

JOHN 6:22-34
BREAD OF LIFE
PART 1

VERSES 22-24

- The Crowd PURSUES Jesus across the lake to CAPERNAUM
 - 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.

VERSES 25-27

- Christ CONFRONTS the crowd over their CARNALITY
 - 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.”

VERSES 25-27

- These next verses are known as the “Bread of Life” discourse and are one of Christ’s most debated and controversial teachings; he forces the crowd to consider a distinction in perishable and spiritual food. [Living Water - Samaritan Woman]
 - Remember his first mention of this spiritual food was to his disciples immediately after the Samaritan woman left the well - so this is a common theme Christ is trying to get communicated to us.
- **“Rabbi when did you come here?”**
 - Notice that Christ does not say, “I walked on water across the sea.” Why? Because they are already in the religious consumer/carnal mindset; Jesus was not going to allow himself to feed into that even more! They would have asked him to do it again - “Jesus, would you walk on water again for us? Would you dance on the water, maybe do a handstand?...or what about juggling some water...or do that thing with the loaves again.” It’s been a while and we are hungry again, where is that little boy?
- For this crowd, God’s blessings are **a free food supply** and a **political Messiah** who will rid them of their hated Roman overlords. Their concern is with what they can do to help the cause along.¹

VERSES 25-27

- “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.”
 - “Ate you fill of the loaves” - you are seeking me because I can fill your bellies for free, not because you love me and know that you need me as your savior.
 - **Philippians 3:18-19** -18 For many, of whom I have often told you and now tell you even with tears, walk as enemies of the cross of Christ. 19 Their end is destruction, their god is their belly, and they glory in their shame, with minds set on earthly things.
- Some come to the church because of what the church can do for them, not for what they can do for God or out of love for God - they come because they know they can get something from the church, they can get what they want...once they get it, they are gone...until...they need it again.
 - Don't be a materialist - pursuing God because of what he can give you or provide for you materially.

VERSES 25-27

- Don't misunderstand we are here to help one another in need, but when you are seeking and coming just because you have physical needs, never understanding your spiritual needs...you refer back to Philippians 3.
 - “Instead of seeing in the bread the sign, they had seen in the sign only the bread.” “They were moved not by full hearts, but by full bellies.”
- **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.”**
 - Do not work for food that perishes - that's what this crowd was doing, they were taking their time and effort and tracking down Jesus because Jesus could feed them well; so, they were working for food that perishes; that means that the loaves and fish would ultimately perish.
 - **1 John 2:15-18** - 15 Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. 16 For all that is in the world—the desires of the flesh and the desires of the eyes and pride of life—is not from the Father but is from the world. 17 And **the world is passing away along with its desires**, but whoever does the will of God abides forever.

VERSES 25-27

- **But for the food that endures to eternal life, which the Son of Man will give to you** - what does that mean?
 - We are to work for food that endures to eternal life - this can only come as a gift from Jesus Christ - so...we work for eternal food, given to us by Christ?
 - Anyone know of any food that lasts forever? I can name some stuff that will last for 20-30 years [Twinkie maybe?] - things last a good long time in the freezer, or in freeze dried packages....but who knows of a food that is eternal - there is but one that knows, Christ Jesus and Him and only Him can give it to you.
- **For on him the Father has set his seal** - Christ always clearly communicates this reality:
 - In the sending of John the Baptist and his baptism
 - In the work that Christ was doing
 - In the Old Testament prophecies and the law

Christ's Teaching

It's Meaning

No longer work for food that perishes

Stop yearning for barley cakes as if they would fill the void in your heart; realize that this food perishes and has no lasting value

Work for food that endures for everlasting life

Instead, render to God the work of faith in the One whom God sent, the real food, which produces and sustains everlasting life

Which food the Son of Man will give you

I will give myself for those among you who believe in me

For on him God the Father has set his seal

By means of testimony of the Son himself, John the Baptist, works and signs, the Father, the Scriptures - God the Father has certified that I am the real Messiah

VERSES 28-31

- The crowd QUESTIONS Christ about what they must DO
 - **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.” 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.’”**
- Jesus had told them to work for the food that is imperishable/spiritual...they ask “what kind of work is this?”
 - As they had to do their common daily work to earn their daily food, so, they supposed, to receive the food which imparted eternal life they would have to perform tasks especially prescribed by God. What were these tasks?

