

The Gospel of John

Lesson 6: *The Bread of Life* John 6 (19-21 September 26AD)

John 6:1 Some time after this, Jesus crossed to the far shore of the Sea of Galilee (that is, the Sea of Tiberias), 2 and a great crowd of people followed him because they saw the signs he had performed by healing the sick. 3 Then Jesus went up on a mountainside and sat down with his disciples. 4 The Jewish Passover Festival was near. 5 When Jesus looked up and saw a great crowd coming toward him, he said to Philip, "Where shall we buy bread for these people to eat?" 6 He asked this only to test him, for he already had in mind what he was going to do. 7 Philip answered him, "It would take more than half a year's wages to buy enough bread for each one to have a bite!" 8 Another of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, spoke up, 9 "Here is a boy with five small barley loaves and two small fish, but how far will they go among so many?" 10 Jesus said, "Have the people sit down." There was plenty of grass in that place, and they sat down (about five thousand men were there). 11 Jesus then took the loaves, gave thanks, and distributed to those who were seated as much as they wanted. He did the same with the fish. 12 When they had all had enough to eat, he said to his disciples, "Gather the pieces that are left over. Let nothing be wasted." 13 So they gathered them and filled twelve baskets with the pieces of the five barley loaves left over by those who had eaten. 14 After the people saw the sign Jesus performed, they began to say, "Surely this is the Prophet who is to come into the world." 15 Jesus, knowing that they intended to come and make him king by force, withdrew again to a mountain by himself. 16 When evening came, his disciples went down to the lake, 17 where they got into a boat and set off across the lake for Capernaum. By now it was dark, and Jesus had not yet joined them. 18 A strong wind was blowing and the waters grew rough. 19 When they had rowed about three or four miles, they saw Jesus approaching the boat, walking on the water; and they were frightened. 20 But he said to them, "It is I; don't be afraid." 21 Then they were willing to take him into the boat, and immediately the boat reached the shore where they were heading. 22 The next day the crowd that had stayed on the opposite shore of the lake realized that only one boat had been there, and that Jesus had not entered it with his disciples, but that they had gone away alone. 23 Then some boats from Tiberias landed near the place where the people had eaten the bread after the Lord had given thanks. 24 Once the crowd realized that neither Jesus nor his disciples were there, they got into the boats and went to Capernaum in search of Jesus. 25 When they found him on the other side of the lake, they asked him, "Rabbi, when did you get here?" 26 Jesus answered, "Very truly I tell you, you are looking for me, not because you saw the signs I performed but because you ate the loaves and had your fill. 27 Do not work for food that spoils, but for food that endures to eternal life, which the Son of Man will give you. For on him God the Father has placed his seal of approval." 28 Then they asked him, "What must we do to do the works God requires?" 29 Jesus answered, "The work of God is this: to believe in the one he has sent." 30 So they asked him, "What sign then will you give that we may see it and believe you? What will you do? 31 Our ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness; as it is written: 'He gave them bread from heaven to eat.'" 32 Jesus said to them, "Very truly I tell you, it is not Moses who has given you the bread from heaven, but it is my Father who gives you the true bread from heaven. 33 For the bread of God is the bread that comes down from heaven and gives life to the world." 34 "Sir," they said, "always give us this bread." 35 Then Jesus declared, "I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never go hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty. 36 But as I told you, you have seen me and still you do not believe. 37 All those the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never drive away. 38 For I have come down from heaven not to do my will but to do the will of him who sent me. 39 And this is the will of him who sent me, that I shall lose none of all those he has given me, but raise them up at the last day. 40 For my Father's will is that everyone who looks to the Son and believes in him shall have eternal life, and I will raise them up at the last day." 41 At this the Jews there began to grumble about him because he said, "I am the bread that came down from heaven." 42 They said, "Is this not Jesus, the son of Joseph, whose father and mother we know? How can he now say, 'I came down from heaven'?" 43 "Stop grumbling among yourselves," Jesus answered. 44 "No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws them, and I will raise them up at the last day. 45 It is written in the Prophets: 'They will all be taught by God.' Everyone who has heard the Father and learned from him comes to me. 46 No one has seen the Father except the one who is from God; only he has seen the Father. 47 Very truly I tell you, the one who believes has eternal life. 48 I am the bread of life. 49 Your ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness, yet they died. 50 But here is the bread that comes down from heaven, which anyone may eat and not die. 51 I am the living bread that came down from heaven. Whoever eats this bread will live forever. This bread is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world." 52 Then the Jews began to argue sharply among themselves. "How can this man give us his flesh to eat?" 53 Jesus said to them, "Very truly I tell 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 them up at the last day. 55 For my flesh is real food and my blood is real drink. 56 Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood remains in me, and I in them. 57 Just as the living Father sent me and I live because of the Father, so the one who feeds on me will live because of me. 58 This is the bread that came down from heaven. Your ancestors ate manna and died, but whoever feeds on this bread will live forever." 59 He said this while teaching in the synagogue in Capernaum. 60 On hearing it, many of his disciples said, "This is a hard teaching. Who can accept it?" 61 Aware that his disciples were grumbling about this, Jesus said to them, "Does this offend you? 62 Then what if you see the Son of Man ascend to where he was before! 63 The Spirit gives life; the flesh counts for nothing. The words I have spoken to you— they are full of the Spirit and life. 64 Yet there are some of you who do not believe." For Jesus had known from the beginning which of them did not believe and who would betray him. 65 He went on to say, "This is why I told you that no one can come to me unless the Father has enabled them." 66 From this time many of his disciples turned back and no longer followed him. 67 "You do not want to leave too, do you?" Jesus asked the Twelve. 68 Simon Peter answered him, "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. 69 We have come to believe and to know that you are the Holy One of God." 70 Then Jesus replied, "Have I not chosen you, the Twelve? Yet one of you is a devil!" 71 (He meant Judas, the son of Simon Iscariot, who, though one of the Twelve, was later to betray him.)

