

**BREAD**

Today you will notice the subject of bread coming up at different points. Jesus is using the physical need for bread, which he miraculously just met, to show them their need for spiritual bread which leads to eternal life. He then proclaims that He is the living bread which He invites them to partake. Now for us, bread is generally a side dish, but for the people in Jesus' day, bread was a basic means to sustain life. For us today, we have things in our lives that are like "bread" as we look to them to give us life (e.g., friends, sports, popularity, video games, academics). Ask God to point out these false breads in your life as we begin today and write them down below. When He does, ask Him for eyes of faith to see Jesus as THE LIVING BREAD that truly satisfies. I pray He will powerfully speak to you today!

**John 6:22-34** <sup>22</sup> *The next day the crowd that stood on the other side of the sea saw that there was no other small boat there, except one, and that Jesus had not entered with His disciples into the boat, but that His disciples had gone away alone.* <sup>23</sup> *There came other small boats from Tiberias near to the place where they ate the bread after the Lord had given thanks.* <sup>24</sup> *So when the crowd saw that Jesus was not there, nor His disciples, they themselves got into the small boats, and came to Capernaum seeking Jesus.* <sup>25</sup> *When they found Him on the other side of the sea, they said to Him, "Rabbi, when did You get here?"* <sup>26</sup> *Jesus answered them and said, "Truly, truly, I say to you, you seek Me, not because you saw signs, but because you ate of the loaves and were filled.* <sup>27</sup> *Do not work for the food which perishes, but for the food which endures to eternal life, which the Son of Man will give to you, for on Him the Father, God, has set His seal."* <sup>28</sup> *Therefore they said to Him, "What shall we do, so that we may work the works of God?"* <sup>29</sup> *Jesus answered and said to them, "This is the work of God, that you believe in Him whom He has sent."* <sup>30</sup> *So they said to Him, "What then do You do for a sign, so that we may see, and believe You? What work do You perform?"* <sup>31</sup> *Our fathers ate the manna in the wilderness; as it is written, 'HE GAVE THEM BREAD OUT OF HEAVEN TO EAT.'* <sup>32</sup> *Jesus then said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, it is not Moses who has given you the bread out of heaven, but it is My Father who gives you the true bread out of heaven.* <sup>33</sup> *For the bread of God is that which comes down out of heaven and gives life to the world."* <sup>34</sup> *Then they said to Him, "Lord, always give us this bread."*

- 1) In John 6:1-14, Jesus is concerned about the physical need the crowd had to eat. He miraculously makes a meal of fish and bread for a crowd of over 5,000 people. If you were in the crowd, what would you have noticed and how would you have reacted?
  
- 2) What has happened between Jesus feeding the crowd and where things are in verses 22-25?
  
- 3) What are possible reasons that the crowd was curiously following Jesus? What did Jesus say their motives were for following Him?

- 4) It was “work” for the crowd to follow Jesus to the other side of the lake. Jesus challenged them instead of working so hard for another meal, that they should instead seek for something else. What is it and how did He say they could get it?
  
- 5) The crowd responded with a question: what work is God looking for from them to do this? What was Jesus’ reply and explain how that works.
  
- 6) According to verse 29, what is the one work Jesus wants us to do? Why do you think He only mentions that?
  
- 7) What stands out to you when the crowd asks Jesus for a sign in order for them to believe?
  
- 8) What additional things does Jesus tell them about the bread He is offering? (v. 32-33)
  
- 9) What does their response in verse 34 tell you about the crowd?

**John 6:35-40** <sup>35</sup> Jesus said to them, “I am the bread of life; he who comes to Me will not hunger, and he who believes in Me will never thirst. <sup>36</sup> But I said to you that you have seen Me, and yet do not believe. <sup>37</sup> All that the Father gives Me will come to Me, and the one who comes to Me I will certainly not cast out. <sup>38</sup> For I have come down from heaven, not to do My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me. <sup>39</sup> This is the will of Him who sent Me, that of all that He has given Me I lose nothing, but raise it up on the last day. <sup>40</sup> For this is the will of My Father, that everyone who beholds the Son and believes in Him will have eternal life, and I Myself will raise him up on the last day.”

- 10) Jesus takes the subject of bread that is a basic for all life and uses it to tell the crowd who He is and what He is all about. What did Jesus mean when He called Himself the bread of life and how does He keep us from hunger and thirst?
- 11) Jesus calls them out in verse 36 saying - they have not done the one work that God requires of them - believing in Him. Who does Jesus say will come to Him (vs.37-40) and what does He say will happen to them? Note vs. 39 and 40 seem like a repeat - what is different in each?

