

Title: ~~What The Bread of Life~~ The One Who Believes has Eternal Life
Text: John 6:41-~~44~~ 51 IS Not This Jesus?

Take your Bibles, please, and open them to John chapter 6. John chapter 6 beginning with Vs 41. I encourage you to use your Bibles as we study the text this morning. There are, also, notes in your bulletin. Notes that will help you in understanding God's precious Word.

The Gospel of John is the Gospel that teaches the DIETY OF JESUS CHRIST. That Jesus is God in human flesh. As strange as that may seem. The only way that God could have effectly communicated with us is by becoming man. So God became a man in the person of Jesus Christ. And He did this so that we might know what he is like. Also, that God might accomplish in us what is totally impossible for us, on our own, to accomplish. And that is salvation for all eternity.

Now, the ^{Background to} ~~content~~ behind what we are going to read this morning is the ~~the~~ feeding of the 5 thousand. So, I trust you know that story. It is the background for our study this morning.

John chapter 6 beginning with Vs 41..(READ Vs 41- 51)

PRAYER

As we look through this teaching ~~to us~~ on the BREAD OF LIFE, we have already examined the circumstances that were involved in this strnge teaching that he unfolds about himself being the bread of life. Remember that they couldn't find Jesus. And he wasn't on the boat that had come from Tiberias. And so the disciples took boats over to Capernaum to see if they could find him. And Jesus told them, clearly, that they weren't seeking him because of the miracle that they had seen, ^{when He Fed the 5 Thousand} but because of the food that had felled their bellies. Then he instructed them to not labor, not work for the bread that perishes, but work for the bread that gives you everlasting life.

And then of course they wanted to work. So they said, "show us the work so that we can get that everlasting life."

And Jesus said, "this is the work. Just believe on Him ."

~~Then they seek him for a sign because they were critical about what he had done in feeding the 5 thousand and comparing it with what Moses had done in the wilderness.~~

Then they ask him for a sign because they were critical about what he had done in feeding the 5 thousand. And they were comparing it with what Moses had done in feeding the people in the wilderness. Because that manna came ever day. Except on Friday, when they got a two day supply. ~~And so~~

And so they didn't see it as a great miracle in contrast to what had taken place in the wilderness under the leadership of Moses.

So, Jesus goes on to tell them again in simple language about the bread.

(20) Now, beginning at Vs 41 we find the complaining of the Jews over two things.

() First of all, over his identity as the bread of life. That is the first thing. That is in verses 41 to 51.

() And then the second thing that they were complaining about was over his invitation to eat his flesh. And this was and is a very strange passage. And if you have not studied this passage, you probably felt a little funny in reading it. That Jesus would say that you must eat his flesh and drink his blood in order to have this everlasting life.

So, they complained over two things....

Now, I would like you to notice, please, down in verse 59 it appears that this is not the same crowd or group that was in the discussion in the first part of this 6th chapter. In Vs 59 we read that "these things He said in the synagogue, as He taught in Capernaum."

Now, in verse 41, which begins this section for today, ~~it~~ says, "The Jews therefore were grumbling about Him."

Now, ~~it~~ appears to be a break here. Because it wasn't the Jews that he was talking to merely, but a great crowd of people who were attending this miracle of the feeding of the 5 thousand. Whenever you find the little statement, in John especially, "the Jews"..It is usually referring to the Jewish leaders from Judah. As a matter of fact, if I were to translate that literally it would be 'JEW'di' a"...The Jews from Judah.

And yet, here he is up in Galilee. These are Jewish leaders who upon hearing of the miracle of the feeding of the 5 thousand have come up from Jerusalem to investigate this one who claims to have the bread of life.

And who would claim to contrast that with Moses and Manna in the wilderness.

So, this is a different setting then what you have in verses 30 to 40.

That was with the general crowd. But now, our discusses in Verse 41-71 is in the synagogue, in Capernaum.

So, these Jewish leaders where complaining over this teaching of Jesus.

(IF) Now, I would like you to notice, first of all, in their complaint over his identity the problem that they really faced. Verses 41 and 42.

They grumbled at him because he said , "I am the bread"....Now, in the construction of the Greek it is a very strong statement. "I AM THE BREAD" meaning "no one else but myself."

They grumbled because he said "I have come down from heaven." And they said, Vs 42, "Is not this Jesus, the son of Joseph, whose father and mother we know? How does He now say, 'I have come down out of heaven?'"

Now, if I told you, this morrow, I CAME DOWN FROM HEAVEN". You might look at me a little funny and say, "Boy, he believeas he is a gift from heaven."

