

John 6

A Hard Saying of Jesus

Jesus Feeds the Five Thousand

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.

Did Jesus not know?

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?"

He makes me lie down in green pastures..."

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**.

The Lord your God will raise up for you a Prophet like me from your midst, from your brethren. Him you shall hear. (Deut. 18:15)

Political King to overthrown Roman oppression

Jesus Walks on the Water

Matthew and Mark tell us that Jesus made His disciples get into the boat (Mark 6:45).

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.

Mark 6:49-50 mentions a "ghost"

Mark 6:48 says Jesus watched them row.

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**.

Jesus the Bread of Life

25 When they found him on the other side of the lake, they asked him, "Rabbi, when did you get here?"

Jesus avoids question

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.**"

Audience focuses on "work" – see v. 28

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."

Apparently, feeding 5K wasn't enough

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.'"

Jesus claims Deity

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."

Like us, Jews wanted physical needs met continuously.

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'?**"

Jews didn't get it

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.**"

Jews thought all were chosen!

52 Then the Jews began to argue sharply among themselves, "**How can this man give us his flesh to eat?**"

Moses & drinking golden calf

Jews still don't get it

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.

v. baking, viewing, photographing bread.

Many Disciples Desert Jesus

60 On hearing it, many of his disciples said, "This is a **hard teaching. Who can accept it?**"

Now Jews get it, but don't like 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."

But apostles didn't know!

66 From this time **many of his disciples turned back and no longer followed him.**

People don't like to hear hard things, and J didn't want consumers/takers.

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.)

Following J is hardest way to live, except when compared to all others!

John 6 – Traditional Topics

- 11: Feeding 5K
- 19: Jesus walks on water
- 28-29: "What must we do to do the work God requires? ... Believe in the one He has sent."
- 35: "I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never go hungry...."
- 40: "My Father's will is that everyone who looks to the Son and believes in him shall have eternal life...."
- 44: "No one can come to me unless the Father... draws them"

Jesus' Progressively Hard Message

27 - "Do not work for **food** that spoils, but for food that endures to eternal life, which the Son of Man will give you."

33 - "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. For the **bread of God** is the bread that comes down from heaven and gives life to the world."

35 - "**I am the bread of life.** Whoever comes to me will never go hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty."

Jesus' Progressively Hard Message

41 - "I am the **bread that came down from heaven.**"

48-50 - "I am the **bread of life.** Your ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness, yet they died. 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."

Jesus' Progressively Hard Message

53-54 - "... Unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you. **Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood** has eternal life."

55-56 - "...**My flesh is real food and my blood is real drink.** Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood remains in me, and I in them. "

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.**"

Say Hard Things

- Acts 4:13 - Peter/John: “**unschooled, ordinary men.**”
- II Cor. 6:2 - “Today is the day of salvation.”
- Matt. 10:32 – “Whoever acknowledges me before others, I will also acknowledge before my Father in heaven. But **whoever disowns me before others, I will disown before my Father** in heaven.”
- II Tim. 1:7 – “The **Spirit** God gave us does not make us timid, but **gives us power**, love and self-discipline. So do not be ashamed of the testimony about our Lord... Rather, join with me in suffering for the gospel, by the power of God.”