

The Bread of Life: The Source and Nature of the Bread (John 6:22-34)

- In my first message (6:1-21) we looked at two miracles and the truths they taught
- First, Jesus' true identity: Jesus is Creator and Sovereign Omnipotent Ruler
- Second, Jesus alone, is the only one able to meet humanities' deepest needs
- This is the solid foundation on which to further teach His disciples about Himself

I. The Source of the Bread of Life (6:22-27)

What Should People Want Most in Life

- The people, struck by Jesus, that they pursued him all the way to Capernaum?
- The first question the people ask Jesus: v25 "Rabbi, when did you come here?"
- They knew He had not gotten into the boat, and that only one boat sailed: miracle
- Jesus didn't feed the crowds' desire for the miraculous, he addressed the real issue
- Jesus first challenged their superficial interest in Him and His miracles (6:26)
- Jesus challenges them to labor for food that does not perish (John 6:27)
- Jesus' mission had to do with eternal life & his kingdom was not of this world
- Paradox is the thing we are to labor for is essentially a gift of God's free grace
- Thrust of text: enduring food (gift of) the Son of man (gift of) God the Father
- The text further says that Jesus is the one whom the Father set his seal upon

What People Should Want Most in Life (6:25-28)

- The people didn't understand what Jesus said: they asked two revealing questions
- First: what shall we do to be doing the works of God? Legalistic mindset evident
- The crux of the issue: Our work is to respond to Jesus in faith (Titus 3:5)

What Should People Do to Please God (6:29-31)

- Second: "what sign will you perform, then, that we may see it and believe you?"
- Feeding the 5000 and crossing the lake on foot were not good enough signs!
- They arrogantly tried to give Jesus an example to help: "manna from heaven" 31
- Could Jesus really be greater than Moses? The people compared Jesus to Moses

II. The Nature of the Bread (6:32-34)

- Failing to acknowledge the true character of their need, they don't see Jesus
- Rather than dismissing the people, Jesus patiently explains Himself to them
- Jesus explains Himself (6:32-33): They needed to see the bread as a person (35)
- Jesus' hearers still don't understand Him (34) Men love darkness rather than light