

“The Gospel of John: The Bread of Life”

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Scripture

John 6:30-40

“So, they said to Him, **“What then do You do for a sign, so that we may see, and believe You?**

What work do You perform? “Our fathers ate the manna in the wilderness; as it is written, HE GAVE THEM BREAD OUT OF HEAVEN TO EAT.””

32 Jesus then said to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, **it is not Moses who has given you the bread out of heaven, but it is My Father who gives you the true bread out of heaven.** “For the bread of God is that which comes down out of heaven and gives life to the world.” Then they said to Him, “Lord, always give us this bread.””

35 Jesus said to them, **“I am the bread of life; he who comes to Me will not hunger, and he who believes in Me will never thirst.**

36 “But I said to you that you have seen Me, and **yet do not believe.**

37 **“All that the Father gives Me will come to Me,** and the one who comes to Me I will certainly not cast out.

38 “For I have come down from heaven, not to do My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me.

39 “This is the will of Him who sent Me, that **of all that He has given Me I lose nothing** but raise it up on the last day.

40 **“For this is the will of My Father,** that everyone who beholds the Son and believes in Him will have eternal life, and I Myself will raise him up on the last day.”

Last Week:

Jesus was being pursued by the crowd because of his healing ministry

Then He created food out of nothing for about 20,000 people

So, there is now a large crowd that has found Him in Capernaum, so He begins to teach

The people were fed and now many are following because Jesus fed them south of Bethsaida

Jesus tells them:

John 6:27

“Do not work for the food which perishes, but **for the food which endures to eternal life,** which the Son of Man will give to you, for on Him the Father, God, has set His seal.”

Don't continually seek the material things of the world which are temporary but seek the eternal instead

They asked Him **what work they needed to do** to be acceptable to God

He told them it's all about true belief in Him -> He is Savior of the World and should be Lord of Your Life

This Week:

Jesus had been performing miracles after miracle for the crowd to see

But the public is still not satisfied with His performance

So, they say:

Show Us ANOTHER Sign?

John 6:30

"So, they said to Him, **"What then do You do for a sign, so that we may see, and believe You?"**

Wait a second! -> Didn't He just feed **20,000 people?**

These guys were part of that crowd or at least had heard the story because they had come from Tiberias

Mark 8:11-12

"The Pharisees came out and began to argue with Him, seeking from Him a sign from heaven, to test Him. Sighing deeply in His spirit, He said, **"Why does this generation seek for a sign? Truly I say to you, no sign will be given to this generation."**

Jesus calls those Pharisees looking for signs as "evil and adulterous":

Matthew 12:38-39

"Some of the scribes and Pharisees said to Him, **"Teacher, we want to see a sign from You."** But He answered and said to them, **"An evil and adulterous generation craves for a sign; and yet no sign will be given to it but the sign of Jonah the prophet"**

Nevertheless, they persist:

John 6:31

"What work do You perform? "Our fathers ate the manna in the wilderness; as it is written, HE GAVE THEM BREAD OUT OF HEAVEN TO EAT."

What Have You Done for Me Lately?

Showing their Jewish background, they talk about the walk out of Egypt into the Wilderness

"Hey, our fathers were fed DAILY in the Wilderness!"

Know anyone that treats Jesus like a Genie?

EXPECTING Him to produce something visible every day or they won't follow Him...

If Jesus were God, He wouldn't allow evil to succeed on the Earth!

If Jesus was real, He would eliminate all wars and struggles!

He is either powerless or He doesn't care!

Are you like that? -> **Do you think "what has He done for me lately?"** -> Do you question His provision?

- 1) Looking at the next-door neighbor's car...why can't I have a car like that?
- 2) Hearing about someone's salary on the television...why can't I have that kind of income?
- 3) Why don't I have the funds to buy this or that?
- 4) Why can't I have a trophy wife or husband?

On the **Sermon on the Mount**, Jesus said:

Matthew 6:25-33

"For this reason, I say to you, do not be worried about your life, as to what you will eat or what you will drink; nor for your body, as to what you will put on. **Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing?** "Look at the birds of the air, that they do not sow, nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not worth much more than they? "And who of you by being worried can add a single hour to his life? "And why are you worried about clothing? Observe how the lilies of the field grow; they do not toil, nor do they spin, yet I say to you that not even Solomon in all his glory clothed himself like one of these.

"But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the furnace, will He not much more clothe you? You of little faith! "Do not worry then, saying, 'What will we eat?' or 'What will we drink?' or 'What will we wear for clothing?' "For the Gentiles eagerly seek all these things; for your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things.

33"But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you."

It is the way that we should be: Seek the heavenly provision, trust Him with the earthly provision

Matthew 6:8

"For your Father knows what you need before you ask Him."

Earlier, we sang "He Knows My Name" – He knows our needs, too!

Jesus has to teach them about the past:

John 6:32-33

"Jesus then said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, **it is not Moses who has given you the bread out of heaven, but it is My Father who gives you the true bread out of heaven.**

"For the bread of God is that which comes down out of heaven and gives life to the world."

Moses, whom they trusted in, is not the source of their provision

Jesus tells them that the Father is the true Source of provision

The Father is the Source of everything good:

James 1:17

"**Every good thing given, and every perfect gift is from above**, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shifting shadow."

