

# John 6:41-71 – 26 April 2026

## “Spirit Life Or Dead Flesh”

### Introduction

Read 6:41

1. The manna falling from the sky in Moses' day was a foreshadowing of Jesus to come
2. Jesus is the fulfillment of the sustenance that we've always needed
3. This is the 1<sup>st</sup> of 7 “I AM” statements by Jesus

\*Rest of chapter 6 are different groups of people's reactions to Jesus saying, “I AM the Bread of Life”

\*He's trying to get them to see how we can affect the spiritual realm & not just the earthly realm

**Today, we look at the 3 reactions to Jesus thinking & acting in the spirit life regarding who He is and why He's here**

## #1 – To Deny: The Jews do not believe, therefore they don't follow Jesus (Vs 42-58)

Read 6:42

1. They think that since they watched Him grow up as a man that He cannot also be Messiah & God
  - a. But it was long prophesied that God would come as a baby, as a Son (Read Isa 9:6)
2. This speaks of Jesus' hypostatic union
  - a. Jesus has two natures in one person
  - b. He is both God & man in one person

Read 6:43-46

1. This is another example of Jesus saying that we must spiritually discern these things
  - a. If someone will listen to **God** (thru the Word), **then** they'll be willing to listen to **Jesus**
  - b. If you've really been taught of God **by believing** the OT, then you'd be looking for, recognize and **believe** in Jesus the Messiah

2. This would sound shocking to them that not all of them were hearing from God – it's a choice
  - a. Some, not all, were drawing near to God
3. The promise here is that those that draw near in belief *will* receive eternal life in the last day
4. Point of these verses: We must believe Christ's words as a physical picture of a spiritual reality

Read 6:47-50

1. Comparing Himself as the true Bread and the manna as the prototype of bread
  - a. Many ate the manna and yet still died, why?
  - b. B/c it wasn't mixed w/ belief (Read Heb 4:2)
2. Vs 47-48 makes it clear we must believe Jesus Himself is the sustenance we've always needed
3. If you're only trusting in the fact that you're doing the ritual – you still don't have eternal life
  - a. If you're trusting in God's work for us that's shown in the ritual – *then* you have eternal life

## Read 6:51

1. Jesus will ‘give His flesh’ for our eternal life
  - a. This can only mean His impending death
2. They will once again miss the chance to see this physical picture (dying on the cross) as a spiritual reality (the cross has the power to bring us eternal life)

## Read 6:52-55

1. Jesus’ flesh & blood is ‘true’ spiritual food
  - a. The type of food we need spiritually for life
2. Some mistakenly think the communion bread & wine literally becomes His flesh and blood
  - a. This is no more physical than when Jesus said, “I am the Door” to the sheepfold
  - b. Just as literal bread physically sustains you, so to Jesus’ flesh spiritually sustains us

## Read 6:56-58

1. Just as we make physical food a part of us and wholly consume it, we must consume Jesus

- a. It's not good enough to *know about* food, or to *look* at the food
- b. It's not good enough to attend a dieting class
- c. It's not good enough to be in a family of healthy eaters, *we* must *consume the food*

## **#2 – To Doubt: The Disciples struggle to believe, therefore some stop following Jesus (Vs 59-66)**

Read 6:59-60

1. If the Jews were *denying* Jesus is the Bread of Life, the disciples are simply *doubting* it
  - a. To struggle over our believe is ok, as long as the conclusion is that God is true & faithful
2. We'll see from vs 66 there are many more than just the 12 disciples that will become the Apostles

Read 6:61-62

1. Does it offend you that I came down to be the true Bread of Life?
  - a. Would it offend you more if I told you that I'm going to leave and go back up?

2. His physical coming and going is much *less* important that the spiritual reasons *why* He came & *why* He'll go back (Read John 16:5-7)
  - a. Focus on the spiritual reality by what's physically happening

Read 6:63

1. We need God's Spirit to have eternal life
  - a. Eternal life cannot be gained by doing anything within the material world
  - b. Life can only be gained by believing something specific about the spiritual realm
2. Do you look at the Bible as a set of rules for what to do or as a set of principle to belief?
  - a. It's the latter
  - b. Read II Cor 3:6 – We must believe that Jesus is our sustaining Bread

Read 6:64

1. Judas will betray & that shows a lack of belief

## Read 6:65

1. He ends with His disciples the same way He began answering the Jews in vs 44
  - a. To respond spiritually, you must be drawn by the Father
2. If you come to church or to Jesus, coming away from every earthly motivation (gain a relationship or influence)...
  - a. But you don't come motivated by God to know Jesus & His cross – you have not life

## Read 6:66

1. Even walking is a good metaphor
  - a. They literally walked all over the country to follow a rabbi – & now many went back home
  - b. We're called to spiritual walk with Jesus
2. We're either living life our way or we're following Jesus wherever He may go

### #3 – To Confess: Peter believes, therefore he'll follow Jesus forever (Vs 67-71)

Read 6:67-69

1. Jesus was never afraid of saying the truth and letting the chips fall where they may
  - a. He doesn't avoid the hard stuff for fear of losing a friend or follower
2. How are we crafting ourselves
  - a. Do we say the right things to gain followers?
  - b. Or do we say only true things regardless of whether we gain or lose followers
3. "To whom" suggest an acceptance that he doesn't have life w/i himself & needs outside help
4. Peter followed Jesus for who *He* is, it wasn't based on whether it would be hard or easy
  - a. Let's pick our leaders primarily based on them offering truthful, good things, not based on them bringing comfort and easy things

Read 6:70-71

1. Jesus knows which of the 12 have come to this true confession in the spirit & Judas had not
2. God will draw us, but we must respond to it with a confession of true beliefs in who Jesus is to have eternal life!

## Conclusion

So how do you respond when Jesus says things that are hard to hear?

1. **Do you deny it? That leads to a life to goes its own way apart from Christ**
2. **Do you doubt it? That leads to a life of struggle and jeopardy**
3. **Do you confess and believe it? That leads to a life of following Jesus forever**