

The Bread of Life (part 2)

John 6:35-51(a)

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- A. Recap: Hunger of what? (carnal vs spiritual). (vv.34-36).
- B. Entitled people.

1. The Blueprint of Salvation. (37-40) FAITH IN CHRIST, NOT IN THE SELF.

- a. Salvation is by Grace. ≠ Not by merit.
- b. Salvation is Guaranteed. ≠ Not uncertain.
- c. Salvation is by Faith in Christ. ≠ Not by works.

2. The Essence of Salvation. (vv.41-48) RELATIONSHIP.

- a. The elephant in the room *V.44... (In our minds, the top interprets the bottom. In the Jewish mind, the bottom interprets the top).
 - i. The widow's offering...
 - ii. How difficult for the rich to get saved..
- b. V. 45, interprets V. 44. = The Bible.
- c. V. 46, interprets V. 45. = Points to Jesus, and Jesus to the Father.
 - a. In essence: Christ is the key to Biblical interpret nation.
 - i. Lead to: Some people have a relationship with religion.
 - ii. How to: The Bible is interpreted through Christ.
 - iii. Refer back to: Some people have relationship with a fake Jesus.
- d. Illustration: Jewish, Muslims, Cults. Vs Goal: Bereian Church.

3. The Call of Salvation. (vv.49-51a) THEY NEVER KNEW THE FATHER.

- a. The generation under Moses ate Manna, but not the bread of life. *Grumbling.
 - a. Caleb and Joshua did.
- b. In sum: A vibrant life with Jesus.

Conclusion: Hungry for what?

We need to recap the sermon “Bread of Life,” because today’s sermon is just a continuation of that last one:

1. Jesus multiplied bread miraculously and he expected people to believe he is the Christ – yet people believed him not.
2. Jesus walked on the water to the other side; he expected his disciples to believe he is God – yet the disciples believed him not.

Now we (continue) talking about the claim “I am the Bread of Life.” Jesus will further expand on that thought:

- He makes a bold statement “I am the Bread of Life” three times – in essence, Jesus is claiming divinity upon him.
 - (Side note: If people did not believe in his signs and wonders, nor his walking on the water, nor his teachings; how much less people would believe in the claim “I am the Bread of Life”).
- He adds the Heavenly Father to the conversation and he says, “unless the Father draws you to me, you will never be saved.”

1. The blueprint of salvation.

The Grace of Salvation. If you believe in Jesus, he will surely save you and raise you to eternal life.

Salvation is not earned; it is a gift. The people previously asked “what kind of works should we do to be saved?” Jesus graciously tells them if they only believe in him, they will be saved.

Religion teaches you that salvation rests upon your behaviour; Jesus has a better salvation when he says: “All that the Father gives me, will come to me” & “No one can come to me unless the Father draws them to me.”

The Assurance of Salvation. If you believe in Jesus, he will surely save you and raise you to eternal life.

The multitude is asking for an earthly bread to fill their stomach – that’s a subject that was already addressed by Jesus in the Lord’s Prayer, “give us the daily bread.”

Religion teaches you that if you are a good person, God has “blessings for you.” Jesus wants to give them a better bread, the living one – eternal salvation. You can see that in the words “I will never cast out,” “I should lose none of those that were given me” & “I will raise him up on the last day.”

The Condition of Salvation. If you believe in Jesus, he will surely save you and raise you to eternal life.

The multitude was pretty demanding: “give us always bread” & “gives us a sign” & “they grumbled at him...”

They believed that salvation was automatically granted to them by birthright. They were circumcised, they had Abraham’s blood in their vein, they had the Bible in their hands, they had the Temple to worship... They thought that automatically God was obliged to save them.

However, Jesus said to them, “your ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness, and they died.” Every *Israelite* ate the manna in the desert, and yet only 2 of them entered the promised land – Joshua and Caleb. All the rest of them died without never entering the promised land. *Later the author of Hebrews explains that generation were not saved because of unbelief. (Hebrews chapters 3,4)

Jesus is course-correcting their Theology, “unless you have Abraham’s faith in your heart, you won’t be saved.” The sons of Abraham are not the ones naturally born by/to Abraham, but the ones born by faith – just as Isaac was born by faith in God’s promises. *A concept expanded by Paul in Galatians and Romans (read precisely Romans 9:30-33).