Naturally, the crowd wants what Jesus is offering...

John 6:34

“Then they said to Him, "Lord, **always give us this bread.**”

Seeking a **perpetual earthly food source**, they of course want to receive it daily

You remember the story of the Woman at the Well?

When Jesus told her that He could provide “living water”?

John 4:13-15

“Everyone who drinks of this water will thirst again; but whoever drinks of **the water that I will give him shall never thirst**; but the water that I will give him will become in him a well of water springing up to eternal life. The woman said to Him, "Sir, **give me this water, so I will not be thirsty nor come all the way here to draw.**”

Give me this water! -> Now these Galileans are saying **“Give me this bread!”**

They don't just want it today, they use ALWAYS -> they want it EVERY day!

Just like the Woman at the Well, though -> they're thinking earthly and not spiritually

Last week, we read about them asking Jesus the question:

John 6:28

“What shall we do, so that we may work the works of God?”

Jesus told them that the only work they needed to do was to believe!

True belief in Him as God -> the Source of all created things!

Jesus gives them the Truth:

I AM the “I AM”

The I AMs -> The Bread of Life

John 6:35

“Jesus said to them, "**I am the bread of life; he who comes to Me will not hunger, and he who believes in Me will never thirst.**”

I AM the Source of the Eternal Bread!

The Woman at the Well heard that Jesus is the Source of Eternal Living Water!

He is the Source of all Spiritual Life!

If you have Spiritual Life within you, you will never lack earthly provision

What do you mean, Pastor? -> You mean that God will supply ALL my needs?

YES!

Philippians 4:19

“My God will supply all your needs according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus!”

Many Christians starve because they do not trust in Jesus for all provision:

James 4:2-3

“You do not have because you do not ask. You ask and do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, so that you may spend it on your pleasures.”

This is the reason for the local church, by the way -> The guys on the boat saying he could worship God here!

God meets needs through His children

Food pantry -> **“Do you belong to a local church?”**

Our life as ambassadors for Jesus is simple:

“We’re just one beggar showing another beggar where the Bread is!”

The Gift

John 6:36

“But I said to you that you have seen Me, and **yet do not believe.”**

The crowd has seen Jesus, but they will not believe in Him

There is a reason, **they are not part of “The Gift”**

John 6:37

“All that the Father gives Me will come to Me...”

In eternity past, the Father called the Son to sacrifice His life for a people

The Son went to the cross to do just that

For His sacrifice, the Father would give the Son a gift -> a group of people

If you truly believe in Jesus today, you are part of “The Gift”

1 Peter 2:9

“But **you are A CHOSEN RACE, A royal PRIESTHOOD, A HOLY NATION, A PEOPLE FOR God's OWN POSSESSION, so that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him **who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light**”**

Ephesians 1:3-6

“Blessed **be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ, **just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world,** that we would be holy and blameless before Him. **In love, He predestined us to adoption as sons through Jesus Christ to Himself,** according to the kind intention of His will, to the praise of the glory of His grace, which He freely bestowed on us **in the Beloved.**”**

Beloved -> the technical term of those who have been gifted from the Father to the Son

There’s a reason why salvation is a gift of grace:

Ephesians 2:8-10

“For by grace you have been saved through faith; and **that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; not as a result of works, so that no one may boast.** For we are His workmanship, **created in Christ Jesus** for good works, **which God prepared beforehand** so that we would walk in them.”

Created in Christ -> but God prepared beforehand as “The Gift”

I could walk you around the Bible for hours with references, but **we have a Table and a Potluck to come**

Simply put: All believers are “The Gift” from the Father to the Son

Blessed Assurance

Going back to John 6:36, Jesus continued:

John 6:37

“and the one who comes to Me I will certainly not cast out”

How many of you have received a gift for a Birthday or for Christmas and thought, “Yuck”?

“I need to take this back to the store for credit!”

Maybe you have asked the person who gave the gift to you for a receipt so you could exchange it

Jesus does not do that -> He doesn't return “The Gift”

All who have come to Him, He keeps

This is why we can sing “Blessed Assurance”

This is why there it is bad theology to teach that you can lose your salvation!

If you have been gifted to the Son, He's not letting you go...

Why not?

What happens if I make mistakes...if I fall from grace...if I struggle with addiction...?

The Father's Will

You will be happy to know that **the Father does not have a return policy**

John 6:38-40

“For I have come down from heaven, not to do My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me.

This is the will of Him who sent Me, that **of all that He has given Me I lose nothing** but raise it up on the last day.

“**For this is the will of My Father**, that everyone who beholds the Son and believes in Him will have eternal life, and **I Myself will raise him up on the last day.**”

Jesus came to Earth because the Father's Will was for Him to come and sacrifice Himself for us

The Father's Will is that Jesus will lose nothing...

Blessed Assurance, indeed, as Fanny Crosby wrote:

Blessed Assurance, Jesus is Mine
Oh, what a foretaste of glory
Heir of salvation, purchase of God
Born of his Spirit, washed in His blood

How can we be sure of a future in Heaven?

He is ABLE to keep you from stumbling!

Jude 24-25

“Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling, and to make you stand in the presence of His glory blameless with great joy, to the only God our Savior, through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, dominion and authority, before all time and now and forever. Amen.”

Communion Prayer

Benediction