

## That You May Have Life In His Name - John 6:22-71

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### 5/21 John 6:22-71 Jesus The Bread of Life

- Jesus says, “This is the work of God, that you believe in him whom he has sent?” (v.29). How does the work of believing Jesus take shape in your life?
- Jesus promises life to all who receive him (6:27, 6:33, 6:40, 6:47, 6:50-51, 6:54, 6:57, 6:58, 6:63). How do these verses comfort you?
- Jesus is the Bread of Life – but we often hunger for bread that doesn’t satisfy. What are some ways you have experienced true life as your trust in Jesus grows?
- Jesus says “no one can come to me unless it is granted him by the Father”(v.65) How does this provide assurance for those who trust in Jesus?

Context: In John’s Gospel – after feeding the 5000, and after Jesus and the disciples had gone to the other side, the crowd was seeking Jesus. Jesus, the night before, found the disciples against the wind in rough waters, and walked on the water – assuring them, It is I, take heart, do not be afraid. The story continues...

### I Am the Bread of Life

<sup>22</sup> 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. <sup>23</sup> Other boats from Tiberias came near the place where they had eaten 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 boats and went 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 come here?”

<sup>26</sup> 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. <sup>27</sup> 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.” <sup>28</sup> Then they said to him, “What must we do, to be doing the works of God?” <sup>29</sup> Jesus answered them, “This is the work of God, that you believe in him whom he has sent.” <sup>30</sup> So they said to him, “Then what sign do you do, 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 from heaven to eat.’” <sup>32</sup> 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. <sup>33</sup> For the bread of God is he who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world.” <sup>34</sup> They said to him, “Sir, give us this bread always.”

<sup>35</sup> Jesus said to them, “I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in me shall 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 whoever comes to me I will never 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> And this is the will of him who sent me, that I should lose nothing of all that he has given me, but raise it up on the last day. <sup>40</sup> For this is the will of my Father, that everyone

who looks on the Son and believes in him should have eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day.”

<sup>41</sup> So the Jews grumbled about him, because he said, “I am the bread that came down from heaven.” <sup>42</sup> 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?’” <sup>43</sup> Jesus answered 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 will all be taught by God.’ Everyone who has heard and learned from the Father comes to me— <sup>46</sup> not that anyone has seen the Father except he who is from God; he has seen the Father. <sup>47</sup> Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever 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 that comes down from heaven, so that one may eat of it and not die. <sup>51</sup> 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.”

<sup>52</sup> The Jews then disputed among themselves, 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 you. <sup>54</sup> Whoever feeds on 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> Whoever feeds on 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 whoever feeds on me, he also will live because of me. <sup>58</sup> This is the bread that came down from heaven, not like the bread the fathers ate, and died. Whoever feeds on this bread will live forever.” <sup>59</sup> Jesus said these things in the synagogue, as he taught at Capernaum.

### **The Words of Eternal Life**

<sup>60</sup> When many of his disciples heard it, they said, “This is a hard saying; who can listen to it?” <sup>61</sup> But Jesus, knowing in himself that his disciples were grumbling about this, said to them, “Do you take offense at this? <sup>62</sup> Then what if you were to see the Son of Man ascending to where he was before? <sup>63</sup> It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh is no help at all. The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life. <sup>64</sup> But there are some of you who do not believe.” (For Jesus knew from the beginning who those were who did not believe, and who it was who would betray him.) <sup>65</sup> And he said, “This is why I told you that no one can come to me unless it is granted him by the Father.”

<sup>66</sup> After this many of his disciples turned back and no longer walked with him. <sup>67</sup> So Jesus said to the twelve, “Do you want to go away as well?” <sup>68</sup> Simon Peter answered him, “Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life, <sup>69</sup> and we have believed, and have come to know, that you are the Holy One of God.” <sup>70</sup> Jesus answered them, “Did I not choose you, the twelve? And yet one of you is a devil.” <sup>71</sup> He spoke of Judas the son of Simon Iscariot, for he, one of the twelve, was going to betray him.

[\*The Holy Bible: English Standard Version\*](#). (2016). (Jn 6:22–71). Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles.

John writes these things so that we may see that Jesus is the Son of God and Messiah – and that we would believe Jesus, and thus have life in His name. So, what does this passage of scripture show us?

Jesus is clearly emphasizing the relationship between eternal life and necessary belief. He draws a line between matters of heaven and earth, between temporal life and eternal life, between food that doesn't last and that which endures eternally – and only comes from Him.

