



# The Gospel of John: *Know Jesus and Live*

Part 18  
John 6:30-40

## I. Introduction



### Recap

- Last week, we saw Jesus invite those who had seen him feed 5,000+ people to believe and in believing, receive eternal life. This week, we begin (as promised) with their response to that offer...



### Overview of today's text

- Today's passage can be broken down into two fairly distinct sections...
  1. **Jesus's apparent failure (30-36)**
    - Last week we saw Jesus telling people that if they would only believe in him, they would receive food that endures to eternal life. Verses 30-36 reveal that Jesus's offer is refused. Thus, on the surface, it looks as if Jesus was trying as hard as he could to get these people to believe in him and he failed. James Montgomery Boice describes it this way...

"Men have great hunger--a hunger for truth, righteousness, peace, joy, spiritual satisfaction, and other things. Jesus is the answer to this hunger. Yet the tragedy is that men will not come to him"<sup>1</sup>
  2. **Jesus's absolute success (37-40)**
    - Jesus teaches that no such failures are possible for him. God has given him people, ALL of those people WILL come, he will not loose one of them, and at the end of all things he will resurrect them and they will enjoy their glorified bodies forever in the presence of the King of Kings and Lord of Lords who is so radiant that he will replace the sun for light (Isaiah 60:19). He has NOT come to fail! He WILL NOT fail! Through him, the Father will accomplish all of his purposes (Isaiah 46:10, Isaiah 55:11). So THERE!

## II. Jesus's Apparent Failure

- ❖ John 6:30-31--*So they said to him, "Then what sign do you do, that we may see and believe you? What work do you perform? 31 Our fathers ate the manna in the wilderness; as it is written, 'He gave them bread from heaven to eat.*
- At first glance, this seems like the most ridiculous question ever! Jesus has just fed over 5,000 people with a hand full of food and now they ask him to prove himself!? Hasn't he done this already!?
- To understand their request in verse 30, we must understand what they are referencing in verse 31. Jesus feeding the 5,000 caused them to believe that he was...
  - ❖ John 6:14--*indeed the Prophet who is to come into the world!*
- Who was this prophet? The prophet was to be someone like Moses...
  - ❖ Deuteronomy 18:15--*"The Lord your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among you, from your brothers—it is to him you shall listen—"*
- Why did feeding 5,000 people cause these people to think that he was the prophet who would be like Moses? Because while Moses was their leader, the Lord said...

---

<sup>1</sup> James Montgomery Boice, *John: Volume 2*, p.476



# The Gospel of John: *Know Jesus and Live*

## Part 18

### John 6:30-40

- ❖ Exodus 16:4--*"Behold, I am about to rain bread from heaven for you, and the people shall go out and gather a day's portion every day."*
- In fact, the bread from heaven came six out of seven days for a long, long time!
- ❖ Exodus 16:35--*The people of Israel ate the manna forty years, till they came to a habitable land. They ate the manna till they came to the border of the land of Canaan*
- Thus, their question is as if to say to Jesus, "You fed us bread for one day, but Moses fed us bread from heaven for 40 years! If you expect us to follow you, you're gonna have to top that!"
- ❖ John 6:32-33--*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. 33 For the bread of God is he who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world.*

- Two things to see here



#### **Hey! Get your facts straight Jack!**

- The first thing that Jesus says in response to them is, "It wasn't Moses who fed you. If you want to compare me to the one who fed you bread in the wilderness, you need to set your aim a bit higher. It was God, my Father, who gave you bread from heaven then and it is God, my Father who is giving you the true bread from heaven now!"



#### **Bread vs. True Bread**

- In saying "true bread" what distinction is Jesus making? Is he arguing that the manna that fell wasn't real? Did God fool Israel into thinking that they were eating everyday for 40 years!? Of course not. To help us understand let us look at a few verses...
  - ❖ Colossians 2:16-17--*Therefore let no one pass judgment on you in questions of food and drink, or with regard to a festival or a new moon or a Sabbath. 17 These are a shadow of the things to come, but the substance belongs to Christ*
  - ❖ Hebrews 10:1--*For since the law has but a shadow of the good things to come instead of the true form of these realities, it can never, by the same sacrifices that are continually offered every year, make perfect those who draw near*
- This is the kind of thing that Jesus is saying here in John 6. Manna from heaven was wonderful! It provided daily spiritual nourishment for God's chosen people. Yet as wonderful as the manna was it was but a shadow of the true bread that was to come. It wouldn't be physical bread, it would be a person...
  - ❖ John 6:33--*For the bread of God is **he** who comes down from heaven*
- The true bread wouldn't just fill the bellies of one small group of people, it would bring eternal life to the world! The manna of Moses's day may have fed a few million people. The true bread gives eternal life to a number of people so massive that it is beyond reckoning...
  - ❖ John 6:33--*For the bread of God is he who comes down from heaven and gives **life to the world.***
  - ❖ Revelation 7:9-10--*After this I looked, and behold, a great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, with palm branches in their hands, 10 and crying out with a loud voice, "Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!*



