This piques their interest. If there's *food which endures to everlasting life*, what labor is involved to harvest that food? They respond in v. 28: *What shall we do, that we may work the works of God?* We can almost see the wheels turning in their minds, wondering if Jesus was going to respond with the Law and the Prophets, or perhaps some new law. Instead, He simply says in v. 29 that *the work of God* is to *believe in Him whom He sent*. What must one do to have everlasting life? Believe! That's all that Jesus ever comes back to: believe in Him!

Incredibly, the crowd wants another sign in vv. 30-31. It wasn't enough to multiply earthly bread, they want *bread from heaven* like Moses had given to them in the desert. This was a common Jewish teaching at this time. The prophet like Moses would also produce manna from heaven like Moses. Yet, Jesus says that if they really want the bread from heaven, it's not going to come in the form of manna. Jesus will give them *the true bread from heaven*. Indeed, Jesus is the true bread from heaven! He is the *One who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world* (v. 33).

In v. 35, we have the first of seven *I am* statements in the Gospel of John:

- a. **6:35, 41, 48, 51** ***I am the bread of life***
- b. 8:12; 9:5 *I am the light of the world*
- c. 10:7, 9 *I am the door*
- d. 10:11, 14 *I am the good shepherd*
- e. 11:25 *I am the resurrection and the life*
- f. 14:6 *I am the way, the truth, and the life*
- g. 15:1, 5 *I am the vine*

Jesus not only can multiply earthly bread, but He is the bread of life. He is the bread from heaven. Reminiscent of the living water Jesus had offered the woman at the well (4:14), *he who comes to Me shall never hunger, and he who believes in Me shall never thirst* (6:35). Anyone who partakes of Him – through belief – will have eternal life. It's that simple and straightforward. No other "vitamins" or

“nutrients” are needed. Jesus offers spiritual life completely and wholly in and of Himself. Verses 37-40 speak to the certainty and surety of Jesus’ offer of life:

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.

Oh the richness of this passage! Note **the condition for, and origin of, eternal life** is believing in Jesus. But not only that, Jesus says that those who believe in Him for eternal life are those whom the Father has given to Him! God the Father made a gracious choice in eternity past to extend His forgiveness to those whom He chose (cf. Acts 13:48; Rom 8:29-30; Eph 1:4-5; Col 3:12). This is the gift of God’s grace, of getting something we did not deserve or earn!

Yet, the Father’s will doesn’t stop at giving people to the Son; it’s also **His will** that **all** who believe in Him will have that eternal life as an irrevocable, sure, and certain possession. We commonly call this doctrine **eternal security**. Not a single solitary believer can or will lose their eternal life. Even the phrase *by no means* (v. 37) is the strongest possible way of negating an action in the New Testament. It’s the same construction used in v. 35 (*never hunger* and *never thirst*). There’s nothing we can do to counteract the grace of God in our lives. From the moment He foreknew us, we were as good as glorified (cf. Rom 8:29-30). A believer will be raised *up at the last day*. Our confidence and assurance ought to be in Jesus and Jesus alone!

That’s some good bread! The Jews thought that feeding five thousand men with five loaves of bread was something, now Jesus is saying that He is the Bread through whom those who believe in Him will have eternal life. Naturally, as we close out John 6 next week, we’ll see the Jews take issue with Jesus’ statements here from our passage today. Nevertheless, we see that believing in Jesus’ offer of life is all that we need.