

## JOHN 6.2

### THE BREAD FROM HEAVEN

#### Introduction

- Jesus just fed 5,000 men, not including women and children. He told His disciples to go to the other side of the lake. While they were on the way, they ran into a storm. Jesus came to them walking on the water

- People are seeking Jesus. Now they are wondering how Jesus got there, having no boat

**John 6:22** On the following day, when the people who were standing on the other side of the sea saw that there was no other boat there, except that one which His disciples had entered, and that Jesus had not entered the boat with His disciples, but His disciples had gone away alone— 23 however, other boats came from Tiberias, near the place where they ate bread after the Lord had given thanks— 24 when the people therefore saw that Jesus was not there, nor His disciples, they also got into boats and came to Capernaum, seeking Jesus. 25 And 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 and said, “Most assuredly, I say to you, you seek Me, not because you saw the signs, but because you ate of the loaves and were filled. 27 Do not labor for the food which perishes, but for the food which endures to everlasting life, which the Son of Man will give you, because God the Father has set His seal on Him.” 28 Then they said to Him, “What shall we do, that we may work the works of God?” 29 Jesus answered and said to them, “This is the work of God, that you believe in Him whom He sent.” 30 Therefore they said to Him, “What sign will You perform then, that we may see it and believe You? What work will You do? 31 Our fathers ate the manna in the desert; as it is written, ‘He gave them bread from heaven to eat.’ ” 32 Then Jesus said to them, “Most assuredly, I say to you, Moses did not give 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 Then they said to Him, “Lord, give us this bread always.”

- People sought Jesus because of His miracles
  1. Some people seek the Lord not because they love Him, but because of what He does for them
    - They seek the gifts, not the Giver
    - They do not hunger for righteousness, but rather for physical sustenance
  2. A question we can ask ourselves. Why do we go to church? Pray? Read our Bibles?
    - It should be so that we want to grow in our relationship with God
    - Many people come just because they think it's what they are supposed to do
- Jesus challenged people to aim for heaven rather than just the physical. **Matthew 6:33** But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.
  1. As we seek the Lord first above all, everything else is added to us.
    - By seeking the Lord, but not so that we can have our needs met
    - It's all about Him, are we in love with Him, are we seeking Him, are we hungry for His righteousness?
    - I love how Jesus says in the Sermon on the Mount, “Your heavenly Father knows that you have need of these things.”
  2. The Jews asked Jesus What can we do (referring to works)
  3. We do not get to heaven by doing works
    - The Jews were programmed to believe in works-based righteousness (this is one of the reasons why they had such a hard time believing Jesus)
    - They looked to be right with God by doing certain works, Romans 10:2-4
    - Justification by faith was unfamiliar to them
  3. Jesus says the work is this **BELIEF IN HIM.**

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### BY FAITH ALONE, IN JESUS ALONE, BY GRACE ALONE

- If you can get to heaven by being good, how good do you have to be?
- If we go by God's standard, we will never make it
- 4. John used the word believe about ninety-eight times in his gospel alone
- The people compared Jesus' miracle of feeding them with the loaves and fish to Moses and the manna from heaven, and called it bread from Heaven
  - 2. By saying this, they marginalized the miracles Jesus performed
- Jesus said that manna, even though it came from heaven, was not the “true bread from heaven”
  - 1. He corrected the Jews
    - Moses did not give them the bread—God did
    - The manna was a temporary nutritional bread for the wilderness

Jesus had more to say

### And Jesus said to them, “I am the bread of life.

He who comes to Me shall never hunger, and he who believes in Me shall never thirst. 36 But I said to you that you have seen Me and yet do not believe. 37 All that the Father gives Me will come to Me, and the one who comes to Me I will by no means cast out. 38 For I have come down from heaven, not to do My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me. 39 This is the will of the Father who sent Me, that of all He has given Me I should lose nothing, but should raise it up at the last day. 40 And this is the will of Him who sent Me, that everyone who sees the Son and believes in Him may have everlasting life; and I will raise him up at the last day.” 41 The Jews then complained about Him, because He said, “I am the bread which came down from heaven.” 42 And they said, “Is not this Jesus, the son of Joseph, whose father and mother we know? How is it then that He says, ‘I have come down from heaven’?”

