

33 John 6:22

Bread From Heaven **Part 1**

Note: Mark Agreed to read this whole section. This will be VERY helpful if we can not break this section into parts.

READING THE TEXT

John 6:22-59 (ESV)

²² On the next day the crowd that remained on the other side of the sea saw that there had been only one boat there, and that Jesus had not entered the boat with his disciples, but that his disciples had gone away alone. ²³ Other boats from Tiberias came near the place where they had eaten the bread after the Lord had given thanks. ²⁴ So when the crowd saw that Jesus was not there, nor his disciples, they themselves got into the boats and went to Capernaum, seeking Jesus.

²⁵ When they found him on the other side of the sea, they said to him, “Rabbi, when did you come here?” ²⁶ Jesus answered them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, you are seeking me, not because you saw signs, but because you ate your fill of the loaves. ²⁷ Do not work for the food that perishes, but for the food that endures to eternal life, which the Son of Man will give to you. For on him God the Father has set his seal.” ²⁸ Then they said to him, “What must we do, to be doing the works of God?” ²⁹ Jesus answered them, “This is the work of God, that you believe in him whom he has sent.” ³⁰ So they said to him, “Then what sign do you do, that we may see and believe you? What work do you perform? ³¹ Our fathers ate the manna in the wilderness; as it is written, ‘He gave them bread from heaven to eat.’” ³² Jesus then said to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, it was not Moses who gave you the bread from heaven, but my Father gives you the true bread from heaven. ³³ For the bread of God is he who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world.” ³⁴ They said to him, “Sir, give us this bread always.”

³⁵ Jesus said to them, “I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in me shall 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 whoever comes to me I will never 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 And this is the will of

him who sent me, that I should lose nothing of all that he has given me, but raise it up on the last day. 40 For this is the will of my Father, that everyone who looks on the Son and believes in him should have eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day.”

41 So the Jews grumbled about him, because he said, “I am the bread that came down from heaven.” 42 They said, “Is not this Jesus, the son of Joseph, whose father and mother we know? How does he now say, ‘I have come down from heaven’?” 43 Jesus answered them, “Do not grumble among yourselves. 44 No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him. And I will raise him up on the last day. 45 It is written in the Prophets, ‘And they will all be taught by God.’ Everyone who has heard and learned from the Father comes to me— 46 not that anyone has seen the Father except he who is from God; he has seen the Father. 47 Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever believes has eternal life. 48 I am the bread of life. 49 Your fathers ate the manna in the wilderness, and they died. 50 This is the bread that comes down from heaven, so that one may eat of it and not die. 51 I am the living bread that came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever. And the bread that I will give for the life of the world is my flesh.”

52 The Jews then disputed among themselves, saying, “How can this man give us his flesh to eat?” 53 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 you. 54 Whoever feeds on my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day. 55 For my flesh is true food, and my blood is true drink. 56 Whoever feeds on 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 whoever feeds on me, he also will live because of me. 58 This is the bread that came down from heaven, not like the bread[a] the fathers ate, and died. Whoever feeds on this bread will live forever.” 59 Jesus said these things in the synagogue, as he taught at Capernaum.

PREACHING THE TEXT

²² On the next day

On what next day? This is the day after Jesus created fish and loaves out of thin air. When Jesus multiplied the fish and bread people ate their fill. Im sure many of them were full. The determining factor about how much they ate was whether they wanted more. If you want more you will eat more.

6: 11 Jesus then took the loaves, and when he had given thanks, he distributed them to those who were seated. So also the fish, as much as they wanted. ¹² And when they had eaten their fill...

EATING UNTIL YOU ARE FULL

Like the manna in the desert the Israelites eat until they are full. The Lord does not run out of food when He is feeding His children.

ELVIS HAS LEFT THE BUILDING

How many of you recall the statement; “Elvis Has Left The Building?”

The phrase was first used by promoter Horace Lee Logan on December 15, 1956, near [Shreveport, Louisiana](#), to plead with concert-goers not to remain in a concert hall in hopes of seeing Elvis, as he had already left.

The full quotation was:

All right, all right, Elvis has left the building. I've told you absolutely straight up to this point. You know that. He has left the building. He left the stage and went out the back with the policemen and he is now gone from the building.

The crowds were so enthralled with the performance that they wanted more. There was still energy flowing in the crowds. The one who generated this excitement was suddenly gone. What a let down.