# The Gospel of John: *Know Jesus and Live*

Part 18  
John 6:30-40

- ❖ John 6:34--*They said to him, "Sir, give us this bread always."*
  - They just don't get it. Jesus has just said that the true bread is a person who has come to give life to world and rather than say who is this person they say "FEED ME! FEED ME!" They are acting like annoying baby birds whose mother has returned with a worm. With their mouths open and clamoring they care about nothing but food going into their bellies.
- ❖ John 6:35--*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."*
  - He has finally come out and said what he has been hinting at. He has said the Father is sending bread from heaven. He has said that the bread from heaven is a person. Now, he says...(drum roll please)...that person is ME!!!! Two things to see here...



## **I AM the bread of life**

- In saying this he is saying two things...
- 1. **I AM God!!!** Remember our study of Jesus walking on the water? When he said...
  - ❖ John 6:20--*"It is I; do not be afraid."*Remember the greek phrase he used? He said *Ego Eimi*. Which in the Greek translation of the Old Testament is what the Lord said of himself to Moses in the burning bush. The first time he said this to his disciples only revealing to them that he is almighty God. Now he reveals this to the masses assembled to hear his teaching. He is declaring his divinity openly and boldly.
- 2. **Bread of life.** So when Jesus says don't spend your life striving to fill your belly, spend your life in service of something or someone that can grant you eternal life, he means himself. Serve him, believe him, know him and live forever! When Jesus says that the bread from heaven is a person, he means himself. He was with God, was God (John 1:1-2), and possessed divine glory in eternity past (John 17:5) and has now come into the world to give life to men (John 3:16-17).



## **Jesus is the answer to our every need**

- When Jesus says...
    - ❖ John 6:35--*...whoever comes to me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in me shall never thirst.*
  - This verse should draw our minds to passages like...
    - ❖ Philippians 4:19--*God will supply every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus.*
    - ❖ Psalm 63:5--*My soul will be satisfied as with fat and rich food*
  - This does not mean that Jesus is our divine sugar daddy. It is to contrast the satisfaction that Jesus brings with normal carnal satisfactions. That which satisfies our bodies is always partial and temporary. They can never satisfy our deepest longings and they can never satisfy for long. Jesus, however, is himself the satisfaction of our deepest needs and longings and is eternally satisfying. 100 billion years in glory will go by and even after all that time we will still be utterly satisfied in the glory of Jesus and will long for nothing else but the glory of Jesus for the rest of eternity because he is simply that amazing!
- ❖ John 6:36--*But I said to you that you have seen me and yet do not believe.*



# The Gospel of John: *Know Jesus and Live*

Part 18

John 6:30-40

- In response to this verse, one simply has to ask the question, “Why didn’t they believe!? They had seen Jesus heal the sick (John 6:2), they had seen Jesus feed a multitude with meager rations (John 6:1-15), so why didn’t they believe!? Has Jesus failed to accomplish the Father’s purposes? No, John 17:4 makes it clear that Jesus has accomplished all that his Father sent him to accomplish. So what is it that he was sent to accomplish? If Jesus didn’t fail, what then has he purposed to do and how does he accomplish this? He will tell us in the next few verses...

## III. Jesus’s Absolute Success

- ❖ John 6:37--*All that the Father gives me will come to me,*



### Unconditional Election

- What does it mean that the Father has given Jesus people? It means that God has chosen people who are eternally predestined to belong to Jesus. This is the only possible interpretation of this text. The three questions we must answer are...
  1. When were these people chosen? Are they chosen when they choose Jesus? No...
    - ❖ Ephesians 1:4--*even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him*
  2. Are these people chosen because of what they will do? Are they chosen because the Father saw that they would one day choose him? No.
    - ❖ Romans 9:11-16--*they were not yet born and had done nothing either good or bad —in order that God's purpose of election might continue, not because of works but because of him who calls — 12 she was told, “The older will serve the younger.” 13 As it is written, “Jacob I loved, but Esau I hated. 14 What shall we say then? Is there injustice on God's part? By no means! 15 For he says to Moses, “I will have mercy on whom I have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I have compassion.” 16 So then it depends not on human will or exertion, but on God, who has mercy.*
  3. So then what is the basis for God’s choosing? This is the real question that we need to ask ourselves. Often when people come to the doctrine of election they like to fixate on “why not this person or that person?” What they really ought to fixate on is the question “why me?” Why would God save a wretch like me? I was no better and no more willing to come to Jesus than anyone else, so why me? I’m not sure we will ever fully understand the answer to this question but it is answered in the book of Ephesians...
    - ❖ Ephesians 1:4-5--*In love 5 he predestined us for adoption as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will, 6 to the praise of his glorious grace.*
- Thus, we see that because of God’s great love, according to the purpose of his will and to the praise of his glorious grace he has chosen to give people to Jesus. This is what is meant by unconditional election.