- Jesus made seven "I am" statements in John
  - He said "I am" —Egó eimi—twenty-three times
  - "I am the bread of life."
  - "I am the light of the world," John 8:12
  - "I am the door of the sheep" John 10:7
  - "I am the good shepherd," John 10:11
  - "I am the resurrection and the life" John 11:25
  - "I am the way, the truth, and the life" John 14:6
  - "I am the true vine" John 15:1
  - Claimed to be equal to God
- Those who come to Him
  - 1. Will never hunger
  - 2. Will never thirst
  - 3. Will not be cast out
  - 4. Will have everlasting life
  - 5. Will take part in the resurrection
- The Jews were bothered when Jesus said He came from heaven
  - 1. They were operating under the impression that Jesus was a human only

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- Isaiah said He would be human and divine, Isaiah 9:6-7
  - Human: "For unto us a Child is born"
  - Divine: "Unto us a Son is given"
  - Born of a virgin, Isaiah 7:14
- 1. They assumed He was just the son of Joseph
  - Joseph had nothing to do with it
  - Jesus preexisted in heaven before John 1:1

- Jesus explained how the Father draws people (see Isaiah 54:13)

43 Jesus therefore answered and said to them, "Do not murmur among yourselves. 44 No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him; and I will raise him up at the last day. 45 It is written in the prophets, 'And they shall all be taught by God.' Therefore 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. 47 Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me has everlasting life. 48 I am the bread of life. 49 Your fathers ate the manna in the wilderness, and are dead. 50 This is the bread which comes down from heaven, that one may eat of it and not die. 51 I am the living bread which came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever; and the bread that I shall give is My flesh, which I shall give for the life of the world."

- God chooses people in advance and speaks to them through the teaching of His Word
- We are chosen, and anyone who responds to the teaching of the Word can come to Jesus
- We haven't seen God yet, but we will Exodus 33:20; 1 Corinthians 13:12; 1 John 3:1-2
- Verse 47: The briefest and clearest picture of how a person is saved
  1. We receive everlasting life by believing in Christ
- Jesus is the real "Wonder Bread."

53 Then Jesus said to them, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink His blood, you have no life in you. 54 Whoever eats My flesh and drinks My blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day. 55 For My flesh is food indeed, and My blood is drink indeed. 56 He who eats My flesh and drinks My blood abides in Me, and I in him. 57 As the living Father sent Me, and I live because of the Father, so he who feeds on Me will live because of Me. 58 This is the bread which came down from heaven—not as your fathers ate the manna, and are dead. He who eats this bread will live forever."

59 These things He said in the synagogue as He taught in Capernaum.

1. Jesus gave them raw, shocking verbiage about His sacrificial death
2. They were shocked because they believed the life of the flesh is in the blood (see Leviticus 17:11)
  - They were forbidden from consuming blood
3. The Catholic church believes in transubstantiation
  - When they take Communion, you are consuming the actual body and blood of Jesus, not a symbol; literal
4. This was a spiritual symbolism of the sacrifice on the cross
5. Our **UNITY** with Him for eternal life

60 Therefore many of His disciples, when they heard this, said, "This is a hard saying; who can understand it?"

61 When Jesus knew in Himself that His disciples complained about this, He said to them, "Does this offend you? 62 What then if you should see the Son of Man ascend where He was

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before? 63 It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing. The words that I speak to you are spirit, and they are life. 64 But there are some of you who do not believe.” For Jesus knew from the beginning who they were who did not believe, and who would betray Him. 65 And He said, “Therefore I have said to you that no one can come to Me unless it has been granted to him by My Father.”

- Jesus plainly said He was speaking in spiritual terms (see v. 63)
  - The metaphor of taking in the body and blood for believing
  - Complete unity with Christ
  - Taking in body and blood equals believing in Him
- True life comes through Jesus' death

66 From that time many of His disciples went back and walked with Him no more. 67 Then Jesus said to the twelve, “Do you also want to go away?”

68 But Simon Peter answered Him, “Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. 69 Also we have come to believe and know that You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.” 70 Jesus answered them, “Did I not choose you, the twelve, and one of you is a devil?” 71 He spoke of Judas Iscariot, the son of Simon, for it was he who would betray Him, being one of the twelve.

- The disciples had a hard time with these truths
  1. Not hard to understand—hard to tolerate
  2. Jesus often said hard things (see Matthew 23:15; John 4:17-18)
- Many of His disciples stopped following Him after this
  1. Not all the disciples were true disciples
  2. The twelve were His true disciples
- Peter gets a bad rap from preachers
  1. He got the answer right at Caesarea Philippi (see Matthew 16:15-17; Mark 8:29; Luke 9:20)
  2. He got the answer right here, realizing no one could compare to Jesus and His gift of eternal life

### Closing

- What could happen in your life that would cause you to turn away from Jesus?
- Peter said it best: “To whom shall we go?”
- In Christ, we have water and bread that can quench our thirst and satisfy our hunger. His word is Eternal Life