

“The Gospel of John: The Grumblers”

Dr. Geoffrey Plummer
Calvary Baptist Church

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Scripture

John 6:41-59

“Therefore, **the Jews were grumbling about Him**, because He said, "I am the bread that came down out of heaven." They were saying, "Is not this Jesus, the son of Joseph, whose father and mother we know? How does He now say, I have come down out of heaven'?"

43 Jesus answered and said to them, "Do not grumble among yourselves. "No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him; and I will raise him up on the last day. "It is written in the prophets, **AND THEY SHALL ALL BE TAUGHT OF GOD.**' Everyone who has heard and learned from the Father, comes to Me. "Not that anyone has seen the Father, except the One who is from God; He has seen the Father.

47 "Truly, truly, I say to you, he who believes has eternal life. "I am the bread of life. "**Your fathers ate the manna in the wilderness, and they died.** "This is the bread which comes down out of heaven, **so that one may eat of it and not die.**

51 "I am the living bread that came down out of heaven; if anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever; and **the bread also which I will give for the life of the world is My flesh.**"

52 Then the Jews began to argue with one another, saying, "How can this man give us His flesh to eat?" So, Jesus said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, **unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink His blood, you have no life in yourselves.**"

54 "He who eats My flesh and drinks My blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day. "**For My flesh is true food, and My blood is true drink.** "He who eats My flesh and drinks My blood abides in Me, and I in him.

57 "As the living Father sent Me, and I live because of the Father, so he who eats Me, he also will live because of Me. "This is the bread which came down out of heaven; not as the fathers ate and died; **he who eats this bread will live forever.**"

59 These things He said in the synagogue as He taught in Capernaum."

Last Week:

The Bread of Life -> Jesus declared Himself to be the "I AM" from Heaven -> He knows who is in "The Gift"

The Grumbling

John 6:41-42

“Therefore, **the Jews were grumbling about Him**, because He said, "I am the bread that came down out of heaven." They were saying, "Is not this Jesus, the son of Joseph, whose father and mother we know? How does He now say, I have come down out of heaven'?"

The Jews in Galilee join the Jews in Jerusalem in their grumbling against Jesus

Grumbling -> an **under-your-breath, murmuring of discontent**

They do not like Jesus for calling Himself "the Bread of Life"

They do not like Jesus for saying He came from Heaven

They are struggling with the thought that Jesus is something more than His upbringing suggests

"Who do you think you are?" -> they say...

Grumbling is an indication of indignation and offense:

Matthew 20:1-12 (Parable of the Laborers)

"For the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. "When he had agreed with the laborers for a denarius for the day, he sent them into his vineyard. "And he went out about the third hour and saw others standing idle in the marketplace; and to those he said, 'You also go into the vineyard, and whatever is right I will give you.' And so they went. "Again, he went out about the sixth and the ninth hour and did the same thing. "And about the eleventh hour he went out and found others standing around; and he said to them, 'Why have you been standing here idle all day long?' "They said to him, 'Because no one hired us.' He said to them, 'You go into the vineyard too.'

8"When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his foreman, 'Call the laborers and pay them their wages, beginning with the last group to the first.' "When those hired about the eleventh hour came, each one received a denarius. "When those hired first came, they thought that they would receive more; but each of them also received a denarius. "**When they received it, they grumbled at the landowner**, saying, 'These last men have worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden and the scorching heat of the day.'"

Jesus knows the condition of their hearts toward Him -> John 2 -> "He Knows!"

The Rebuke

John 6:43-46

"Jesus answered and said to them, "Do not grumble among yourselves. "**No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him;** and I will raise him up on the last day. "It is written in the prophets, **AND THEY SHALL ALL BE TAUGHT OF GOD.**' Everyone who has heard and learned from the Father, comes to Me. "Not that anyone has seen the Father, except the One who is from God; He has seen the Father."

Jesus tells them to hush up and listen!

"No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him"

He reiterates His point from earlier in the dialogue -> Salvation is **controlled by the Father alone**

The Father gifted believers to the Son for His willingness to be sacrificed

Those drawn to the Son by the Father will be in the Beloved -> Jesus will raise them up on the last day

Jesus quotes Isaiah 54 -> God will lead His chosen to His Chosen Son

Last week, we heard that Jesus said "All that the Father has given Me will come to Me" -> **John 6:37**

The Gift will be “taught of God” -> instructed by God -> enlightened by the Father that the Son is the Messiah

That passage in Isaiah 54 ends in tremendous victory for God’s Beloved -> “I will raise him up on the last day”

Isaiah 54:17

“No weapon that is formed against you will prosper; And every tongue that accuses you in judgment you will condemn. This is the heritage of the servants of the LORD, and their vindication is from Me,” declares the LORD.”

Drawing by God the Father involves Teaching and Learning -> God draws through sermons and evangelism

Romans 10:14-15

“How then will they call on Him in whom they have not believed? How will they believe in Him whom they have not heard? And **how will they hear without a preacher?** How will they preach unless they are sent? Just as it is written, “HOW BEAUTIFUL ARE THE FEET OF THOSE WHO BRING GOOD NEWS OF GOOD THINGS!”

Then Jesus tells them:

“Not that anyone has seen the Father, except the One who is from God; He has seen the Father.”

They have never seen God -> they don’t have the Spirit of God -> they should trust someone who KNOWS the Father intimately

Jesus decides to repeat what He said a bit earlier:

Repeating the Teaching

John 6:47-49

“Truly, truly, I say to you, he who believes has eternal life. **“I am the bread of life. “Your fathers ate the manna in the wilderness, and they died.”**

He is the bread of life from Heaven – the eternal bread

In comparison to what their fathers ate in the Wilderness

Their fathers died and it was an **earthly death as well as a spiritual death**

Numbers 14:11-12

“The LORD said to Moses, “How long will this people spurn Me? And how long will they not believe in Me, despite all the signs which I have performed in their midst? I will smite them with pestilence and dispossess them, and I will make you into a nation greater and mightier than they.”

