

Bibles???

The Word of God is the Absolute Truth and the Final Authority

Turn your bibles with me to John 6

We are inching our way through the Gospel of John

As I was uploading studies to the church website this week, I made the observation that this is going to be our 20th study in the Gospel of John – and we are still haven't finished chapter 6.

So as the Lord has blessed us with a brand New Year – unless He comes for His bride this year or He takes us home – there is a pretty good chance we are still going to be in John at the end of the year.

And we left on the middle of one of the many teaching moments that Jesus had.

As we read the Gospel of John, we will find out that Jesus never wasted a teaching moment.

And all these teaching moments were to reveal to the people then and to us today, who He truly is.

Let's pray...

[Jhn 6:41-71 NKJV] 41 **The Jews** then complained about Him, because He said, "I am the bread which came down from heaven."

I had you make a note of the phrase – “The Jews”

Once again, I want to remind you that when John uses the phrase “the Jews” he is referring to the religious leaders.

He is not referring to the multitude that came searching for Jesus.

Remember, Jesus knows the hearts of the multitude.

He knows that they are following Him for the wrong reasons.

They are not following Him because He is the Messiah, they are following Him because He is meeting their immediate material needs.

He is feeding them, He is healing them – Jesus is trying to get them to stop thinking about the material and begin to think spiritually.

Stop thinking about the now – and start thinking about the eternal.

“You come looking for bread to fill your bellies. That bread is only going to give you brief satisfaction – look at Me. I am the Bread of Life – I am God – I will give you true, eternal satisfaction”

So the religious rulers, they are there among the multitude – they hear what Jesus told the multitude and they respond by complaining.

They murmured –

Now 1500 years earlier, when God delivered the Children of Israel out of Egypt – He provided for them physical bread from heaven – the manna “the what is it?” – because that is what the Hebrew word manna means, What is it?

So the first morning when the Children of Israel walked out their tents and they see God’s provisions outside their tent doors – they picked it up and looked at each other and said, “What is it?” and that is how it got its name.

this perfect, super food that God created that had all the nutrients to sustain them – All they had to do was pick it up every morning.

And it wasn’t that long before they started to murmur, they started to complain about God provisions.

It wasn’t enough for them.

They were not satisfied / they were discontent. They wanted more.

They started to remember their diet in Egypt –the cucumbers, the melons, the leeks, the fish, the onions and the garlic (Num 11)

You know what they didn’t remember? The bad breath.

No, they forgot about the slavery, they forgot about the bondage that they were in.

They forgot about the beatings and the hard labor that they were doing in Egypt.

so in the same way, the religious rulers murmur when God saw their need and gave them the Bread of Life – the “I AM”.

The One who brings true satisfaction

And here – we see their discontent – they were complaining, just like their ancestors.

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'?"

Here in verse 42, we have the reason why the religious rulers were complaining / the reason they were not satisfied with God's provision.

And that reason is that they didn't know Jesus

They knew Joseph, they knew Mary – but not Jesus

Church, Joseph never claimed that Jesus was his son – in fact, the scriptures tell us he knew that Jesus wasn't his son because the angel told him (Matt 1:21), do not be afraid to take to you Mary your wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit.

“You are not he dad Joseph – but take Mary as your wife because the baby she is carrying is going to save the world”

Mary never claimed that Jesus was Joseph's son.

And never did Jesus claim that He was the son of Joseph

However, the angels claimed that Jesus was God's only Son

The prophets in the Old Testament claimed that Jesus was God's only Son

God the Father claimed that Jesus was His only Son

And the Bible claims that Jesus is God's only Son - Who came and died for you and me because of His love for us.

And one of the questions we have to ask ourselves this morning is do we know Jesus.

Do we know enough about Him to defend what it is we believe?

Can we say to a loved one or to a complete stranger at the Walmart – I am a Christian and these are the reasons why?

Church, as a pastor, I am commanded to do one thing – and that is to convey to you the truth in such a way that my hands are free of your blood in the Day of Judgment according to the book of Ezekiel.

Do you know Jesus as the Way, the Truth and the Life and no man comes to the Father but through Him?

Do you know that there is no other way of salvation but through the Risen Christ, who died on the cross 2000 years ago

One can be good enough

One can't be rich enough

One can't be poor enough

One can't be bad enough

Church,

There is no pity or generosity on God's side outside of the cross.

