

THE GOSPEL FOR TODAY

GFT-13 "THE BREAD OF GOD"

Geof W. Jackson, Instructor HomeChurch Bible Class

geofj@homechurchok.com

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JOHN 6:32-33 *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."*

It is evident that Jesus' encounters with the Jewish Leaders consistently led to conflict regarding **"Who Jesus Was."** From His first words and actions until the Cross and Empty Tomb, they refused to accept that He was truly the Messiah: **"THE SON OF GOD-THE SON OF MAN."**

The **GOSPEL OF JOHN** clearly points to the importance of this question. From Jesus' days until now, each generation has wrestled with this. **JOHN** purposely selected events and teachings from Jesus' years of ministry to declare the "truth" about who Jesus was.

When Jesus fed the multitudes with the Loaves and Fish, the people loved it. But it soon became apparent that what they loved was the food... not the giver OF the food. This led to a contentious encounter between Jesus and the Jewish Leaders. Jesus was more than willing to engage them, and with a crowd standing around He openly declared the truth.

Between **JOHN 5** & **JOHN 6** there are **"44" Events and Teachings** recorded in **MATTHEW, MARK, and LUKE.**

The Seal of the Father:

To many of the people of the area around Galilee, Jesus was beginning to be recognized as **"THE ANOINTED" OF GOD... THE MESSIAH.** They didn't have full understanding of what that meant, but the miracles and signs that He had done showed He was truly **"sent from God."**

Food That Perishes:

JOHN 6:25-26 *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.*

- This event took place in Capernaum, in Galilee. Why was it not mentioned in the other Gospels?
^{6:59} *Jesus said these things in the synagogue, as he taught at Capernaum.*
- This is one of Jesus' longest teachings. What is so important about THIS subject that He spent this much time enforcing and re-enforcing that He was the **"BREAD FROM HEAVEN / THE BREAD OF LIFE.?"**
- JOHN 6:14-15 Although some had proclaimed Jesus, **"THE PROPHET"** and desired to make Him **KING**, Jesus knew the crowd and Jewish Leaders did not understand the **"sign"** they had seen.
- The **"sign"** was not about FEEDING them, but was given to influence them to **"believe"** that Jesus was **"THE ONE"** sent from Heaven – **THE MESSIAH.**

The Work of God

JOHN 6:27-29 *Do not work for the food that perishes, but [work] 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.*

- **"Work"** in these passages is not to be seen as **"Works of the Law that cannot save / NOR activity that seeks to please God"**
- **"Work"** as it is used here is a reference to **"the thing you set your desire upon / that is essential"**

- They should be setting their desire upon "seeking the giver" of the bread NOT the bread
 - HE is the One who can give "the Bread" that leads to Eternal Life
 - HE is the "SON OF MAN"
 - HE is THE ONE which God the Father has "Sealed as His Own... HE IS God's Son"

6:28 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."

- The crowd interpreted Jesus reference to "works" as "some activity that pleases God" ...
- Jesus re-applied His use of the "works" ... He used the word as a substitute for "Believing"
- The "Work" that brings Eternal Life is to "Believe in" [to have faith in] the One God has sent...

The True Bread From Heaven

JOHN 6:30-34 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.'"

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."

- Again, they have totally missed Jesus' point: They cannot get past the "physical bread"
 - Sure... Jesus has already multiplied the bread and fish, BUT... what MORE can He do?
 - Moses (?) gave them bread for 40 years...
- The "Bread" is not "doing / getting" something... It is Believing / Accepting
 - It was GOD who gave them the bread... NOT Moses
 - Physical bread will NOT bring Eternal Life... The Father gives the TRUE BREAD...
- The TRUE BREAD OF GOD ... is the One sent from Heaven
- The TRUE BREAD OF GOD gives LIFE to the world... NOT just daily nourishment

The Bread of Life

JOHN 6:35-40 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."

- Finally, Jesus makes it plain just exactly what He has been trying to get them to understand...
- The "BREAD" He has been talking about is "Receiving ME / Believing in ME!"
- To "Come to Him" ... to "Believe in Him" is to receive Eternal relief... Set Free FOREVER!

36 But I said to you that you have seen me and yet do not believe."

- What more can Jesus do? He has taught them... He has Healed them... He has cast out demons from them... He has raised the dead... and He multiplied the bread and fish...
- STILL... It is NOT enough... they do NOT receive Him... they do NOT believe in Him!

37 All that the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never cast out."

- He came to them... they rejected Him... They cast Him out of their Synagogues... their Cities...
- IF THEY "Come to Him / Receive Him / Believe in Him" ... He will NEVER cast them away!

^{6:38} *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.”*

- Speaking from the “Humanity” of His Person, [One person... Two natures] Jesus declares that it was not by His initiative that He came
- It was / is the **“Will of the Father”** – Jesus made the Father’s Will His own passionate desire...
- Jesus is the **ONE** who will **DO the Father’s Will**...
- Jesus knew that ALL who received / believed would be saved... **NONE would be lost** [Jn 10:28]
- They would stand with Him **“raised-up”** as the Glorious Kingdom was inaugurated...
- ALL will have received Eternal Life as a RESULT of Believing... this is NEVER subject to change

The Bread From Heaven

JOHN 6:41-51 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?’”*

- All that Jesus has been saying is ignored as they now focus on another issue: **“He said He came down from Heaven...”**
- They have known Him from a child into manhood... **HOW can it be that he came 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.*

- Jesus refuses to engage them on this question...

⁴⁵ *It is written in the Prophets, ‘And they will all be taught by God.’* [ISA 54:13] *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.*

- They came because they “heard and learned” from Jesus as He revealed the heart of the Father
- To listen to Jesus and receive His words was to listen to the Father and be taught by God...
- They had NEVER seen the Father, but they believed the words of the One who had ...

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.*

- Jesus repeats the declaration that **HE IS THE BREAD OF [ETERNAL] LIFE**...
- The Manna they received in the wilderness provided **“daily” nourishment**... yet the people died
- And, the Manna only lasted until they came into the Promised Land ... **“It was temporal”**
- The **BREAD** Jesus speaks of is **“Eternal”** ... **It Is HIM...**
- To receive Him **IS** to receive Eternal Life

My Flesh / My Blood

**** And NOW it gets really interesting...**

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."*

- The Bread he has declared is NOT Manna... it is NOT Loaves... **HE is the BREAD**
- And this **Bread** is NOT His teaching... NOT His works... **It Is HIS FLESH [His Body]**

JOHN 6:52-59 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.*"

- Here Jesus enters in to a "*spiritual truth*" that must be understood from that perspective ...
- To "*Eat*" and to "*Drink*" are to believe in Him and to receive into your life All that the Son of Man is and has done...
- "*Believing and Receiving*" is as repulsive to some as eating flesh and drinking blood but it is the ONLY way to have [Eternal] 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.*

- These two elements are certainly a "*prophetic*" reference to the Celebration that Jesus would institute on the night of the **"LAST PASSOVER"**
 - **His Body [flesh] broken...** "*Take and eat...*"
 - **His Blood shed...** "*As often as you drink...*"
- This is not just an **initial "partaking"** but an action that shows we are **"abiding" 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.*

- Our "*life*" is NOT in our act of "*doing*" ... nor in our "*believing*" ... It is because of HIS LIFE
- **We "Live" because HE LIVES!**

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."*

- They ate bread and **"died"**
- We eat **THE BREAD OF LIFE** and **"LIVE"**

^{6:59} **Jesus said these things in the synagogue, as he taught at Capernaum.**