Hebrews 3:14-19

“For we have become partakers of Christ, if we hold fast the beginning of our assurance firm until the end, while it is said, ‘TODAY IF YOU HEAR HIS VOICE, **DO NOT HARDEN YOUR HEARTS, AS WHEN THEY PROVOKED ME**’. For who provoked Him when they had heard? Indeed, did not all those who came out of Egypt led by Moses? And with whom was He angry for forty years? Was it not with those who sinned, whose bodies fell in the wilderness? And **to whom did He swear that they would not enter His rest, but to those who were disobedient? So, we see that they were not able to enter because of unbelief.**”

They died in the wilderness because of unbelief -> Unbelief means spiritual death -> eternal separation

This verse in **John 6:49** would have been a shock to audience if they understood the ramifications

Your fathers in the wilderness died twice! -> but they are only thinking about earthly food -> earthly death

We saw the effect of unbelief in Jerusalem in John 5

John 5:39-40

“You search the Scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; it is these that testify about Me; and **you are unwilling to come to Me so that you may have life.**”

Now we’re seeing the same effect in John 6 in Galilee

But Jesus is offering eternal life to them where there might be physical death but not spiritual death

John 6:50

“This is the bread which comes down out of heaven, **so that one may eat of it and not die**”

Jesus will provide the spiritual food that will last an earthly lifetime and into eternity

The Pronouncement

For a third time, Jesus pronounces that He is the Bread of Life:

John 6:51

“I am the living bread that came down out of heaven; if anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever; and **the bread also which I will give for the life of the world is My flesh.**”

He will be willingly giving up His life for them -> a sacrificial death

His sinless flesh will be crucified for the sin of the world

Eternity is available to you guys – you can live forever!

How many times have we offered the gospel to someone, and they’re not interested?

They want to quibble about meaningless facts and debates over passages in the Bible

You know any grumblers in your life?

It makes you want to scream – “**Think about the BIG picture!**”

The Debate

John 6:52-53

“Then the Jews began to argue with one another, saying, "How can this man give us His flesh to eat?" So, Jesus said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, **unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink His blood, you have no life in yourselves.**”

Some get what Jesus is saying but some do not...

Eating the blood has always been prohibited for the Jews

Is Jesus actually saying that His flesh would need to be consumed?

Apparently, some think so while others think this cannot be true

There is a debate afoot between the people -> Cannibalism?

We think to ourselves, "Come on, man. This is pretty simple!"

Life is good when the Holy Spirit enlightens you to the truth, isn't it?

Without His help, we might be in this debate, too...

"you have no life in yourselves"

This is the case of many who walk the earth -> there is no life in them

They think they have everything all under control on their own -> but sadly, they don't understand the predicament they're in

Even though they breathe and interact with others, they are filled with the death of sin

Most don't even know that they have a terminal illness

Some who DO know they have a terminal illness long to hold on to the earthly life

They will spend all sorts of money on remedies, experimental treatments, one in a million chances

Yet, they do not care about spiritual life because it is hidden from them

Solomon looked at his life of earthly pursuits and simply said, "Vanity, Vanity it is all Vanity"

It's a big waste of time to focus your whole life on earthly activities

The time on earth is minimal compared to eternity

Store up your treasures in Heaven, Jesus said

The Promises

John 6:54-59

"He who eats My flesh and drinks My blood **has eternal life**, and I will raise him up on the last day. "For My flesh is true food, and My blood is true drink. "He who eats My flesh and drinks My blood **abides in Me, and I in him**.

As the living Father sent Me, and I live because of the Father, so he who eats Me, he also will live because of Me. "This is the bread which came down out of heaven; not as the fathers ate and died; **he who eats this bread will live forever**."

These things He said in the synagogue as He taught in Capernaum."

This is a difficult passage to interpret if you do not follow Jesus's analogy

"I could just eat you up"

"For My flesh is true food, and My blood is true drink."

Some people read this passage and **see the Communion Remembrance**

Communion has not been established yet, though -> We'll see that in John 13

That would also mean that everyone who takes Communion will be raised up on the last day -> Not so!

The eternal is not gained from the earthly

Jesus speaks about His coming sacrifice where His flesh will be torn and His blood spilt for us

Our acceptance of His sacrifice on our behalf is eating His flesh and blood

Unless you accept His sacrifice on your behalf, you will die in your sins!

“He who eats My flesh and drinks My blood abides in Me” -> John 15 -> The Vine and the Branches

John 15:4

“Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself unless it abides in the vine, so neither can you unless you abide in Me.”

Abide means “to remain in place” -> If you accept His sacrifice and receive the Holy Spirit, you will remain

This is the Blessed Assurance we sing of

Reminds me of another hymn:

Where He Leads, I'll Go

He drew me closer to His side
I sought His will to know
And in that will, I now abide
Wherever He leads, I'll go

-> The Father draws men to His Son
-> We respond to that drawing by the Father seeking His will
-> Knowing His will, we remain with Him
-> And we will willingly follow His will all our days

“he who eats this bread will live forever”

Two Paths of Choice:

Eternal life -> eternal communion -> no separation

Earthly death -> Spiritual death -> eternal separation

Which path do you choose?

How many of you have someone you love on a different path?

“Father, please draw them to you!”

And for us...

He promises to never leave us

Great is His faithfulness to His beloved...

Prayer

Benediction