Jesus fed 5000 men and probably 20,000 men, women and children by creating fish and bread. This was a sign to prove He was The Messiah

as He claimed. The crowds were enthralled and entertained. Some even believed Jesus for salvation. So there is this crowd charged with excitement and then suddenly Jesus has left the building. What a let down. They wanted this experience to continue. Let's go find Jesus so that we can continue this amazing experience.

(22 continued) **the crowd that remained on the other side of the sea saw that there had been only one boat there, and that Jesus had not entered the boat with his disciples, but that his disciples had gone away alone.**

THE DISCIPLES HAD GONE AWAY

This crowd observed the disciples getting into the boat and they probably saw Jesus push the boat away from shore sending His disciples out to sea by themselves.

They did not see Jesus walk out on the water to meet His disciples. So they were looking for Jesus. Where did He go? He would naturally want to meet up with His disciples but there were no boats he could use. The terrain did not allow Him to walk by land to meet His disciples. So where did Jesus go? The crowd reasoned if they located the disciples they would also find Jesus. Jesus is always with His disciples.

²³ **Other boats from Tiberias came near the place where they had eaten the bread after the Lord had given thanks.**

THE PLACE WHERE THEY HAD EATEN THE BREAD

John said; this is the place where they had eaten bread. This was the location of the bread miracle. And the people from Tiberias landed boats for some other reason on the place where Jesus created bread the previous day.

²⁴ So when the crowd saw that Jesus was not there, nor his disciples, they themselves got into the boats and went to Capernaum, seeking Jesus. (why?)

JESUS WAS NOT THERE

Jesus was not in that place. So they took decisive action to find Jesus. These boats did not belong to the crowds that had been fed by Jesus. They were “other boats” belonging to “other people.” So they either borrowed these boats, rented the boats or just jumped in went without permission. (Grand Theft fishing-boat)

²⁵ When they found him (Jesus) on the other side of the sea, they said to him, “Rabbi, when did you come here?”

NO BRAGGING ZONE

Now if it were me that walked across stormy waters I would have bragged; *“man you should have seen it!”* “The storm came rolling in, the waves were 10 feet high, but I just took a stroll right on top of the water without sinking!”

But instead of bragging about His ability to break the laws of nature, Jesus looks deeply into their hearts and speaks about what He sees there.

26 Jesus answered them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, you are seeking me, not because you saw signs, but because you ate your fill of the loaves.

TRULY TRULY (Listen and Listen Good)

Truly truly is the 1st century Aramaic way of saying;
“Listen and Listen good!” ...or

“I’m Only Going to Say This Once, so Listen Up!” Jesus often begins a statement with truly, truly before He delivers prophecy or confronts sin.

YOU SEEK NOT BECAUSE OF THE SIGN (SIGNS SIGNS)

The means that God had always used to introduce a prophet was by signs and wonders. If you claim to speak for God then you will do signs to show that God is with you as you speak in His name. **Elijah, Elisha, Joseph, Daniel, Moses, Joshua, Joseph, Peter, Paul, and Isaiah** are a few of the prophets and Apostles that did signs and wonders for the purpose of proving that they were sent by God and spoke for Him.

The Spirit of God that was upon them to produce signs and wonders would also help them to proclaim God's very words without error.

Jesus came as Son of God and Messiah. How do you suppose God would prove that this was indeed His Son come in the flesh? The same way He had always given proof of others who sent by and spoke for God. The prophets and Apostles were authenticated through signs and wonders that no man could do.

The disciples first believed when Jesus turned the water into wine as a sign. Let's look at several examples in John that demonstrate that God used signs to show people that Jesus was who He claimed to be.

John 2:11 esv

*This, the **first of his signs**, Jesus did at Cana in Galilee, and manifested his glory. **And his disciples believed in him.***

John 2:23 esv

*[Jesus Knows What Is in Man] Now when he was in Jerusalem at the Passover Feast, **many believed** in his name when **they saw the signs** that he was doing.*

John 3:2 esv

*This man came to Jesus by night and said to him, "Rabbi, we know that **you are a teacher come from God**, for no one can **do these signs** that you do unless God is with him."*

John 4:48 esv

So Jesus said to him, “Unless you see signs and wonders you will not believe.”

John 6:2 esv

And a large crowd was following him, because they saw the signs that he was doing on the sick.