### Limited atonement

- When Jesus says...
  - ❖ John 6:37--*All that the Father gives me*



# The Gospel of John: *Know Jesus and Live*

## Part 18

### John 6:30-40

- He is explicitly implying that the Father has not given him everyone. He has given him a massive number of people. He has given him a number of people that is beyond reckoning as we saw earlier (John 6:33; Revelation 7:9-10). However, he has not granted that every single person on the planet be reconciled to God through Jesus. Hell is a real place and it will be filled with real people who do not belong to Jesus. People who will hear Jesus say to them something like...
  - ❖ Matthew 7:23--*'I never knew you; depart from me, you workers of lawlessness.*
- The unavoidable question is why? Why doesn't the Father give everyone to Jesus? The Apostle Paul answers this question for us. His answer isn't pretty. It likely won't leave you with a warm mushy feeling but his answer is truth and we MUST receive it...
  - ❖ Romans 9:22-23--*What if God, desiring to show his wrath and to make known his power, has endured with much patience vessels of wrath prepared for destruction, 23 in order to make known the riches of his glory for vessels of mercy, which he has prepared beforehand for glory —*
    - Paul is clearly saying that if God's people are to truly understand and appreciate all that has been given to them in Christ, they must see all that they deserved apart from Christ.



### Irresistible Grace

- When Jesus says...
  - ❖ John 6:37--*All that the Father gives me **will come to me,***
- He is saying I didn't just come to invite people to live, I came to MAKE them live. God isn't the slightest bit interested in making you an offer, letting you consider the offer, and waiting for you to get back with him. Besides, depravity has made it so that your response would invariably be "NO!" (John 6:44; Romans 8:7-8). For this reason God doesn't offer, he accomplishes FULLY!!! If the Father has given you to Jesus, You WILL COME to Jesus and believe in him. It is written...
  - ❖ Isaiah 46:9-10--*I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is none like me, 10 declaring the end from the beginning and from ancient times things not yet done, saying, 'My counsel shall stand, and **I will accomplish all my purpose***
  - ❖ Isaiah 55:11--*so shall my **word** be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but **it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it***
- ❖ John 6:37-39-- *and whoever comes to me I will never cast out. For I have come down from heaven, not to do my own will but the will of him who sent me. 39 And this is the will of him who sent me, that I should lose nothing of all that he has given me*



### Perseverance of the Saints/Eternal Security

- If Jesus would have stopped after he said...
  - ❖ John 6:37--*whoever comes to me I will never cast out.*
- We might have possibly been able to conclude that "Jesus won't kick you out, but you can opt out on your own!" Thankfully, he didn't stop there. He goes on to say, "Hey! This ain't just me talkin'! It's God the Father! And what He says goes Jack!"



# The Gospel of John: *Know Jesus and Live*

## Part 18

### John 6:30-40

- So then what did God say? What is his will? Jesus says...
  - ❖ John 6:39--*this is the will of him who sent me, that I should lose nothing of all that he has given me*
- Thus, if the Father has given you to Jesus, you WILL come to Jesus and believe in Jesus, and you will NEVER EVER BE LOST!!!! You WILL NOT fall away! You will continue in the faith until the day he takes you home!

❖ John 6:39-40--*but raise it up on the last day. 40 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.*



### Glorification

- What we are seeing in verses 37-40 is what we see in Romans chapter 8...
  - ❖ Romans 8:30--*those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified.*
- Jesus's final point of this section is that, not only will he accomplish and eternally secure the salvation of all those the Father has given him. He will raise them from the dead at the last day. What does this entail? What does this mean for us?

❖ Matthew 13:43--*Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father*

❖ Philippians 3:20-21--*But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, 21 who will transform our lowly body to be like his glorious body, by the power that enables him even to subject all things to himself*

❖ 1 Corinthians 15:35-49--*35 But someone will ask, "How are the dead raised? With what kind of body do they come?" .....40 There are heavenly bodies and earthly bodies, but the glory of the heavenly is of one kind, and the glory of the earthly is of another. 41 There is one glory of the sun, and another glory of the moon, and another glory of the stars; for star differs from star in glory.*

*42 So is it with the resurrection of the dead. What is sown is perishable; what is raised is imperishable. 43 It is sown in dishonor; it is raised in glory. It is sown in weakness; it is raised in power. 44 It is sown a natural body; it is raised a spiritual body. If there is a natural body, there is also a spiritual body.....49 Just as we have borne the image of the man of dust, we shall also bear the image of the man of heaven*

## IV.Wrap up

- It is impossible to improve upon this deal. For those who are in Christ, the Father has given us to Jesus, Jesus has accomplished our salvation, we are held secure in our salvation by the promise of almighty God, and at the end of time we will be raised and given glorified bodies like Jesus's. For those who have not yet come to Christ...
  - ❖ Revelation 22:17--*The Spirit and the Bride say, "Come." And let the one who hears say, "Come." And let the one who is thirsty come; let the one who desires take the water of life without price.*