



“Open Church – Open Bible”

Min. Marossa Davis



Sunday Church School

January 17, 2021

“ Jesus: The Bread of Life ”
John 6: 25- 40

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“Jesus: The Bread of Life”

John 6: 25 - 40 (KJV)

- v. 25 “And when they had found him on the other side of the sea, they said unto him, Rabbi, when camest thou hither?”
- v. 26 Jesus answered them and said, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Ye seek me, not because ye saw the miracles, but because ye did eat of the loaves, and were filled.
- v. 27 Labour not for the meat which perisheth, but for that meat which endureth unto everlasting life, which the Son of man shall give unto you: for him hath God the Father sealed.
- v. 28 Then said they unto him, What shall we do, that we might work the works of God?
- v. 29 Jesus answered and said unto them, This is the work of God, that ye believe on him whom he hath sent.”

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John 6: 25 -40

- v. 30 They said therefore unto him, What sign shewest thou then, that we may see, and believe thee? what dost thou work?
- v. 31 Our fathers did eat manna in the desert; as it is written, He gave them bread from heaven to eat.
- v. 32 Then Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Moses gave you not that bread from heaven; but my Father giveth you the true bread from heaven.
- v. 33 For the bread of God is he which cometh down from heaven, and giveth life unto the world.
- v. 34 Then said they unto him, Lord, evermore give us this bread.
- v. 35 And Jesus said unto them, I am the bread of life: he that cometh to me shall never hunger; and he that believeth on me shall never thirst.

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- v. 36 **But I said unto you, That ye also have seen me, and believe not.**
- v. 37 All that the Father giveth me shall come to me; and him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out.
- v. 38 **For I came down from heaven, not to do mine own will, but the will of him that sent me.**
- v. 39 And this is the Father's will which hath sent me, that of all which he hath given me I should lose nothing, but should raise it up again at the last day.
- v. 40 **And this is the will of him that sent me, that every one which seeth the Son, and believeth on him, may have everlasting life: and I will raise him up at the last day.”**

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Jesus: The Bread of Life

The morning after Jesus fed the 5,000, the crowds were looking for Him. They believed He was the Messiah who would deliver them from Rome. But Jesus **knew** what was in their hearts and was about to expose their selfish motives. In the Gospel according to John , the miracles of Jesus are called ‘signs’ meaning they were designed to point to His deity. This lesson teaches there is a hunger (deeper than a physical hunger) that only Jesus can satisfy.

It is not without reason that bread has been called the **staff of life**. It has been the primary food for most people for most of human history. While food is necessary to sustain life, the most it can do though is prolong a temporary existence. Jesus understood **when** He should perform a miraculous work and when He should **teach**. He spent substantial time speaking to His followers about **kingdom principles** using this extended metaphor: the **Bread of Life**.

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TODAY’S AIM

FACTS: to understand that as believers, we need to always maintain an eternal perspective.

PRINCIPLE: to focus on the eternal over the temporal.

APPLICATION: to apply eternal priorities to our daily life choices.

LESSON OUTLINE

- | | |
|-------------------|----------------|
| I. INQUIRIES | John 6: 25-29 |
| II. DEMANDS | John 6: 30-34 |
| III. EXPLANATIONS | John 6 : 35-40 |

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I. INQUIRIES - JOHN 6: 25-29

After feeding the 5,000, Jesus had sent the disciples away in a boat while He went up on a mountain to pray. A fierce storm arose on the Sea of Galilee and Jesus came walking on the sea to the disciples rescue. Jesus sees us from afar when we are in difficulty and He comes to protect us from danger. Praise God, He gets in the boat with us. Well the next morning, the crowd (that was left back on the other side of the lake) were unable to find Jesus.

The people got into boats that had arrived from Tiberius and sailed to Capernaum, **looking for Jesus!** Upon their arrival, and seeing Him there, they were puzzled. They knew He had not sailed with the disciples, and they knew no other boats had been available. So they expressed their **confusion** by asking Him **when** He got there? They were mystified as there seemed to be no way for Him to have traveled there.

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Jesus responded by ignoring their actual question, speaking instead directly to what He knew was the motive for their search. They were not seeking Him to benefit spiritually from His teachings. Rather, they were just hoping to get more bread to eat. Jesus is His Omniscience said their motives were wrong. They sought material satisfaction when what they truly needed was spiritual food.

Instead of chasing after physical bread, they needed to focus their energies on gaining the eternal bread that is Jesus Himself. Eating physical food might sustain them for another day, but eternal life would allow them to live forever. Moreover, it was Jesus' to give because of His Father's full approval of His Mission.