It is the cross that causes and allows God to manifest, to exhibit His love to all of mankind.

Church, we are to know what we believe

We are to know our Savior.

[1Pe 3:15 NKJV] 15 But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts, and always [be] ready to [give] a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear;

When someone asks you why we are a Christian, we cannot simply say that we are a Christian because it feels good.

We are to give the evidence that we truly know Him.

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.

Jesus is rebuking the religious rulers here.

He is telling them to stop complaining.

Remember, in their minds, the religious rulers believed that Jews were all chosen by God by virtue of their natural birth.

I was born a Jew – therefore I am a Child of God.

But Jesus here makes the point that God must draw them before they can come to God.

Church, no one comes to faith in God on the basis of how intelligent they are or because of their ability to reason or how clever they are.

It takes the sovereign work of God's Spirit bringing us conviction of sin and bringing upon the awareness of the sufficiency of Jesus Christ to atone for sin to bring about salvation.

This is what draws us in.

[Jer 31:3 NKJV] 3 The LORD has appeared of old to me, [saying]: "Yes, I have loved you with an everlasting love; Therefore with lovingkindness I have drawn you.

Church, what Jesus is saying here to them is, calm down.

Nobody is going to follow Me unless the Father brings those people to Me.

And it is obvious by your murmuring and complaining that you are not going to follow Me.

And the reason that you are not going to follow Me is because My Father is not drawing you near to Me.

Jesus says in -

[Mat 22:14 NKJV] 14 "For many are called, but few [are] chosen."

The invitation goes out to the world – but only a few people in the grand scheme of things, will end up in heaven.

The people who are going to heaven are going because God has called them; the people who are not going to heaven are not going to heaven because God has not called them.

And someone might say, well wait a minute, Herb – that is not fair, what if I want to go to heaven – then God has called you.

Church, God is sovereign, but He has engineered into every man and woman the ability of choice and the ramifications of the choice.

God doesn't send anyone to hell – He just honors our choice.

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.

Jesus is quoting the prophet Isaiah here.

Jesus is making it known that from the very beginning – this was the plan of God

And this is in reference to the “New Covenant”

The Old Covenant teaches us about God – it teaches us that we are incapable of coming before Him on our own.

It teaches us that He is holy.

however, the New Covenant helps us to actually know God so that we may be taught by Him.

And what Jesus is saying here is that every man, woman and child, will at some point in life, know the work of the Spirit, pressing him or her, the need of salvation and faith in Christ.

That is the teaching part -

Those who yield to that influence instead of rejecting it, will come to saving faith in Jesus.

Those who heard and learned would come to Jesus.

It goes beyond simple listening – there is learning involved.

This is a part of God “drawing” people to Jesus.

God is the Teacher

Billy Graham wasn't the Teacher – you may say, “Well I remember seeing thousands of people come to Christ at His crusades” You're correct.

However, Billy Graham was only a tool to present the truth.

The drawing is done by God.

Jesus continues...

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.

Jesus is reminding the religious rulers once again of His identity.

“I have a relationship and a connection with God that no one else has.

“Guys, I am God”

Remember, John the purpose of John writing his gospel is that we may believe that Jesus is God.

[Jhn 1:18 NKJV] 18 No one has seen God at any time. The only begotten Son, who is in the bosom of the Father, He has declared [Him].

Special relationship – Jesus is God

In chapter 5, Jesus said this to the religious rulers -

[Jhn 5:37-38 NKJV] 37 "And the Father Himself, who sent Me, has testified of Me. You have neither heard His voice at any time, nor seen His form. 38 "But you do not have His word abiding in you, because whom He sent, Him you do not believe.

And it is because of that special relationship – that if we put our **faith and trust in Jesus** (this is the key), He has promised us eternal life.

There are churches this morning that preach and teach that all people will eventually end up in heaven.

They overemphasize the love and compassion of God and teach that in the end, God will have mercy on everyone and no one will spend eternity in torment.

That is not what the Word of God teaches.

They neglect the righteousness and justice of God.

To say that those who reject God's provision of salvation through His Son will be saved is to belittle the holiness and justice of God and negate the need of Jesus' sacrifice on our behalf.

Jesus death upon the cross was pointless.

Church,

Jesus Christ is the exclusive door that leads to an eternity in heaven.

[Act 4:12 NKJV] 12 "Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved."