- <sup>8</sup> Then they said to him, “What must we do, to be doing the works of God?” <sup>29</sup> Jesus answered them, “This is the work of God, that you believe in him whom he has sent.”

This is the work of God – that you believe in Him whom He has sent. Jesus says, “This is the work of God, that you believe in him whom he has sent?” (v.29).

- How does the work of believing Jesus take shape in your life?
- How do you respond when life gets difficult?
- Or when you fail? Or when someone fails you?
- Who do you turn to when you need hope or peace?
- Jesus promises life to all who receive him (6:27, 6:33, 6:40, 6:47, 6:50-51, 6:54, 6:57, 6:58, 6:63). How do these verses comfort you?
  - <sup>27</sup> 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.”
  - <sup>33</sup> For the bread of God is he who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world.”
  - <sup>40</sup> For this is the will of my Father, that everyone who looks on the Son and believes in him should have eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day.”
  - <sup>47</sup> Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever 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 that comes down from heaven, so that one may eat of it and not die. <sup>51</sup> 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.”
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  - <sup>63</sup> It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh is no help at all. The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life.

- Jesus is the Bread of Life – but we often hunger for bread that doesn't satisfy. What are some ways you have experienced true life as your trust in Jesus grows?
- Jesus says “no one can come to me unless it is granted him by the Father”(v.65) How does this provide assurance for those who trust in Jesus?

<sup>64</sup> But there are some of you who do not believe.” (For Jesus knew from the beginning who those were who did not believe, and who it was who would betray him.) <sup>65</sup> And he said, “This is why I told you that no one can come to me unless it is granted him by the Father.”

<sup>66</sup> After this many of his disciples turned back and no longer walked with him. <sup>67</sup> So Jesus said to the twelve, “Do you want to go away as well?” <sup>68</sup> Simon Peter answered him, “Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life, <sup>69</sup> and we have believed, and have come to know, that you are the Holy One of God.”

- John clearly states that Jesus knew those who truly believed and those who did not – He knew that then and He knows that now? Are you among those who truly believe?
- Jesus clearly states “no one can come to me unless it is granted him by the Father” – this is a direct statement regarding God's wisdom, power, and mercy in election, in choosing people for salvation and opening their eyes to see.
- This is also where some who were following along with Jesus – choose to no longer walk with them, they were among those who actually didn't believe Jesus.
- Seeing this – Jesus asks – do you want to go away as well? I love Peter's answer – and it would be mine too. Lord, to whom shall we go. You have the words of eternal life.

I want to pull all of this together for us as we consider what it means to believe Jesus for who He truly is.

- If you have faith in Jesus – it is because the Father has granted it. Your saving faith in Jesus is a gift from God. Rest in this glorious reality. God has chosen you – infinitely longer than you have ever chosen to respond to Him.
- We live in a world of things that can never truly satisfy – and Jesus confronts this. With the loaves and fish – the crowd continued to seek Him not because of the amazing bread and fish, but because something more was satisfied in them, something eternal. This is what Jesus is saying and he will use hunger and thirst to point towards a greater reality. Take the greatest food on earth – take the greatest drink on earth – take the best experience earth has to offer – and you will still never be truly satisfied. Every human heart will always long for more. Only in Jesus is the “more” found.

- Death on earth is an everyday reality. Eternal life belongs to those who trust in Jesus. Do you trust in Jesus? Do you have the assurance that your eternity is secure because of what Christ has done for you?
- “All death can do to Christians is make their lives infinitely better.” Tim Keller (1950–2023)
- Jesus asks his disciples - do you want to go away as well? Lord – to whom shall we go?
  - When you are hungry and thirsty for what will truly satisfy, where will you go?
  - When you fail and struggle with sin, where else can you go for mercy and grace?
  - When you lose heart and fear overwhelms, who else can bring you peace?
  - When suffering sets in and grief is overwhelming, who else loves you more?

Jesus – we bring our hearts to You satisfy our deepest longings, that You purify our desires for what truly matters and what truly honors You.

The Heidelberg Catechism, Question One Question:

What is your only comfort in life and in death?

Answer:

That I am not my own,  
but belong body and soul, in life and in death-to my faithful Savior, Jesus Christ.

He has fully paid for all my sins with his precious blood,  
and has set me free from the tyranny of the devil.

He also watches over me in such a way that not a hair can fall from my head without the will of my Father in heaven; in fact, all things must work together for my salvation.

Because I belong to Him, Christ, by his Holy Spirit, assures me of eternal life and makes me wholeheartedly willing and ready from now on to live for him.