

The Bread Sermon

(A Study of the Gospel of John; Message #19)

John 6:25-40

A. Bread is available everywhere. Bread is eaten daily

B. What bread is to hunger, Jesus claims to be for our soul

THE QUESTIONS

A. “*Rabbi, when did you get here?*” (i.e., *Where have you been?*) (6:25-27)

1. Jesus responds with a gentle but firm rebuke; their enthusiasm is self-serving
 - a. Jesus first lesson is to ask: “Why am I here?” “Why do I seek Jesus?”
 - b. Jesus says, “*Work hard, but focus on what is important!*”
 - 1) Don’t waste your time on things that moths and rust corrupt (Matt. 6:19f)
 - 2) In Luke 12:13-21; Jesus discourages working like the Rich Fool
 - 3) Jesus says, don’t work for food that spoils but for long-lasting food
2. Jesus longs for people to have a long, lasting, satisfying Life

B. “*What,*” they ask, “*should we be doing so we do the works of God?*” (6:28-29)

1. They’re only interested in what they have to do
2. Jesus answers their question by correcting their question
 - a. The subject is corrected: from what we need to do to what God does.
 - b. The direct object is corrected from the “works” to the “work” of God
 - c. Jesus corrects the verb from “*be doing*” to “*be trusting the Son*”

C. “*What are you going to do for us to prove your trustworthiness?*” (6:30-35)

1. They’re comparing Jesus to Moses: “*our forefathers ate manna in the desert!*”
2. Jesus corrects his questioners...
 - a. It wasn’t Moses who gave bread out of heaven to you
 - b. It was my Father who is giving real bread out of heaven to the whole world
3. Jesus consistently rejects all demands for proof as if to say, “*I am enough!*”

D. “*Lord, can you please give us this bread?*” (6:34-35)

1. Jesus isn’t just bread, he is THE Bread; He doesn't just sustain life, he IS Life
2. Jesus claims to be what human beings need and long for most
3. So how do we get it? Two things:
 - a. First, simply come, and then come again, and then again...
 - b. Second, simply trust

THE GRACE

A. Not only does the Father give his Son, he gives people faith in his Son

1. It is the Will of God (6:39) that this *whole group of people* given to Jesus will be divinely protected
2. It is the Will of God (6:40) that every *single individual* who comes to and trusts the Son will be given assurance of their lasting Life
3. It is the Will of God to raise them from the dead on the last day!

B. The “Son of Man” will give you this “Bread.” Call it a gift

1. Don’t call it easy. The cross was heavy; the blood real, the price extravagant
2. Call it what it is. Call it grace. Just believe

C. The Synoptics set the bar of discipleship high; John seems to place it low

1. Truth is...they are not that different
2. Both call disciples to give themselves to Jesus

ANOTHER SIMILARITY

A. There is another similarity between bread and Jesus: How it is made

1. Wheat grows, is cut down, winnowed, and ground into flour
 - a. The flour is kneaded, molded and passed through the fire
 - b. Bread become bread and is distributed
2. Jesus “*grew up as a small plant before Lord!*” (Isaiah 53:2)
 - a. Like wheat, he was cut down. Like chaff he was beaten

“*He was wounded for the wrong we did, he was crushed for the evil we did!*”
(Isaiah 53:5)

b. He passed through the fire of God’s anger because of our sin

“*The Lord has put on him the punishment for all the evil we have done.*” (Isaiah 53:6)

“*The Christ must suffer these things before he enters glory.*” (Luke 24:26)

B. We’re the distributors

THE BEGGAR

A. God packages the *Bread of Life* in the wrapper of a country carpenter and gives us the keys to the delivery truck

B. The carpenter did his part; hopefully, we soon learn to do ours