John 7:31 esv

Yet many of the people believed in him. They said, “When the Christ appears, will he do more signs than this man has done?”

John 12:37 esv

Though he had done so many signs before them, they still did not believe in him,

John 20:30 esv

[The Purpose of This Book] Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book;

So in the book of John when you see the signs of Jesus in the form of miracles you are supposed to conclude that He is whoever He says He is. God is backing up the words of Jesus. If He claims to be the Son of God then the signs and wonders prove that He is. If He lied about being the Son of God then the Holy Spirit would not allow Him to do perform miracles such as raising people from the dead and curing leprosy and people crippled from birth.

CREATING BREAD WAS A SIGN

The creation of fish and loaves was a sign to show the crowds that this same Lord who created manna in the desert for Israel is the same God who created bread and fish in the wilderness for those who follow Him. These crowds should be coming to Him in worship with humility because

He has shown the sign of a prophet to prove that He indeed is God in the flesh.

Jesus spoke to the crowd that just crossed a sea to find him. And He speaks to their motivation.

YOU SEEK BECAUSE YOU LOVED THE BREAD

Jesus tells them that they did not come to Him because He is the Messiah who offers forgiveness of sin and eternal life. They came to Him because they loved the bread.

(JESUS THE BREAD MACHINE)

They went hard after Jesus rowing or sailing 12 to 15 miles just to find Jesus. Why did they work so hard to find Jesus? They thought He was an awesome baker. They loved His bread. It tasted so good. No one made better bread. And it was hot and fresh and there was so much of it. Wow was that awesome bread. Jesus is my bread machine!

When I lived in New York I used to travel across a bridge, pay a toll and brave lots of traffic just to go to Rockland Bakery. Wow, what a place! Ovens as big as a city bus would spit out hot steaming loaves of french bread, and 5 pound round loaves of 7 grain bread. People would travel a few hours for Rockland Bakery and in the Middle East where huge amounts of food were not always available, especially for middle to lower classes, the idea of free food and food cooked by God Himself would be very compelling. Here is the issue that Jesus identified by looking into their hearts.

They loved the gift but lost sight of the gift giver. They objectivized the giver. If you give me free stuff then i will follow you.

In short, they just about worshipped the bread. It is all they talked about to each other. Rather than bragging about the incredible sign that

Jesus did; (a sign as great as manna in the desert), they fixated on the bread itself.

WHAT WAYS WE WORSHIP THE GIFT, NOT THE GIVER?

The people who followed Jesus across the sea wanted Him to open a free bakery. They fixated on the bread just like we are tempted to fixate on what Jesus can deliver to us in terms of money and worldly success. The word-faith movement teaches us to use God for our benefit rather than telling God that He can use us for His benefit to advance His agenda. We are here for Him and once we get that right then there is great joy and blessings in the presence of God. The primary thing that Jesus gives us is His favor and forgiveness and His presence and His life and joy no matter what. The true gift is Jesus, not the bread.

ILLUSTRATION Dont Be A Stooge!: I'm reminded of a Three Stooges episode in which there was a scrum with bodies flying everywhere. They were wrestling over stacks of 50 dollar bills that were bound with rubber bands. So finally Curley comes out of the pile with the stacks of money and he takes off the rubber band off, looks at the stack of money, and then throws the money away and begins playing with the rubber band with glee and says; "mmmm good rubber!"

END ILLUSTRATION

That is what the crowds are doing by going after the bread and throwing out Jesus and the better gifts of Himself and His salvation.

Jesus goes on to say;

27 Do not work for the food that perishes, but (work)for the food that endures to eternal life,

WORKING FOR PERISHABLES

Question: What does "**work**" mean in this sentence?

ἐργάζομαι (ergazomai)

to acquire

You chased me 15 miles across a sea to acquire something that you can not even hold onto for more than 3 or 4 days. You are putting great effort to acquire things that do not last. Is that how you want to spend your life? Is that what you want to strive for when you could seek to acquire something that will not grow fuzz, turn gross and rot into nothing?

Instead seek to acquire that which will never rot or fade or be taken away. Seek to acquire eternal life. The Son can give you bread or eternal life. You get both from Him, but what do you cherish most? Do you cherish the things that Jesus gives you, or do you cherish the gift of Jesus Himself?