Since God had set His approval on His Son Jesus, (v.27) they asked

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what works they could do that would likewise gain God's approval. They had misunderstood what Jesus had said. He was able to give them eternal life and there was nothing in His statements that indicated they needed to work for it. Their question implies that whatever God might require of them, they would do it to earn His favor.

Jesus explained that the work of God was genuine trust in the One He had sent, referring to Himself. Salvation has never required works and still does not. It is a matter of believing in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. In Acts 16:31 Paul said to the Philippians jailer, “ Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house.” That is the requirement for us today.

Some try to live a life which they think will get them into heaven. We cannot live that kind of life without the Holy Spirit, and He comes to us only

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through our genuine faith in Jesus as Lord and Savior.

II. DEMANDS - JOHN 6:30-34

In a blatant display of spiritual dullness, the crowd asked, “ What sign sheweth thou then, that we may see, and believe thee? What dost thou work? ” They had just seen Jesus multiply five loaves of bread and two small fish to feed over 5,000 people and had found Him across the sea with apparently no means of transportation available, yet they asked for an additional miracle to prove who He was! Jesus was claiming to be the Authorized Representative of God Himself, so they were still asking for something visible beyond what they had already seen.

The crowd used the same word John uses throughout his Gospel to refer to the miracles of Jesus: semeion. It was the word indicating that His miracles

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were not just extraordinary phenomenon , but signs that pointed to His divine mission and deity. They even quoted Scripture as proof of their sincerity: “ As it is written, He gave them bread from heaven to eat” (v. 31; cf Ps 78:24, 105.40) They were trying to sound spiritual when all they really wanted was another free meal. The question and statement from this crowd revealed the hardness of their hearts. They seemed to esteem the bread Jesus had provided for the 5,000 as a very minor miracle compared to what Moses had done, so in their estimation He needed to do something bigger.

Jesus explained that it was not Moses who had accomplished the provision of bread for the Israelites. The real giver of bread had been His Father in heaven. Jesus was letting them know that they were not to think that any human being could provide their necessary bread. They needed

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to **look to God** for their needs to be met and not focus on whatever human agent God may choose to use.

Jesus then made reference to the “true bread from heaven” (v.32) that God was offering; something distinct and greater than the food provided through Moses. Physical bread gives temporary satisfaction, but now God was offering something **spiritual and eternal**. He was offering them a new type of bread from heaven, and it was provision enough for giving “ **life unto the world**” (v. 33). The difference was that physical bread provided only for physical life, but what was needed was provision for spiritual life, and God was now making provision for that life.

In offering this metaphor, the Lord skillfully points out that the miracle the crowd referred to was originally intended to **point them to God**, not to Moses. In the same way, the focus of the current moment was not to be on temporal food but on spiritual food. Jesus was not to be equated with Moses, but with the **manna** itself! He is the **true Bread** who came down from God.

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EXPLANATIONS - JOHN 6: 35-40

As soon as the people asked for the bread He had just described, He identified Himself as that bread from heaven. He called Himself “ **the bread of life**” and claimed that “ **he that cometh to me shall never hunger and he that believeth on me shall never thirst.**” In a carefully worded statement, Jesus claimed to **be the bread**, not merely that He had that bread. He, Himself is all anyone needs for total, eternal, spiritual satisfaction; by contrast, physical food and drink satisfy for only a short time.

We must understand that Jesus was offering spiritual fulfillment in the ultimate sense. He was not promising that a believer would no longer suffer disappointments or trials; He was offering Himself as the supreme source of help in every situation. It is only through having a

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personal relationship with Him that we can find everything we need to triumph over the difficulties and trials of life.

Many of God’s children in this world face literal hunger, and many more face intense persecution. In spite of such harsh physical circumstances, Jesus remains our only true hope in the midst of such tremendous hardships. What are you facing today? It might be something that hurts beyond what you believe to be your endurance, but Jesus can help you satisfy your deepest needs. Jesus understood people’s needs. He **knew** that they were hungry. He **knew** the severity of their everyday lives.

Those standing before Jesus that day could see Him, but they were not responding to Him in faith. We must seek Jesus for the spiritual, eternal contentment He provides, not primarily for the comforts of this present life. **There were some** who were coming to Him though in true faith. He spoke of them as **gifts** from His Father and assured them that He would never lose anyone His Father gave Him. What a reassurance it is for us to be able salvation through

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faith in Jesus to **anyone**. We can be certain that they will be received by Jesus. The ability to genuinely trust in Jesus Christ comes from the divine enabling of the Father accomplished through the work of the **Holy Spirit**. We cannot take credit for our salvation though because even our faith is a gift from Him.