**John 6:41-51** <sup>41</sup> Therefore the Jews were grumbling about Him, because He said, "I am the bread that came down out of heaven." <sup>42</sup> They were saying, "Is not this Jesus, the son of Joseph, whose father and mother we know? How does He now say, 'I have come down out of heaven'?" <sup>43</sup> Jesus answered and said to them, "Do not grumble among yourselves. <sup>44</sup> No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him; and I will raise him up on the last day. <sup>45</sup> It is written in the prophets, 'AND THEY SHALL ALL BE TAUGHT OF GOD.' Everyone who has heard and learned from the Father, comes to Me. <sup>46</sup> Not that anyone has seen the Father, except the One who is from God; He has seen the Father. <sup>47</sup> Truly, truly, I say to you, he who believes has eternal life. <sup>48</sup> I am the bread of life. <sup>49</sup> Your fathers ate the manna in the wilderness, and they died. <sup>50</sup> This is the bread which comes down out of heaven, so that one may eat of it and not die. <sup>51</sup> I am the living bread that came down out of heaven; if anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever; and the bread also which I will give for the life of the world is My flesh."

- 12) What specifically did Jesus say that caused the Jews to grumble? What was making it hard for them to believe Jesus' claim?
- 13) What do verses 44 and 45 say it takes for someone to come to Jesus?
- 14) Verse 47 is one of the clearest statements on how someone comes to Christ. What does it say is the only thing we need to do?
- 15) How do you resolve the statement in verses 44-45 and the one in verse 47, which seem different?
- 16) Jesus is contrasting two different breads that have come down from heaven - manna and Himself. He points out several differences between manna and Himself - what are they?

**John 6:51-59** <sup>52</sup> Then the Jews began to argue with one another, saying, “How can this man give us His flesh to eat?” <sup>53</sup> 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 yourselves. <sup>54</sup> He who eats My flesh and drinks My blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day. <sup>55</sup> For My flesh is true food, and My blood is true drink. <sup>56</sup> He who eats My flesh and drinks My blood abides in Me, and I in him. <sup>57</sup> As the living Father sent Me, and I live because of the Father, so he who eats Me, he also will live because of Me. <sup>58</sup> This is the bread which came down out of heaven; not as the fathers ate and died; he who eats this bread will live forever.” <sup>59</sup> These things He said in the synagogue as He taught in Capernaum.

17) Jesus took the illustration of eating bread one step further in verses 51-56 that caused a major reaction from both the crowd and His followers. What did He say and what did those who heard it think He was saying?

18) Jesus expands His statement to say they would not only need to eat His flesh, but also they would need to drink His blood to find eternal life and be raised on the last day. Jesus has moved from an earthly/physical example (eating) to speaking to them about Spiritual truth. Explain what Jesus was saying spiritually when He said this.

19) In verse 55, Jesus says His flesh is “true” food and His blood is “true” drink. What is He trying to make them realize by using the word “true”?

20) Verse 56 says that if we partake of His flesh and blood, we then abide in Him and He in us. What does that mean?

**John 6:60-71** <sup>60</sup> Therefore many of His disciples, when they heard this said, “This is a difficult statement; who can listen to it?” <sup>61</sup> But Jesus, conscious that His disciples grumbled at this, said to them, “Does this cause you to stumble? <sup>62</sup> What then if you see the Son of Man ascending to where He was before? <sup>63</sup> It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing; the words that I have spoken to you are spirit and are life. <sup>64</sup> But there are some of you who do not believe.” For Jesus knew from the beginning who they were who did not believe, and who it was that would betray Him. <sup>65</sup> And He was saying, “For this reason I have said to you, that no one can come to Me unless it has been granted him from the Father.” <sup>66</sup> As a result of this many of His disciples withdrew and were not walking with Him anymore. <sup>67</sup> So Jesus said to the twelve, “You do not want to go away also, do you?” <sup>68</sup> Simon Peter answered Him, “Lord, to whom shall we go? You have words of eternal life. <sup>69</sup> We have believed and have come to know that You are the Holy One of God.” <sup>70</sup> Jesus answered them, “Did I Myself not choose you, the twelve, and yet one of you is a devil?” <sup>71</sup> Now He meant Judas the son of Simon Iscariot, for he, one of the twelve, was going to betray Him.

21) Why did Jesus’ disciples (now a large group of people who were following Him) struggle with what Jesus said?

- 22) What specific things did Jesus say in verses 62-65 to address those struggling?
- 23) Verse 66 says that many of Jesus disciples left and stopped following Jesus. Does this surprise you?
- 24) What happens today that causes some of Jesus followers to stop following Him?
- 25) Jesus then turns to the 12 disciples and asks them if they were going to leave as well. What did they say kept them from leaving Him?
- 26) Where are you challenged to leave or stop following Jesus in your life?
- 27) How can you apply their answers to your life?

**APPLICATION:**

In this section in John 6, you see Jesus trying to take the crowd and His disciples from just understanding earthly/physical truths to begin to discern spiritual truths. These truths are no less real. The challenge is that you cannot physically see the spiritual realm. Instead we see them through eyes of faith that ultimately believe in and trust Jesus. Read through the spiritual truth that Jesus shared in this section and write down how each spiritual truth can be applied to your life.

- 28) The work God has for me to “do” is to believe.
- 29) Jesus is the bread that comes from heaven that bring eternal life.
- 30) Jesus said that eating His flesh and drinking His blood is the way to find life and abide in Him.
- 31) Jesus said the words He spoke are spirit and they are life.