



Chapter 6 – Part 2

- “I AM the Bread of Life” Sermon
- Discipleship Tested – it is Hard

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John 6 – The Bread of Life Sermon

- 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.”
- ³⁵ 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.**” ²

John 6 – Rejected by His Own

- **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’?”
- **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.”
- **52** The Jews therefore quarreled among themselves, saying, “How can this Man give us *His* flesh to eat?”
- **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.

John 6:25-50

Bread of Life Discourse

- This is one of Jesus' great sermons preached at a synagogue in Capernaum (John 6:59). **The first great "I AM" Statement.**
- Even His enemies were amazed: **"No man ever spoke like this Man!"** (John 7:46)
- Bread isn't just a convenient metaphor - **the main reason bread exists is to fulfil a desire or hunger and is essential for life.**
- **Bread is VERY significant in the Bible.** (Unleavened Bread at Passover during Exodus, Manna in the Wilderness)
- We live in a spiritually hungry world desperate for meaning and hope. But most reject the Bread. Humans were created to serve, worship and fellowship with God for eternity.
- **Eccl. 3:11** – **God placed the desire for Eternal Life in our hearts.**

John 6:25-50

“I AM the Bread of Life” – Summary Meaning

1. By equating Himself with bread, Jesus is saying He is **essential for life**.
2. The life Jesus is referring to is not physical life, but eternal life. He is **contrasting** what He brings as their Messiah with the bread He miraculously created the day before. That was physical bread that perishes. He is **spiritual bread that brings eternal life**.
3. Jesus is making another **claim to deity**. This statement is the first of the great “**I AM**” statements in John’s Gospel. The phrase “I AM” is the covenant name of God (Yahweh, or YHWH), revealed to Moses at the burning bush ([Exodus 3:14](#)).
4. The words “**come**” and “**believe**” describe the **Salvation message** (v.35). This is an invitation for those listening to place their faith in Jesus as the Messiah and Son of God.
5. The words “**hunger and thirst**.” In [Matthew 5:6](#), Jesus says, “Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.” Those who come to Him will never hunger and those who believe in Him will never thirst, **means He will satisfy our hunger and thirst to be made righteous in the sight of God**.
6. “**eat My flesh and drink My Blood**” – A metaphor for faith in the sacrificial death of Christ. Like the Last Supper, the act of eating and drinking was to be a symbol of their faith in Christ. Just as physical food gives earthly life, Christ’s sacrifice on the cross gives heavenly life.

John 6:26-27

Bread of Life – Forsake Material Things

- V.26-27 “**you seek Me, not because you saw the signs, but because you ate of the loaves...do not labour for food that perishes, but for the food which endures to eternal life.**”
- Jesus begins this discourse, like with the **Rich Young Ruler**, stating that **selfish, materialistic desires have blinded them to the spiritual truths He taught.**
- Similar to Chapter 4 where He distinguished physical water from the “water springing up to eternal life.”
- Eccl. 2 summarizes the futility (vanity) and emptiness of following human wisdom and pursuing earthly goals (pleasure, possessions, power, etc.) as an end to themselves, rather than viewing them as a means to glorify and serve God.

John 6:30-33

Bread From Heaven– Unbelief/Spiritual Blindness

- V.30-33 “...what sign will you perform that we may see and believe...manna in the dessert...My Father gives you True bread from Heaven.” Unbelief is never satisfied no matter how much evidence; they just witnessed the miraculous feeding!
- Luke 16:31 says that those who reject the truth of God’s Word “will not be persuaded even if someone rose from the dead.”
- Ex. 16:4 is quoted in v.31 – but Jesus says that the “true” bread of God is “He who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world.”
- **God’s divine provision of this bread** – “Bread” is pre-existent incarnation of God - the words “**came down out of heaven**” are repeated **9 times!** (v.32, 33, 38, 41, 42, 46, 50, 51, 58) ₇

John 6:35

Bread of Life – Metaphor of Salvation

- “**never hunger or thirst**” – Jesus is speaking spiritually about the soul, **not literally**.
- Matt. 5:6 “Blessed *are* those who **hunger** and **thirst** for **righteousness**, For they shall be filled.” (Beatitudes)
- Metaphor to express the human need to know God (Ps. 42:1-2; 63:1)
- “**come and believes**” – Jesus describes Salvation here. Though John does not use the word “repentance”, it’s implied since putting your trust in Jesus as Lord requires a change of mind in who He is and willingness to obey Him as Lord.