TO ETERNAL LIFE

One of the gifts that Jesus Christ God's Son will give you is eternal life. To get the bread you simply held out your hand. To get eternal life you must believe that Jesus Christ has come from heaven to save you from your sin. Jesus who will save you from sin calls himself the bread of life. And this bread of life is something;
which the Son of Man will give to you.

You don't have to manipulate Him or convince Him or write a winning essay to get this bread of life that leads to eternal life. He will give it to you if you desire this food MORE than the other food. Love THIS, MORE than THAT!

How do you know that Jesus Christ the Son of God will give you food for the soul that leads to eternal life? How do you know that you can trust Jesus is willing and able to deliver eternal life?

For on him God the Father has set his seal."

FOR THE FATHER SET HIS SEAL

“For” tells us the reason we should believe Jesus and work toward *for the food that endures to eternal life*. Turn things around and stop focusing on the Rye bread because The Father has set His seal on Jesus.

What does that mean? The seal is usually a reference to the Holy Spirit. For example in Revelation believers are sealed so that they are protected from harm. That seal is the presence of The Holy Spirit. Here are some other passages that show up the seal spoken of by Jesus is the Holy Spirit.

Ephesians 1:13

In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit,

Ephesians 4:30

And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.

Now listen to the prophecy in the Old Testament foretelling things about The Messiah long before Jesus appeared.

Isaiah 61

The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me,

because the LORD has anointed me

to bring good news to the poor;

he has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted,

to proclaim liberty to the captives,

So when Jesus said they should work for that which brings eternal life instead of full belly...and His appeal was given on the basis that ***For on him God the Father has set his seal*** He is pointing to Isaiah 61 telling us that The Holy Spirit affirms Him as God's Son . The Spirit of the Lord or the

seal of God is upon Jesus. And on that basis change your focus! The Messiah stands before you so change your focus.

Listen to the response of the crowds who came across a sea to get a free bread giveaway.

²⁸ Then they said to him, “What must we do, to be doing the works of God?” ²⁹ Jesus answered them, “This is the work of God, that you believe in him whom he has sent.”

THE WORK IS TO BELIEVE

Jesus says that this is the primary work that leads to life; believe in Him whom he has sent. In other words **believe Jesus** who was sent by the Father. What reason should they believe Him? Because on Him the Father has set His seal...on Him the Father has set His Spirit. And in cooperation with The Spirit Jesus has already performed several signs.

He turned the water into wine. He healed the crippled guy by the pool. And He made bread and fish multiply creating more bread and fish out of nothing. Did they believe Jesus and think back on all the signs Jesus has already performed?

³⁰ So they said to him, “Then what sign do you do, that we may see and believe you? What work do you perform? ³¹ Our fathers ate the manna in the wilderness; as it is written, ‘He gave them bread from heaven to eat.’”

Do you see what they are doing? They are purposely forgetting the signs Jesus has already done. “Just do one more miracle Jesus so that we can believe.” **“Just do the bread thing one more time!”** They are so fixated on the bread that they are trying to use Jesus and manipulate Him in order to get some more.

SUMMARY

TAKING IT HOME

- END 3/13 SERMON

ILLUSTRATION: At the concert at Stanley-Boyd High School the kids had a great time dancing. Then when he shared the gospel many were

indifferent. You could hear scoffing and impatience when the guy who put on an amazing concert proceeded to share that which was far more important and precious. After sharing the gospel to a silent and impatient crowd he said; “who wants some free stuff!” Everyone began yelling, shouting jumping up and down and going wild. Tee Shirts were thrown to the wildly enthusiastic crowds. Tee shirts and CDs were the like the bread to the crowds in front of Jesus. He was willing to give them something that would give them paradise and spare them from hell, but the crowds were fixated on CDs Tee Shirts and free sweet bread.

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³⁵ Jesus said to them, “I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in me shall 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 whoever comes to me I will never 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 And this is the will of him who sent me, that I should lose nothing of all that he has given me, but raise it up on the last day. ⁴⁰ For this is the will of my Father, that everyone who looks on the Son and believes in him should have eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day.”

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⁴¹ So the Jews grumbled about him, because he said, “I am the bread that came down from heaven.” ⁴² They said, “Is not this Jesus, the son of Joseph, whose father and mother we know? How does he now say, ‘I have come down from heaven’?” ⁴³ Jesus answered them, “Do not grumble among yourselves. ⁴⁴ No one can come to me unless the

Father who sent me draws him. And I will raise him up on the last day.
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