

The Gospel of John: *The Bread of Life*

John 6:22-71

The Search (v. 22-25)

- After the crowds realize that Jesus left the area, they travel back to Capernaum to find Him
 - He is in the Synagogue (v. 59)

Motive & Meaning (v. 26-34)

- Jesus calls out the crowd's motive: They want more free food
 - They experienced the miracle but missed its meaning
- He urges them to look past the temporal, material food to that which gives eternal life, which He can give
 - The sign points to His identity & ability to provide eternal life
- They think they need to work for eternal life
 - He tells them that faith in Him is the only prerequisite
- They ask for more proof but are really looking for more food like manna
 - They are looking for a new Moses; He is offering them God Himself

Heavenly Bread (v. 35-40)

- Jesus is the Bread that gives eternal life
 - He is the one God the Father has sent to provide for our spiritual hunger & thirst (4:10, 14; Isa 55:1-2)
- Despite the signs they've witnessed, some still refuse to believe in Him
- But those who put their faith in Jesus have eternal life, both now and at the resurrection
 - This is a divine promise centered on God's work, not ours

A Hard Teaching (v. 41-71)

- Some in the crowd know Jesus' family and find His claim to come from heaven hard to believe
- Jesus explains that to come to Him begins with God's initiative
 - Faith begins and ends with God
 - And we hear & see God through the person of Jesus
- Jesus offers Himself (on the Cross) to give life to the world (v. 51)
 - Thus, we must consume & be consumed by Jesus to have eternal life
- The imagery of flesh & blood is misunderstood by both the crowds & His disciples
 - Many take it literally
 - But Jesus explained its meaning before He uses the metaphor (v. 35)
 - To eat His body = to come to Him
 - To drink His blood = to believe in Him
 - 'Believe, and you have eaten' –St. Augustine of Hippo
- This misunderstanding causes some to abandon Jesus
 - Thus, demonstrating that they may not have been following with the right hearts/motives
- But the inner circle of disciples stays
 - They trust Jesus even when they don't understand (v. 68)
- Jesus explains that they have this faith because He chose them
 - Even though one of them will betray Him

So What?

- Jesus is the one who alone can offer us eternal life
- Have we put our faith in Him?
- Do we trust Him even when we don't understand?

Meditation Verse: John 6:35

Next Week's Scripture: John 7:1-52