Jesus is the bread of life

John 6:1 **Some time after this, (Thursday 19 September 26AD)** Jesus crossed to the far shore of the Sea of Galilee (that is, the Sea of Tiberias), 2 and a great crowd of people followed him because they saw the **signs** he had performed by **healing** the sick. 3 Then Jesus went up on a mountainside and sat down with his **disciples**. 4 The **Jewish Passover Festival** was near. **(Origen and Codex Miniscule 472 are missing "Passover." Jews are in Jerusalem at Passover, not Galilee, and barley is not available at Passover. Jesus is the Passover Lamb. Rosh Hashanah is Monday 30 September 26.)**

5 When Jesus looked up and saw a great crowd coming toward him, he said to Philip, **"Where shall we buy bread for these people to eat?"** 6 He asked this only to **test him, for he already had in mind what he was going to do. (Jesus already knows your answer)** 7 Philip answered him, "It would take more than **half a year's wages** to buy enough bread for each one to have a bite!" **(Philip's answer shows unbelief)** 8 Another of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, spoke up, 9 "Here is a boy with five **small barley loaves (Andrew offers poor man's bread)** and two small fish, but how far will they go among so many?"

10 Jesus said, "Have the people sit down." There was **plenty of grass in that place, (Autumn to May it flowers in Galilee)** and they sat down (about **five thousand men were there**). 11 Jesus then took the loaves, gave thanks, and distributed **(Last supper similar - a Jewish fellowship meal)** to those who were seated **as much as they wanted. (He gives more than enough to meet our need)** He did the same with the fish.

12 When they had all had enough to eat, he said to his disciples, "Gather the pieces that are left over. **Let nothing be wasted. (Conservationist)** 13 So they gathered them and filled **twelve (One each for the 12 disciples)** baskets with the pieces of the five barley loaves left over by those who had eaten.

14 After the people saw the sign Jesus performed, they began to say, "Surely this is **the Prophet** who is to come into the world." 15 Jesus, knowing that they intended to come and **make him king by force, (Jesus' kingdom is not of this world)** **withdrew** again to a mountain by **himself**.

Deuteronomy 18:15 The LORD your God will raise up for you a **prophet like me** from among you, from your fellow Israelites. You must listen to him. ... 18 I will raise up for them a **prophet like you** from among their fellow Israelites, and I will put my words in his mouth. He will tell them everything I command him.

16 When **evening** came, his disciples went down to the lake, 17 where they got into a boat and **set off** across the lake **(Jesus sent the disciples away to get them out of the danger of believing that the crowd could make him king by force)** for **Capernaum**. By now it was dark, and **Jesus had not yet joined them**. 18 A strong wind was blowing and the waters grew rough. 19 When they had rowed about three or **four miles**, they saw Jesus approaching the boat, walking on the water; and they were frightened. 20 But he said to them, "**It is I; don't be afraid.**" 21 **Then** they were **willing** to take him into the boat, and immediately the boat reached the shore where they were heading.

Job 9:8 He alone stretches out the heavens and **treads on the waves of the sea**.