John 6:37; 44

Bread of Life – Pre-Destination

- V.37 **“All that the Father gives Me will come to Me.”**
- V.44 **“No one can come to Me unless the Father draws him...”**
- This profound statement teaches that all who are saved are a **sovereign** love gift from the Father to the Son. Gathering a redeemed body, or the calling of a bride for the Son, chosen before the foundation of the world.
- This is the **paradox of pre-destination** (Calvinism) vs **free will** (Arminianism) since we must **“Come & Believe”**.
- Other Pre-Destination Verses:
 - John 15:16; Matt. 22:14; Rom. 8:28-30; Eph. 1:4; **2 Thess 2:13**; James 2:5; 1 Peter 1:1-2; 1 Peter 2:9

John 6:37; 39

Bread of Life – Assurance of Salvation

- V.37 – “**the one who comes to Me I will by no means cast out.**”
- V.39 – “**...all that He has given Me I should lose nothing, but raise it up on the last day.**”
- Guarantees eternal salvation for those who believes.
- Ironclad Guarantee - Jesus says **FOUR TIMES** in this passage that **He will raise up believers on the last day.**
- “**Perseverance of the Saints**” - The Bible teaches that those who are born again will continue trusting in Christ forever. The indwelling presence of the Holy Spirit, keeps or preserves the believer forever.
- Other Assurance of Salvation Verses:
 - **John 3:16; 10:27-30; Rom 8:29-39; 1 Peter 1:1-5; Eph 1:13-14; Phil 1:6**

John 6:41-50

Bread of Life – Unbelief leads to Complaints

- V.41 – “**the Jews then complained about Him**”
- Those who continually reject the truth may have their hearts hardened by God. (Matt 13:10-15; Mark 4; Isaiah 6:9–10)
- Parable of the Sower explains why people react to the truth differently
- **Spiritual Blindness** is a judgement from God:
 - **Mark 4:11-12** ¹¹ And he said unto them, Unto you it is given to know the mystery of the kingdom of God: but unto them that are without, all these things are done in parables:
 - ¹² **That seeing they may see, and not perceive; and hearing they may hear, and not understand;** lest at any time they should be converted, and their sins should be forgiven them.

John 6:51-59

Bread of Life – The Call to Salvation

- V.53 - “**unless you eat the flesh...and drink His blood, you have no life in you...**”
- v.56 “**he who eats My flesh and drinks My blood ABIDES IN ME...**”
- V.57 “**he who feeds on Me will live...**”
- Spiritual food is useless if you don't internalize it/act on it
- Eating requires hunger for spiritual things (righteousness)
- Eating is personal – no one can eat for another – Ps. 49:7
- “**FLESH**” & “**BLOOD**” – not literal, it's a metaphor for **accepting His sacrificial death, the price of redemption,** (not Communion or Transubstantiation)

Eating His Flesh is Believing; Drinking His Blood is Believing.

- Jesus promises eternal life to those who ***believe (TRUST)*** in him. Believe what?
- Believe ***(TRUST)*** that his death — the breaking of his body and spilling of his blood — pays in full the penalty for our sin, and that his perfect righteousness is freely given to us in exchange for our unrighteousness.
- In other words we are made Right with God.
- This is why he instituted the **Lord's Supper**: he did not want us to forget the very core of what we believe.

Eating His Flesh is Believing; Drinking His Blood is Believing.

This Meaning is stated in the 4 verses of this passage:

- **John 6:27, 29**

- “How do you labor for the food that endures to eternal life? **Believe in me!**”

- **John 6:35**

- “I am the bread of life; whoever *comes* to me [in faith] shall not hunger, and **whoever believes in Me** shall never thirst.”

- **John 6:40**

- “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.”

- **John 6:47**

- “Truly, truly, I say to you, **whoever believes** has eternal life.”

John 6:37; 39

Other Assurance of Salvation Verses

John 3:16

For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that **whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.**

John 5:24

Truly, truly, I say to you, **he who hears My word, and believes Him who sent Me, has eternal life, and does not come into judgment, but has passed out of death into life.**

John 10:27-30

My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me. ²⁸ And I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand. ²⁹ My Father, who has given *them* to Me, is greater than all; **and no one is able to snatch *them* out of My Father's hand.** ³⁰ I and My Father are one."

