

JOHN 6 AND THE GOSPEL

May 8, 2022

People in the world love all kinds of things, thinking that these things will satisfy them, make them happy. It can be food, alcohol, drugs, work, money, relationships, pets, music, movies, etc. And when we read the Bible, we see that one of the primary themes is that we are to love God and be satisfied by Him and His love for us. Psalm 107:9

- And what each of you need in life is a relationship with God where you know His love, and where you love Him, and where your spiritual needs are being met by Him.

John 6:35-40. Jesus is God, the Son of God. And what Jesus tells us very plainly is that He is the bread of life. This means He's our spiritual food, the One who meets our spiritual needs, the One who truly satisfies our soul, our spirit. Now we talked about this last time, but I want to sum up what this passage is saying:

1. Jesus is the bread of life, our spiritual bread, and we can only have our spiritual needs met through Jesus. There's no one else, and nothing else that can meet our spiritual needs.

2. The way to know Jesus and be satisfied by Him is to come to Him, to seek Him, and to believe Him, and to depend on Him to meet our needs.

3. The ones who come to Jesus and believe in Him are the ones God the Father gives to Jesus. This means God the Father chooses who comes to Jesus. Eph. 1:4, 2 Th. 2:13

4. Jesus, God's Son, does His Father's will. God sent Jesus to earth, and Jesus did what His Father wanted, and His primary purpose was to die and pay the penalty of our sins so we could be declared righteous, could be forgiven, and so we could have eternal life, an eternally satisfying relationship with God the Father and Jesus. And Jesus will raise up the believers on the last day, that day when Jesus comes back to earth. He will raise up all those who have trusted in Him, and He will glorify them, complete their salvation, give them a brand-new body, just like Jesus' body. 1 John 3:2-3

John 6:41-51. And Jesus is teaching them the truth, specifically that He came from heaven. And the Jews didn't like what He said, for by saying that, He was stating that He was God – and so they're grumbling, are murmuring, are complaining. And they didn't believe He came out of heaven. They were saying among themselves that Jesus was the son of Joseph: *"We know who His parents are, and they're normal human beings, and so this Jesus has to be just a man - surely, He can't be God."*

- John 6:33, 6:38. We see that Jesus is repeating this truth that He came out of heaven, and that's because it's such an important point, for it means He is God in the flesh.

And how then does Jesus respond to the Jews?

- John 6:43. Jesus tells them not to grumble. By grumbling they're questioning Him, they're not believing Him, they're saying He's lying, that He's not telling the truth.

- From Jn. 6:35-40, we know Jesus told the people they needed to believe in Him, and that if they do, then they'll have eternal life, will never thirst, will always be spiritually satisfied.

What else does Jesus say? Jn. 6:44. Jesus is saying you can't come to Him, and can't believe in Him unless God Himself enables you to come to Him and believe in Him. Jesus uses the word draw to make this point clear. No person can come to Jesus unless the Father draws him, moves him, enables him to come to Jesus. That is, coming to Jesus, being saved, receiving eternal life, is a work of God, not a work of man. Salvation is not about what man does, but what God does. When a person comes to Jesus, and believes in Him, and gets saved, then it's not by His own power or efforts, but by a power outside himself, by the Spirit of God and the grace of God. Rom. 9, Titus 3

Now what about a person who is not saved, a person who is an unbeliever?

- Eph. 2:1 says he's spiritually dead. Ezek. 18:4 says his soul is spiritually dead.

Jn. 8:34 says he's a slave to unrighteousness. Col. 1:13 says he's trapped in the domain of darkness. Col. 1:21 says he's alienated from God. 2 Cor. 4:4 says he's spiritually blind.

Rom. 8:8 says he's unable to please God. 1 John 3:10 says he's a child of the devil. And this means that a person can't save himself, he's unable to save himself. Jesus is saying that God must draw man to Himself, that God must open his eyes so he sees his helplessness, and then calls out to God to save him, to forgive him of his sins. Rom. 10:13, Rev. 7:10

How then does God specifically draw a person to Christ? How does He save a person?

- God draws and saves a person by the power of the Spirit. John 16:8, 3:5; Titus 3:5

- God saves us by the grace of God. Eph. 2:8-9

- God saves us by His truth. John 8:32. And this is what vs. 45 says, which is from a vs. in the Old Testament that says that those who are taught of God are ones who are saved.

And so Jesus is saying that for a person to be saved, he must hear and learn the truth from God, and this, we know, is through the work of the Spirit.

- Jn. 5:24 says, *"He who hears My word and believes in Him who sent Me."* Mk 4:20 says they *"hear the word and accept it."* To be saved, we have to know and believe the truth about Jesus, about who He is, that He is the Christ, the Son of God, and the truth about what Jesus did, that He died on the cross to pay for our sins. And the person who is drawn by God and comes to Jesus knows and believes the truth about Jesus, and gets saved and receives eternal life.