Psalms 77:16 The waters saw you, God, the waters saw you and writhed; the very depths were convulsed... 19 Your path **led through the sea**, your way through the mighty **waters, though your footprints were not seen**.

Isaiah 43:10 "You are my witnesses," declares the LORD, "and my servant whom I have chosen, so that you may know and believe me and understand that **I am he**. Before me no god was formed, nor will there be one after me. ... 25 **"I, even I, am he who blots out your transgressions, for my own sake, and remembers your sins no more.**

22 The next day (Friday 20 September 26AD) the crowd that had stayed on the opposite shore of the lake **realized** that only one boat had been there, and that Jesus had not entered it with his disciples, but that they had gone away **alone**. 23 Then some boats from Tiberias landed near the place where the people had eaten the bread after the Lord had given thanks. 24 Once the crowd **realized** that neither Jesus nor his disciples were there, they got into the boats and went to Capernaum **in search of Jesus. (Why are they looking for Jesus?)**

25 When they found him on the other side of the lake, **(We can find him if we look. Sirach 24:21 "Whoever feeds on me will be hungry for more and whoever drinks from me will thirst for more.")** they asked him, "Rabbi, when did you get here?"

26 Jesus answered, "Very truly I tell you, you are looking for me, not because you saw the **signs** I performed but because you **ate** the loaves and had your fill. **(They wanted to be filled daily as was the case with manna)** 27 **Do not work for food that spoils, but for food that endures to eternal life, (Spiritual food is far greater)** which the Son of Man will give you. For on him God the Father has placed his seal of approval." **(Trust Jesus & God will approve of you also.)**

28 Then they asked him, "What must we **do** to do the **works** God requires?" 29 Jesus answered, "The work of God is this: to **believe** in the one he has sent." **(Faith - not works.)**

30 So they asked him, "What **sign** then will you give that we may see it and **believe** you? **(Unbelief cannot be overcome by miracles)** What will you do? 31 Our **ancestors** ate the manna in the wilderness; as it is written: 'He gave them bread from heaven to eat.'" **(Jesus used earthly bread to show spiritual bread.)**

Exodus 16:4 Then the LORD said to Moses, "I will rain down bread from heaven for you. The people are to go out each day and gather enough for that day. In this way I will test them and see whether they will follow my instructions.

Nehemiah 9:15 In their hunger you gave them bread from heaven and in their thirst you brought them water from the rock; you told them to go in and take possession of the land you had sworn with uplifted hand to give them.

Psalms 78:24 he rained down manna for the people to eat, he gave them the grain of heaven. 25 Human beings ate the bread of angels; he sent them all the food they could eat.

Ecclesiastes 1:9 What has been will be again, what has been done will be done again; there is nothing new under the sun.

32 Jesus said to them, "Very truly I tell you, it is not **Moses** who has given you the bread from heaven, but it is my **Father** who gives you the true bread from heaven. **(It was God - not Moses. Trust God - not man. Trust Jesus - the Godman.)** 33 For the bread of God is the bread that comes down from heaven and gives life to the world." **(Midrash "As the 1st Redeemer brought down the manna...so will also the last Redeemer cause the manna to come down.")**

34 "Sir," they said, "always give us this bread." **(Everyday we want some - like manna was given for 40 years.)**

35 Then Jesus declared, "I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will **never go hungry**, and whoever believes in me will **never be thirsty. (God's kingdom is not physical but spiritual.)** 36 But as I told you, you have seen me and still you do not believe. 37 All those the **Father gives me will come to me, (God chose you)** and whoever comes to me **I will never drive away. (Christ keeps you secure)** 38 For I have come down from heaven **not to do my will** but to do the will of **him** who sent me. 39 And this is the will of him who sent me, that I shall lose none of all those he has given me, but **raise** them up at the last day. 40 For my Father's will is that everyone who looks to the Son and believes in him shall **have** eternal life, **(Our body will have it at the last day)** and **I will raise them up** at the last day."

Isaiah 55:1 "Come, all you who are **thirsty**, come to the waters; and you who have no money, come, buy and **eat!** Come, buy wine and milk without money and without cost.

41 At this the Jews there began to **grumble** about him because he said, "I am the bread that came down from heaven." 42 They said, "Is this not Jesus, the son of Joseph, whose father and **mother** we know? **How can he now say, 'I came down from heaven'?" (The Virgin birth had passed them by.)**

Numbers 11:4 The rabble with them began to crave other food, and again the Israelites started **wailing** and said, "If only we had meat to eat! 5 We remember the fish we ate in Egypt at no cost—also the cucumbers, melons, leeks, onions and garlic. 6 But now we have lost our appetite; we never see anything but this manna!"