Other Assurance of Salvation Verses: Rom 8:29-39; 1 Peter 1:3-5; Eph 1:13-14

Eating His Flesh & Drinking His Blood & The Lord's Supper (Communion)

1. Lord's Supper

- The Lord's Supper for a picture of Salvation and it's meaning.
- Jesus said in Matthew 28: **27** Then He took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "**Drink from it**, all of you. **28 For this is My blood of the new covenant, which is shed for many for the remission of sins.**
- Blood was forbidden to be drank in the Old Testament, because there was no provision for life before the New Covenant. The New Covenant results in the Holy Spirit life in you and the forgiveness of sin. Therefore **the bread at the Lord's supper is the body of Christ given for us**, and **the blood represents the life of Christ given to us**. This is the New Birth.
- Deut 12:23 "Only be sure that you do not eat the blood, for the **blood is the life**; you may not eat the life with the meat."
- Lev. 17:11 "For **the life of the flesh is in the blood**, and I have given it to you upon the altar to make atonement for your souls; for **it is the blood that makes atonement for the soul.**"
- The problem we as humans have is that even though we receive new life upon salvation, we often don't feel like it and continue to live "in the flesh", using our own efforts and judgements on others to justify our positions and conform to what we think other Christians expect from us. This is why in Roman 6, Paul repeatedly tells us we need to "reckon" or "know" that we are alive "in Christ" with certainty and faith. We walk by faith not by sight.
- If someone is not saved, they never were. And the parable of the wheat and tares teaches that there are many church goers who are not truly saved, but it is not our business to judge other's salvation. Once saved, when we sin, disobey God, etc. it becomes a matter of God's discipline and loss of rewards at the Judgement Seat of Christ.
- The biggest enemy of the Gospel, is the half Gospel. You have the Spirit of God within you and He cannot Die. You are sealed for eternity. You are covered by the blood, just like the Israelites at the first Passover upon exiting Egypt. Hallelujah for the joy and certainty of our Salvation.

Assurance of Salvation: Baptism

2. Baptism - What it means to "die, be buried and resurrected alive "in Christ". (Romans 6:3-4)

- This is about the eternal realm, not based on feelings or human logic. It's based on the fact that your Justification means your sin debt, past and present has been paid for by the blood of Christ and an act of grace. This cannot be undone or our faith would be in vain.
- Water baptism is the best way to interpret what happens at salvation since in addition to being a public expression of our faith in Christ, it is a beautiful picture of a Christian's union with Christ.
- This is a picture of what it means to die, be buried and rise with Christ.
- This actually is the Gospel, that a believer is united with Christ and redeemed and regenerated.
- We are justified (declared righteous) by the redemption that came through Christ Jesus. Justification is a legal term, and once a criminal has served his sentence or been pardoned, it is legally final. Justified means that the full requirements of the law have been satisfied. Jesus satisfied the justice of God, and this was final, just as death and burial is final. When we rise "in Christ" we receive life, eternal life.
- That is the glorious joy of salvation. We have been forgiven, the debt has been paid and we receive the gift of spiritual life through the Holy Spirit.
- Once Christ lives in you through the New Birth, He cannot die again or leave you. To believe that one can lose their salvation is a fundamental misunderstanding of the Gospel.

John 6 – Many Disciples Turn Away

- 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 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.”
- 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.

John 6:60-65

Different Responses to the Word

- V.63 – “**The Words that I speak to you are Spirit, and they are life.”**
- **Salvation comes from hearing the Word of God**
 - **Mark 4:14; Romans 10:17; James 1:21; 1 Peter 1:23**
- As the Parable of the Sower (Mark 4) teaches, some will reject the Word (seed) outright (Pharisees), others will respond with shallow faith (crowds), and the Good Seed will respond with true faith (the Twelve).
- V.60 -“Many said...This is a hard saying; who can understand it?” (Stoney Ground)
- V.64-65 – again shows the tension between the sovereignty of God & human responsibility. Unbelievers are condemned for unbelief, but lost because the Father did not draw them.

John 6:66-71

Peter's Great Confession

- V.66 “many disciples walked with Him no more.”
- V.67 Jesus said to the Twelve; **Do you also want to go away.**”
- Jesus uses these verses as a contrast between **true faith and false faith.**
- Peter makes the great confession.
- **“You are the Christ, the Son of the Living God”**
- This is not clear that it is the same event that occurred at Caesarea Philippi. Mark 8:29; Matt 16:16