Once again Jesus claimed to have come down from heaven. This time He added that it was to do his Father’s will. He had not come to do His own will, only the will of the Father. It is the definite will of the Father that everyone He has given to the Son or who comes to Him in genuine faith will remain His forever.

Jesus would later say that “ **And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand. My Father, which gave them me, is greater than all; and no man is able to pluck them out of my Father’s hand** ” (John: 10: 28-29). Jesus will never lose anyone who belongs to Him. Praise the Lord! **We are safe in the arms of Jesus!**

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Beyond all this, Jesus knew their greatest need was for **salvation**. He knew that every miracle performed, every good deed accomplished, and every lesson taught was an opportunity to lead people to eternal life.

Jesus encouraged the people to shift their focus from satisfying their physical hunger to gaining spiritual food that would result in eternal life. These people, many of whom were not yet true believers, were locked into an earthly, temporal perspective. Jesus directed their attention heavenward, to trusting Him as the true Bread of Life that gives life eternal.

This lesson encourages new believers and more experienced believers to focus on the eternal rather than the temporal. We must never attempt to serve God in our own strength but rather get our spiritual nourishment from Jesus alone.

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Our golden text today was verse 29. It reads “ Jesus answered and said unto them, This is the work of God, that ye believe on Him whom He hath sent.” We know that salvation is neither gained through religion nor earned by works. Salvation is both unearned and undeserved.

The Jews had missed Jesus’ point that He alone is the **Bread of Life**. They were only thinking of their physical needs and not their spiritual needs. We must ask ourselves... do we think our good works, ministry services, or prestigious titles merit our salvation? Those things are good but without faith in Jesus Christ, they are like filthy rags before the Lord (Isaiah 64:6). Church membership and water baptism are not requirements for **salvation**. **There is one work of God**, and that is that you **believe** in Jesus Christ by grace through faith alone (cf. Acts 15: 11; 16: 31;

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Ephesians 2: 8-9; Titus 3:5-6). If you do not trust Jesus as Lord of your life, there is no other path to salvation. John stressed **believe** in his Gospel. It means to put total faith in or trust someone.

There are many teachings about Jesus that we are to believe. To start: believe that He is the **Son of God** (cf. John 20:31; I John 5:5; 13). **No one can come to Jesus unless the Father who sent Him, draw him or her** (cf. John 6:37,44,65). In other words, God is the initiator of the entire salvation process. I am so grateful that God has also said that whosoever will may come. Christ teaches that He was sent into the world to save sinners (cf. John 3: 16,17; I John 4: 9-10). **The work of God** is that you believe in Jesus for He alone is the **Bread of Life**.

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Instead of looking to Jesus for what He can **give** us, we must believe that He is the Son of God who takes away the sin of the world. To believe in Him for salvation is the way we receive the Bread of Life. When we focus on Christ, feed on Him and pursue Him, the other things we have earnestly sought after in our lives will be restored to their proper place.

Just as bread gives life to our bodies when we eat it, Jesus gives life to our souls when we trust Him. And Jesus- the Bread of Life- will keep us safe in Him forever. Believers have a guarantee of **resurrection** on the last day. Jesus came to do His Father’s will and it is His Father’s will that everyone who puts their faith and trust in, and who **believes** in His Son will have eternal life.

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Practical Points

1. God knows when we are truly seeking Him and when we have an ulterior motive (John 6: 25-26).
2. Our focus must be on the eternal things in life, not the temporal (v.27).
3. We can do nothing to earn God’s favor; we receive it through Jesus Christ (vs. 28-29).
4. God’s spiritual gift of Jesus Christ is greater than any physical blessing we can receive (vs. 30-33).
5. Our greatest spiritual need can be met only by Jesus Christ, for only He can save us (vs. 34-35).
6. When we turn to Jesus for salvation, we are kept for eternity (vs. 36-40).

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For Further Discussion

1. Explain what Jesus mean by referring to Himself as the Bread of Life?
2. How can we have assurance of eternal life?
3. What things in life make focusing on eternal values so difficult (vs. 27-29).
4. Why are you looking to Jesus? Have you found yourself sometimes desiring the gift more than the Giver? If yes, how can you change this (vs. 30-34)

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