VERSES 28-31

- Jesus assures them the basic requirement is...**faith**...faith in the messenger of the covenant.²
 - Ok...so they ask him - **what sign do you perform so we can believe?** Then they give a biblical precedent quoting a portion of Psalm 78 - “Our fathers ate the manna in the wilderness, as it is written, ‘He gave them bread from heaven to eat.’
 - **Psalm 78:23-24** -Yet he commanded the skies above and opened the doors of heaven, 24 and he rained down on them manna to eat and gave them the grain of heaven.
- Now have we missed something? Did Christ not just feed over 5,000 people from 5 barley cakes and two fish? Weren’t they seeking him out because of what he had done? Was this not enough for them? How much did he have to do?
- What has happened is that the crowd is now becoming convinced that Christ is the **second Moses** (fulfillment of the promised prophet like him in Deuteronomy), so they are wanting to see something similar done; **what did Moses do in the Old Testament?** He led the Israelites through the desert for 40 years and during that time they were fed “manna.”

Exodus 16

16 They set out from Elim, and all the congregation of the people of Israel came to the wilderness of Sin, which is between Elim and Sinai, on the fifteenth day of the second month after they had departed from the land of Egypt. 2 And the whole congregation of the people of Israel grumbled against Moses and Aaron in the wilderness, 3 and the people of Israel said to them, “Would that we had died by the hand of the Lord in the land of Egypt, when we sat by the meat pots and ate bread to the full, for you have brought us out into this wilderness to kill this whole assembly with hunger.”

4 Then the Lord said to Moses, “Behold, I am about to rain bread from heaven for you, and the people shall go out and gather a day's portion every day, that I may test them, whether they will walk in my law or not. 5 On the sixth day, when they prepare what they bring in, it will be twice as much as they gather daily.” 6 So Moses and Aaron said to all the people of Israel, “At evening you shall know that it was the Lord who brought you out of the land of Egypt, 7 and in the morning you shall see the glory of the Lord, because he has heard your grumbling against the Lord. For what are we, that you grumble against us?” 8 And Moses said, “When the Lord gives you in the evening meat to eat and in the morning bread to the full, because the Lord has heard your grumbling that you grumble against him—what are we? Your grumbling is not against us but against the Lord.”

13 In the evening quail came up and covered the camp, and in the morning dew lay around the camp. 14 And when the dew had gone up, there was on the face of the wilderness a fine, flake-like thing, fine as frost on the ground. 15 When the people of Israel saw it, they said to one another, “What is it?” For they did not know what it was. And Moses said to them, “It is the bread that the Lord has given you to eat. 16 This is what the Lord has commanded: ‘Gather of it, each one of you, as much as he can eat. You shall each take an omer, according to the number of the persons that each of you has in his tent.’”

31 Now the house of Israel called its name manna. It was like coriander seed, white, and the taste of it was like wafers made with honey. 32 Moses said, “This is what the Lord has commanded: ‘Let an omer of it be kept throughout your generations, so that they may see the bread with which I fed you in the wilderness, when I brought you out of the land of Egypt.’” 33 And Moses said to Aaron, “Take a jar, and put an omer of manna in it, and place it before the Lord to be kept throughout your generations.” 34 As the Lord commanded Moses, so Aaron placed it before the testimony to be kept. 35 The people of Israel ate the manna forty years, till they came to a habitable land. They ate the manna till they came to the border of the land of Canaan. 36 (An omer is the tenth part of an ephah.)

VERSES 28-31

- The crowd is comparing Jesus to Moses and implying that to be greater than Moses he will need to provide them a steady food supply for at least 40 years, NOT a miraculous, one time, lakeside feeding.

VERSES 32-34

- Christ explains that HE is the BREAD of heaven
 - 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.”