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."

Jesus continues here with the metaphor of bread.

Remember, he in the synagogue where many had followed him there looking for physical bread.

He had given the multitude bread and fish the earlier.

We already had seen Him make the first "I Am" statement in our study last Sunday.

So everyone has bread on their mind.

And what He is doing here is continuing with the metaphor and comparing Himself with the manna that the Children of Israel received from God in the wilderness.

The manna is just like the bread that most of them ate the day before.

It sustained them for that evening – that was it.

When they woke up, they were hungry again.

The same thing happened to the Children of Israel – they ate, were sustained until the next day and they eventually died.

However, Jesus is saying that He is a different kind of Bread (again a metaphor)

He won't sustain you for a day, He will sustain you forever.

He who eats of this bread will not die.

Those who put their faith and trust in Jesus Christ – the moment they close their eyes in this world – will open their eyes in God's eternal presence.

As many of you are aware, I did my dad's memorial service this past May, he was a believer, and I know that people mean well – but I had a few family members come up to me and whisper, "he's resting in peace now."

By the way, why do people whisper when they say that? Are they afraid that they are going to wake them up?

And I started thinking about it and I said to myself, "I sure hope not!!!!"

It's rejoice and exuberance up there.

Rest in peace – not for the believer!!!

It's crazy up there – that is what the scriptures reveal, it's awesome

There are angels singing, there is an emerald rainbow behind the throne, there is a glassy sea in front of God, there is nonstop worship.

[2Co 5:8 NKJV] 8 We are confident, yes, well pleased rather to be absent from the body and to be present with the Lord.

However, to be present with the Lord for eternity – we first must consume of Him.

We must first, eat of this bread.

Look what He says.

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.

I want to point out first – that nothing in this text is in reference to communion.

That is not what Jesus is talking about.

What Jesus is saying here is “You eat of Me, you drink the blood of what I am going to be doing in the cross, you consume of what I am and Who I represent, you have eternal life.

Nowhere in scripture does it state that we are saved through baptism

Nowhere in scripture do we find that we are saved if we partake of communion

We do these things because we are saved.

“Take Me, take all of Me, and you will be saved” that is what Jesus is saying here.

He wants us to know Him, to experience Him in a personal level.

He wants us to know Him fully as our Savior, as our Messiah, as our King, Lord and as our God.

James Montgomery Boice, an old dead bible teacher, once asked this question of his congregation.

How real is Jesus to you?

“is Jesus as real to you as something that you would eat or handle?

is Jesus Christ as real to you the american christian as hamburger and french fries are to your stomach?

of course Jesus is far greater than these, but many professing believers think of him much less.”

Jesus is much more than a Happy Meal

He is the eternal food for life.

Turn your bibles with me to Hebrews

[Heb 6:4-6 NKJV] 4 For [it is] impossible for those who were once enlightened, and have tasted the heavenly gift, and have become partakers of the Holy Spirit, 5 and have tasted the good word of God and the powers of the age to come, 6 if they fall away, to renew them again to repentance, since they crucify again for themselves the Son of God, and put [Him] to an open shame.

The author of Hebrews is talking about those that had small nibbles of Jesus, those that had only had sips of Jesus

These are those can describe the taste, the smell, the feel, the sound but that is as far as their relationship with God goes.

They never consumed Him to the fullest!!!

That is what Jesus wants.

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.

He who feeds on Me

The word for feed that is used here is a word that means to continually feed upon.

That is the Christian life church

We consume of Him today, we consume of His tomorrow and the next day and the day after that.

And it is only then that we will be content

He is our true satisfaction.

Amen.

Let's pray...

To Receive Christ do the following:

Admit, "I am a sinner."

Confess and be willing to turn from your sin.

Believe, by faith that Jesus Christ died for you on the cross.

Receive, through prayer, Jesus Christ into your heart and receive eternal life.

Dear Lord Jesus,

I know that I am a sinner and need Your forgiveness. I believe that You died on the cross for my sins. Please forgive me for my sins and cleanse me by Your blood. I accept You by faith as my personal Lord and Savior. Give me a thirst for Your Word and Help me to follow You all of my days. In Jesus' name I pray, Amen.

[Num 6:24-26 NLT] 24 '

May the LORD bless you and protect you.

May the LORD smile on you and be gracious to you.

May the LORD show you his favor and give you his peace.'