
John 6:16-59

Lesson 11 For December 07, 2008

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Water and Bread

Note: (v. 6:16-17) The apparent contradiction regarding the direction the disciples were headed (see Mark 6:45) is probably best reconciled by knowing that the location of Bethsaida is not known. It has been long believed that the feeding of the 5000 took place NW of the Sea of Galilee, but that is now disputed. I think the result is that we don't know enough to draw any conclusions.

1. (v. 6:17-21) Read Mark 6:45-51, Matthew 14:22-32. According to the other Gospels, why had Jesus not joined his disciples?

Why might John give such a short account of this amazing incident? (Remember, the Gospel of John was written quite a number of years after the other gospel accounts.)

2. (v. 6:22-26) What is Jesus' complaint? How does John 2:24-25 help us understand what is happening in 6:26?

Jesus differentiates between "miraculous signs" and eating their fill at the miracle of the feeding of the 5000; what is

that difference? How might John differentiate between a "miraculous sign" and a miracle (see 20:30-31)? 3. (v. 6:27) Compare and contrast this statement with John 4:13-14. What events in Jesus' life indicate the Father's approval? (See also Luke 3:21-22 and Matthew 17:5.) 4. (v. 6:28-29) The people apparently interpret Jesus' remarks in 6:27 differently than Jesus meant them; what do they think? How does Jesus redefine "work" for them? 5. (v. 6:30-31) See also 6:1-15; what makes the crowd's question so audacious and offensive? Read 6:32: with whom are the people here in 6:31 asking Jesus to be compared? 6. (v. 6:32-33) Who was the source of the bread the Israelites ate in the wilderness? Jesus uses "bread" as a metaphor for whom? From where does that "bread" come and what does it accomplish?

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Sermon Notes

Jesus is the bread of life. As He spoke of eating his flesh and drinking his blood, this certainly is troubling news if taken literally. How can this verse be misinterpreted/misunderstood?

Do you still struggle with the concepts Jesus was communicating? What is the good news and hope of vs. 53-59?

Prayer Response					

If you are not currently in a Small Group, we encourage you to discuss your reflection questions with a family member or a close friend.

Previous lessons are available on-line at www.sgc.org/John.

If you would like to be part of a Small Group, please contact Dori Sear at dsear@sgc.org

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7. (v. 6:34) Do you think the crowd's response is sarcastic, naïve or genuinely desiring Jesus (see also 6:36)?

8. (v. 6:35-36) How does Jesus both interpret the metaphor of "bread" and expand it? What must one do to receive the "bread of life?"What is Jesus' judgment of them?

9. (v. 6:37-40) Who initiates the coming to Jesus?

How many that the Father gives actually come to Jesus?

What does Jesus promise to those who come?

What is the Father's will regarding those who come to Jesus?

Does God make certain that what he wants actually happens? How confident about his/her eternal destiny should that make anyone who is trusting in Christ?

10. (v. 6:41-42) What was the "Jews" complaint and what did they say was the reason for their complaint?

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11. (v. 6:43-47) What does Jesus say MUST happen for anyone to come to Christ (see 6:37-39)? Comparing verses 39-40, what does Jesus here say is the destiny of those who do come to him?

Supper and what actually occurs at a faith-filled receiving of the bread and cup of the Lord's Supper?

By what means, according to verse 45, does the Father draw people? How does verse 46 contribute to Jesus' authority?

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12. (v. 6:48-51) What comparison does Jesus make regarding the bread from heaven and the manna the forefathers ate?

Read 6:35 and 6:41 – What several concepts does Jesus add in 6:51?

Analogy: Bread is to being eaten as Jesus is to being _____ (see 6:35). How will Jesus give his flesh for the world?

13. (v. 6:52-59) What does Jesus mean by "eating his flesh" and "drinking his blood?" What several results are there to be obtained from eating/drinking Jesus (see 6:54, 56, 57, 58)?

Think about it: While most commentators do not believe this passage specifically has the Lord's Supper in mind, what parallels can be drawn from what is symbolized by the Lord's

Reflection Questions

The crowds tenaciously followed Jesus. What were they seeking? What changed them from an initial form of belief, to disbelief?

The people wanted to know what they could "do" in order to do the works God requires (6:28). What do you think they might have had in mind?

What would that same question sound like today in the context of the local church?

What we need to "do" is believe. In practical terms, what does this mean?

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