

Woodland Baptist Church
 December 1, 2013 - Morning Worship
 John 6:41-51 - Bread of Life, Part 3
 Barriers to Belief

1) INTRODUCTION

2) READ JOHN 6:41-51

3) Verses 41-42 He had a COMMON and humble HERITAGE

a) **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'?"**

i) Who are these grumbling Jews? Most likely they are Jews from the synagogue in Capernaum that would have known about Jesus his entire life.

b) **"I have come down from heaven"** - this is a reference to the manner of his birth, which was the virgin birth of Mary his mother. Christ's Father was the Father in heaven; his earthly father was Joseph, but his biological father was Yahweh.

i) **Luke 1:35** -35 And the angel answered her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy—the Son of God.

(1) He was completely void of the sin nature that was passed through the bloodline of the male, which means he was devoid of the curse of humanity, but that he was also born under the law, so he was able to fulfill the law.

c) **"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'?"**

i) It is as though they thought, "We have known him since the days of his childhood; his father, his mother, his family. Yet now that he is grown up, look what happens! He makes extravagant claims. Does he really expect us to believe this?"¹

¹ Hendricksen, 238

- ii) How could he claim divine origin when everybody knows where he came from and who he is?
- d) How quickly they forget their own heritage as **humble** and **common** - Abraham himself was a pagan, called out of Ur of the Chaldees?? David was a shepherd?? There are plenty of historical precedents for common and humble beginnings for the Lord's servants - Moses, set adrift in basket in the Nile river, to be adopted and brought into Pharaoh's house?
 - i) **1 Corinthians 1:27-29** - 27 But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; 28 God chose what is low and despised in the world, even things that are not, to bring to nothing things that are, 29 so that no human being might boast in the presence of God.
- 4) **Verses 43-45** He did not fit their INTERPRETATION of the SCRIPTURE
 - a) **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.**
 - i) **Do not grumble among yourselves** - [gonguzo] - to voice complaints - so the idea is that they are engaged, listening to Jesus, then they hear something they don't like and they turn to one another and begin to complain about what they have heard.
 - (1) Their grumbling shows them to be of the same spirit as that displayed by their fathers in the wilderness who complained before (Ex. 16:2, 8-9) and after (Nu. 11:4ff.) the manna was provided.² Again we have the running comparison of the Jews' mindset thousands of years ago, compared with the mindset Christ is currently dealing with.
 - (2) **Philippians 2:14-16** - 14 Do all things without grumbling or disputing, 15 that you may be blameless and innocent, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and twisted generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world, 16 holding fast to the word of life, so that

² Carson, Pillar NT, logos

in the day of Christ I may be proud that I did not run in vain or labor in vain.

- ii) How the Father works through Christ - **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.**

(1) So let's follow Christ's teaching, as this is one of the most quoted passages to substantiate God's sovereignty in salvation:

- (a) *No one* - pretty clear - neither Jew nor Gentile - which includes every person on planet earth.
- (b) *Can come to me* - we are unable to come or go to Jesus Christ...without the intervention of God, we would call it evangelism.
- (c) *Unless the Father who sent me draws him* - [helkuo] - both lexicons - Strong's and Lou Nida - interpret this the same - "to pull or drag, requiring force because of the inertia of the object being dragged."
 - (i) Our nature is to rebel - our nature is to run from God to idols! So, God drags us back toward him against our resistance to the gospel.
- (d) *And I will raise him up on the last day* - Christ says this repeatedly so the people understand he is claiming to be the end time Messiah that will bring the resurrection life (he has said this several time already in John).
- (e) *It is written in the Prophets* - Christ cites **Isaiah 54:13** (Messianic), "**And they will all be taught by God.**" Meaning that instead of a human teacher, God will actually come and be their teacher, much like God was Moses' teacher, remember what Christ said in John 5:45-47? And as they were being taught by God incarnate at that moment!
 - (i) 46 For if you believed Moses, you would believe me; for he wrote of me. 47 But if you do not believe his writings, how will you believe my words?
- (f) *Everyone who has heard and learned from the Father come to me* - how did they hear and learn from the Father? They heard and accepted Christ Jesus' as he is the Son sent by the Father. So, when they hear Christ's teachings, they hear the Father's teachings, and during this process

they are “drawn” to Christ - man must be evangelized, man must hear the Word of God - **Romans 10:17** - 17 So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ.

(g) 46 *not that anyone has seen the Father except he who is from God; he has seen the Father* - Jesus is a One of Kind; there is none other like Him.

- b) Catch the irony in this situation - Christ is the true bread from heaven that has come in fulfillment of prophecy and the Jews choose to “grumble” and “dispute” the reality of his coming because he is not what they expected - his birth place didn’t fit, his family heritage didn’t fit, his ministry methods certainly didn’t fit.

5) **Verses 47-50 - They wanted BREAD that was TRADITIONAL**

- a) **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.**

- i) **Whoever believes has eternal life** - again, “whoever” - whoever hears the Father and learns...comes to Christ and has eternal life - this is no surprise to the Father when this happens - he has known from the foundation of the world.
- ii) **I am the bread of life** - again, he says it, he is not letting them get past it, he is driving in the knife of conviction - “I AM...I AM”
- iii) **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.**

(1) Here Christ reminds them of their comments from verse 30-31, “**30 So they asked him, ‘What sign then will you give that we may see it and believe you? What will you do? 31 Our ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness; as it is written: ‘He gave them bread from heaven to eat.’**”

(2) In other words, “Jesus you are up against a pretty strong traditional precedent with the 40 year provision of manna.” Can you top that? Christ gives them a sobering reminder...

- iv) **49 Your fathers ate the manna in the wilderness, and they died** - this was undeniably true, in fact that “grumbling generation” had been sent there specifically to die for their disobedience to God in not entering the Promised Land...tell me again, how Jesus was a “feel good” preacher?? How would

you respond to me if I constantly reminded you of your past failures...or worst yet, the failures of your deceased family members??

- v) **50 This is the bread that comes down from heaven, so that one may eat of it and not die** - this was non-traditional bread - this was a one time offer that had eternal consequences...not simply 40 years...the decision they would make about hearing and learning from the Father and be drawn to the Son would be a life and death decision - it would determine where they spent eternity, not just 40 years...

6) **Verse 51 - Jesus Christ's FLESH is the bread of life that brings eternal LIFE**

- a) **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."**
 - i) Christ gives himself as a sacrifice - he is the bread from heaven the bread he gives for the life of the world is his flesh, himself.

7) **CLOSE**

- a) **Hebrews 5:7-10** - 7 In the days of his flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to him who was able to save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverence. 8 Although he was a son, he learned obedience through what he suffered. 9 And being made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation to all who obey him, 10 being designated by God a high priest after the order of Melchizedek.