We see this condition clearly in the words “whoever comes to me” & “whoever looks to the Son and believes in him” & Jesus even emphasizes it by saying “truly truly I tell you, whoever believes has eternal life” (We all know that when Jesus says “truly truly,” it is because he *really* means it).

2. The essence of Salvation.

In addition to giving you the blueprint of salvation, Jesus now gives you the essence of salvation: The Jews grumbled about him, because he said, “I am the bread that came from heaven.”

Pay attention that upon their grumbling, Jesus does not waste time by talking about his statement, but he rather talks about Scriptures and his Father – “it is said in the prophets that they will all be taught by God.” Then he adds, “everyone who has heard and learned from the Father comes to me.” And he finishes things by saying, “no one knows the Father except me, because I came from the Father.”

This is a confusing concept to grasp – yet it is so simple to understand: If you look at Jesus, you will see the Father. If you look at the Father, you will see Jesus. It does not matter whichever comes first, “if the egg came before the

chicken or if the chicken came before the egg"; your conclusion will always be the same.

Why is that important? For three reasons:

***(Read carefully verse 45, the words: "Prophets," "taught," "heard," "learned" from the Father, they are key to understand this)*

- a. It clarifies what Jesus means by "The Father draws people to Jesus for salvation." – No, this is not a mystical statement. This is actually a practical statement, if you go to the Bible (the Father) testifies about him.
 - a. In practical terms: Go read your Bible, because the Bible ("Prophets") has the power to draw you to Jesus ("taught," "heard," "learn") – and he will save you.
- b. It clarifies what Jesus means by "The Father draws people to Jesus for salvation." – No, this is not a mystical statement. This is actually a Biblical statement. Jesus is talking about relationship through Scriptures.
 - a. Some people go to the Bible, and all they find is a bunch of rules, but they are empty of a personal relationship with Christ. ("Religion")
 - b. Some people believe in a non-biblical version of Christ (he usually looks like a "friend"), which Scriptures has never taught. ("Feelings")
 - i. None of them are Scriptural.
- c. It clarifies what Jesus means by "The Father draws people to Jesus for salvation." – No, this is not a mystical statement. This is actually a Biblical statement. The Holy Spirit works for salvation *primarily* through the Word of God.
 - a. The goal is that the disciples of Jesus have a real faith: (i) doctrines that leads you closer to God and people. (ii) Actions that flow from a heart filled with biblical truth.

In sum, "Christ is the key to how you interpret Scriptures." (Augustin)

3. The Call of Salvation.

From beginning to end, Jesus is calling people to believe in him. And here it's where we finish for today, V. 50 – "here (Jesus) is the bread that comes down from heaven, which anyone may eat and not die."

The most shocking aspect of this text, is that this people read the Bible, yet they don't see Jesus.

That testifies against them! Because this whole time, they were just religious people – not true believers. Even before Jesus' advent in person, they were already far from God!

As you recall from our previous sermon (bread of life part 1), people don't want to accept the "Lord" Jesus; they just want to believe in the "prophet" Jesus – because he gives them bread to eat. Their god is their stomach, not Jesus. Their God is an empty religion, not the Lord.

Jesus is urging people to believe in him. He is calling people to have a personal relationship with him – in essence.

- a. If Jesus is *just* a prophet, it means that having a relationship with him is not necessary.
- b. But if Jesus is who he claims he is – God; we need to have a relationship with him.

Relationship! That reminds us of the beginning of the Gospel of John:

- "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God;"
- "And the Word became flesh and made his tabernacle among us;"
- "For the Law was given through Moses, but Grace and Truth came through Jesus Christ;"
- "No one has ever seen God, but Jesus – God incarnated – has made God known to us."

Conclusion:

1. I once heard, "why is it okay to talk about Jesus during Christmas season but during the whole year, if you talk about Jesus, people get offended with you?"
The answer: Everyone likes the idea of "baby Jesus;" but not everyone can bear the reality that "Jesus is the Lord."
2. Reading the Gospels, you will see that no one who has come to Jesus was ever rejected. His arms are wide open for the ones who believe in him.
3. John's goal is to teach you that Heaven is not a place you will meet God in the future (that's religion); nor that Jesus is an idea that humans created (that's empty experience).

Heaven is a place that was brought to you – and it is already inside of you – because God himself lives in you by the Holy Spirit who dwells in you.

Indeed, having a relationship with the Lord Jesus is the greatest of the news we could've ever received! Amen.