John 6:46. Jesus tells them that no one has ever seen the Father, that is, God the Father. No human being, no person born of man and woman has ever seen God the Father.

- Col. 1:15 says, *"Jesus is the image of the invisible God."* And 1 Tim. 1:17 says,

"Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory forever."

And so God the Father is invisible. And the only One who has seen Him or ever will see Him is Jesus, the Son of God, the One sent to this earth by the Father.

And one of the reasons Jesus came to earth was to reveal God to mankind. Jn 1:18, 14:9. And so we can't actually visibly see God the Father, but through Jesus we can spiritually see Him, we can know what the Father is like, and we can personally know Him. Heb. 1:3 - Jesus then tells us about God the Father, one who's in heaven, who's invisible, and who is Jesus' Father. And Jesus, who is on earth at this time, had been with His Father, and was then sent by the Father to earth to do His Father's will, to save people from their sins.

John 6:45. And so the Father teaches a person the truth about Jesus. And the one who is taught the truth about Jesus is the One who comes to Jesus and believes in Jesus. - John 6:47. And the one who believes what the Father has said about the Son, and believes that Jesus is the Son of God, and that He is the Messiah, has eternal life, has this personal and permanent relationship with the Father, and with the Son.

We see the simplicity of salvation, that if you believe in Jesus, if you look to Him, if you trust Him to save you from your sins, then you will receive eternal life. Now this word "believes" is in the present tense, which means once you believe in Jesus, at that very second, you have eternal life, you're forgiven, and you're a child of God. By saying, "Truly, truly," Jesus is being emphatic, He's making it clear that what He is saying is true, is the truth, and that the only way to be saved, to have eternal life is through Jesus. It is not by works, or by any other person or religion that you can be saved.

John 5:48. Jesus is declaring that He's the bread of life, and so from vs. 46 and vs. 47, we see that Jesus is equating having eternal life with having the bread of life. We know that bread is food, and in that culture, it was the most common food for a person. A person would eat bread every day of his life and at most of his meals.

But Jesus was also saying that having eternal life isn't a one-time thing. "*O, I got saved, and now I have eternal life and I can go on living and just do whatever I want.*" No, eternal life is to be a daily thing, and you are truly living and experiencing the life of God when you are being nourished by Jesus, the bread of life - then you have this everyday relationship with God. And so Jesus is the bread of life, and so every day of this life, and for all eternity, Jesus is your spiritual food, your spiritual sustenance, the means by which you can have this personal relationship with Him and with God the Father.

John 6:49-51. Jesus now goes on to explain more about the bread of life. - First, He contrasts this bread of life with manna, and manna was the physical food that came out of the skies when Moses and the Israelites were in the desert those 40 years. And it was great food, wonderful food, and by eating it, they physically lived.

But Jesus is the living bread, and by living bread, He is saying that He is spiritual bread, unlike the manna, which was physical bread. And by eating this living bread, we can be spiritually sustained and strengthened, and can spiritually live, and not just for 40 years, but for all eternity. And so this living bread was the means by which they could have eternal life. Again, eternal life isn't just something you have, and then forget. Having eternal life means you're continually eating this bread of life, and therefore have this daily, active, spiritual, powerful, meaningful, and purposeful relationship with Jesus and God the Father.

Then Jesus says that He, that this bread, is for anyone, for any individual person, but is also available for people in the world. *"For God so loved the world, that He gave us His Son."* What people need more than anything else is the bread of life, is Jesus. People go after so many things thinking they will satisfy them, make them happy, and give them peace, but it's only Jesus who can really satisfy them, and enable them to truly live. Lk. 6:20-26, Jn. 14:6

John 6:52-58. The Jews were arguing. Some agreed with Jesus and others did not. And so Jesus goes on to explain these things, and at times, repeats himself. Now what do we learn?

1. Jesus says truly, truly to emphasize that what He's saying is the truth, the God-given truth.
2. Jesus says people need to eat His flesh, and this is spiritually speaking. And then He tells them that people need to drink His blood, and this is again, spiritually speaking. And by saying flesh and blood, Jesus is saying that people need to take in all of Jesus, believe in all who He is, and believe all that He says and does, not just some of the things, but all of His words, all of the truth. John 8:32-33

- To have a close walk with God, to be and do all that He wants, you need Jesus all the time, all day long, in every situation, every relationship, every trial, in everything you do.

3. Again, Jesus tells them that He'll raise people up on the last day. That is, when He comes back, at the time of the rapture, all believers will be glorified, will be given a brand-new body, just like Jesus. Phil. 1:6

4. Jesus says those who eat His flesh and drink His blood are abiding in Him, are remaining in Him, are spiritually connected to Him, are spiritually living. John 15:1-2

5. Again, He contrasts this with manna, telling them that he who eats this living bread will live forever, will have eternal life, will forever experience the life God wants them to have.

- John 3, 4, 5, 6, 7