

## John 6:52-71

## The Bread of Life

### Verses 52-59 Striving

*The Jews therefore began to argue with one another...*

*argue* = An intense argument. Two of the four usages in the New Testament are translated as *fighting*.

*Eat My flesh and drink My blood* –

The Jews missed the spiritual truth of Jesus' statements. The law prohibited eating human flesh or drinking blood. See Genesis 9:3-4, Leviticus 17:10-14. Jesus meant that they must appropriate Him as the only means of eternal life.

*Abides in Me and I in him...*

In this context *abide* is a synonym for eternal life. In the context of John 15 *abiding* is speaking of fellowship with God.

*I live because of the Father...*

Eternal life is the gift of God that He imparts through His Son, Jesus.

*He who eats of this bread shall live forever...*

Jesus is clearly speaking metaphorically of belief.

This is not an early reference to the Lord's Supper. The Lord's Supper is a commemoration of Christ's death, not a vehicle for obtaining eternal life.

*In the synagogue, as He taught in Capernaum.*

Either Jesus began the Bread of Life discourse in the synagogue or at some point in the discussion moved to the synagogue. He often spoke in the synagogue wherever He was teaching.

### Verses 60-71 Departing

*Many of His disciples...*

Many in the crowd considered themselves disciples of Jesus. Some were true believers and some were not.

*This is a difficult statement* –

Even His disciples could not grasp the true meaning of Jesus' statements.

*What if you should behold...*

In speaking of His ascension Jesus is probably including His crucifixion which was humanly offensive. This word for

*stumble* in verse 65 is the same word used in 1 Corinthians 1:23.

*It is the Spirit who gives life...*

Jesus makes it clear that He has been speaking in spiritual terms, not physical. True life, eternal life, only comes by the Spirit.

*There are some of you who do not believe...*

The term *disciple* is not synonymous with *believer*.

*Jesus knew from the beginning...*

Speaking of His earthly ministry or perhaps His eternality as God.

*For this reason...*

This is a key phrase to understanding verse 65 and refers back to the unbelief of professed disciples. The principle is God's judgment upon the rejection of great light!

*As a result of this many of His disciples withdrew...*

- His rejecting their desire to make Him their political king
- His exaltation over Moses and the law
- His demand for personal faith instead of a works based legalism

*You do not want to go away also, do you?*

The construction expects a negative answer. The question is to build their faith.

*You have the words of eternal life.*

Those who believed the teaching of Jesus received eternal life.

*The Holy One of God...*

This is an unusual title that is used only here and in Mark 1:24 and Luke 4:34. Peter is confessing his belief that Jesus is the Messiah, the Holy One, who is sent from God.

*Did I Myself not choose you...*

Not for eternal life, but for service.

*One of you is a devil* – John 13:2, 27

***I am the living bread that came down out of heaven; if anyone eats of this bread, he shall live forever; and the bread also which I shall give for the life of the world is My flesh.***

**John 6:51**