43 "Stop grumbling among yourselves," Jesus answered. 44 **"No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws them,** and I will raise them up at the last day. 45 It is **written in the Prophets:** 'They will all be **taught by God.'** Everyone who has heard the Father and learned from him comes to **me. (Learn directly from God through Jesus)** 46 No one has seen the Father except the one who is from God; only he has seen the Father. 47 Very truly I tell you, the one who **believes has eternal life.(Have eternal life now)** 48 **I am the bread of life.** 49 Your ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness, yet **they died.** 50 But here is the bread that comes down from heaven, which anyone may **eat and not die.** 51 **I am the living bread (He is Spiritual bread)** that came down from heaven. Whoever eats this bread will **live forever.** This bread is my **flesh**, which I will give for the **life** of the world." **(Jesus gave his flesh for our life.)**

Isaiah 54:13 All your children will be **taught by the LORD**, and great will be their peace.

John 1:14 The Word became **flesh** and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

52 Then the Jews began to **argue** sharply among themselves, "How can this man give us his flesh to eat?" **(He gives his flesh on the cross and spiritually.)**

53 Jesus said to them, "Very truly I tell 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 them up at the **last day. (You have life now and physically at last day)** 55 For my flesh is **real** food and my blood is **real** drink. **(Spiritual food for the real you - the spirit you!)** 56 Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood **remains** in me, and I in them. **(Communion is symbolic of this spiritual event. Food eaten becomes a part of you.)** 57 Just as the living Father sent me and I live because of the Father, so the one who **feeds** on me will live because of me. 58 **This** is the bread that came down from heaven. Your ancestors **ate manna and died**, but whoever feeds on this **bread** will **live forever.**" **(When Christ lives in you then you really live)** 59 He said this while teaching in the synagogue in Capernaum. **(Saturday 21 September 26AD)**

60 On hearing it, many of his disciples said, "This is a **hard teaching.** Who can accept it?" **(Hard to understand?/obey?/believe?)**

61 Aware that his **disciples** were **grumbling** about this, Jesus said to them, "Does this offend you? 62 Then what if you see the Son of Man **ascend** to where he was before! **(If Jesus is gone physically, can you still munch on his flesh?)** 63 The **Spirit** gives life; the **flesh** counts for nothing. **(Incarnation is nothing without cross/resurrection, ascension)** The **words** I have spoken to you—they are **full of the Spirit** and life. **(Devour God's Word. Let it become a part of you by internalization)** 64 Yet there are some of you who do not **believe.**" For Jesus had **known** from the beginning which of them **did not believe** and who would betray him. 65 He went on to say, "This is why I told you that **no one can come to me unless the Father has enabled them.**"

66 From this time **many** of his disciples turned back and **no longer followed him. (Those not chosen could not accept that)** 67 "You do not want to leave too, do you?" Jesus asked the Twelve. 68 Simon **Peter** answered him, "Lord, to **whom** shall we go? **(It is Spiritual kingdom not Physical)** You have the words of eternal life. **(Words are life - chew on them)** 69 **We** have come to **believe** and to know that you are the **Holy One** of God." **(Only God is Holy - Jesus is God, the I AM)** 70 Then Jesus replied, "Have I not chosen you, the Twelve? **Yet one of you is a devil!**" 71 (He meant Judas, the son of Simon Iscariot, who, though one of the Twelve, was later to betray him.)

Isaiah 46:9 Remember the former things, those of long ago; I am God, and there is **no other**; I am God, and there is none like me.

Acts 4:12 Salvation is found in **no one else**, for there is **no other name** under heaven given to mankind by which we must be saved."

1John 2:19 They went out from us, but they did not really belong to us. For if they had belonged to us, they would have remained with us; but their going showed that none of them belonged to us... 26 I am writing these things to you about those **who are trying to lead you astray**... 3:7 ... do not let anyone lead you astray. The one who does what is right is righteous, just as he is righteous... 4:1 ... do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, because **many false prophets have gone out into the world**... 5 **They are from the world** and therefore speak from the viewpoint of the world, and the world listens to them. 6 We are from God, and whoever knows God listens to us; but **whoever is not from God does not listen to us.** This is how we recognize the Spirit of truth and the spirit of falsehood.

Psalms 18:3 I will call upon the LORD, who is worthy to be praised: so shall I be saved from mine enemies.

46 The LORD liveth: and blessed be my rock; and let the God of my salvation be exalted.