But then I emphasesd it strongly..."I ACTURALLY CAME DOWN FROM HEAVEN." "AND I KNOW WHAT IT IS LIKE UP THERE."

AH..probable...the ~~A~~ seasons would meet after the service this ~~m~~orrowing. And they would probable call the men in the ~~white~~ ^{white} coats to look into this matter.

Do you realize what Jesus was saying? Do you realize what the Jewish leaders were facing? And that is a man, who was a Jew, who claimed to have been in heaven. Not going ^{To Heaven} ~~there~~. But who had already been there. And the big problem they faced is that they knew his parantage. They knew his background. He was the son of Joseph. His mother was Mary. We know those folks. They were carpentars in Nazareth.

The Bible says that they were grumbling or complaining. And that really got my attent;on. And I can't help but remaind you of how often the N.T. is simplyely pulling out O.T. truths and expanding on them. Here is a case in point.

The whole problem, here, dealt with Moses and the manna in the wilderness Vs Christ saying "He is the bread of life."

And I find the Jews grumbling here. And isn't it interesting to read in the O.T. that they were grumbling, also, about that manna. And in the Septuagint (which is the Greek translation of the O.T.) it uses exactly the same word that is used here in John 6.

The Jews are still grumbling today just as they did in Jesus' day. They grumbled in the days of Jesus just as they did in the days of Moses. They hadn't changed.

And if you are not Jewish, you look at that and say, "Isn't that terrible. Isn't that awful that they grumbled so much."

Well, you turn over to I Corinthians chapter 10, please. I Corinthians chapter 10. It was not just those Jews or those leaders that grumbled and complained. The Bible warns us that it is a problem every believer. And it even used this story of John 6 to admonish us.

In 1 Corinthians 10 verse 10 we read ..(Read Vs 10-13)

Now, the Bible warns us not to complain in the same way, Not to grumble in the same way.

Now, back to John 6. What was their real problem? What were they grumbling against? They were grumbling in the O.T. because they didn't know what that manna was. If you know their story, when they first got the manna they called it: "WHAT IS IT?" That is the name of that bread. The word "manna" means "What is it?" They grumbled about the identity of the manna.

And in John 6 they grumbled about the identity of Jesus.

And just ~~the~~ week a man grumbled to me about the identity of Jesus in the Bible. This man said to me that when I talk about Jesus I am talking as if he were God."

I said, "Right on"...."I am glad that you got the point." Dear friends, I am not going to back down on that. Jesus is God. No two ways about it.

So many people want to water down Jesus. They don't want to believe that he is God. Friends, the identity of Christ is the issue.

I firmly believe that this is the number one issue today.

Now, a few years ago it was the Bible. People would argue over the authority of the Bible. It is still an issue. And in every age in church history there has been an issue.

But I find it fascinating that the Bible predicts that in the days preceding the coming of the Anti-Christ, that the real issue will be a denial of the deity of Jesus Christ.

People are still complaining..still grumbling over the true identity of Jesus. Well, make no mistake about it. You, who love the Bible, are going to look through this section and say, "Boy, these truths are precious to me. I have heard them before. And they seem so simple."

But, listen, they are important. And ~~don't~~ you ever water them down. Don't you ever try and play with these principles in your own interpretation? You take what Jesus said. And you take it literally. He is God. The true God. And they understood him. They knew that he was indicating Divine origin. And he was coming into the world to reveal God, the heavenly Father.

(2nd) The second thing that I want you to notice ^{in their complaint} is the proof that Jesus gives.

Vs 43 to 46. The proof that Jesus gives.

Vs 43.."Jesus answered and said to them, "Do not grumble among yourselves. No one can come to me"

Now, watch this carefully. They are grumbling about his identity. And notice what he says...

"No one can come to me, unless the Father who sent me draws him."

Now, what is the issue? Be careful that you take this in context.

The issue is HIS TRUE IDENTITY...

So, when he says that "no one can come to me," in the sense of coming to me to accept my true identity of which they were grumbling about...No one can come and accept the true identity of Christ unless the Father, who has sent me, draws him; "and I will raise him up on the last day."

I will even perform resurrection.

Vs 45.."It is written in the prophets, 'And THEY SHALL ALL BE TAUGHT OF GOD.' Every one who has heard and learned from the Father, comes to me."

In other words, if you don't accept the true identity of Christ, you have never heard and learned of the Father.

Vs 46.. "Not that any man has seen the Father." NO ONE HAS SEEN GOD. That is not what we mean. "Except the One who is from God; He has seen the Father." And that would be Christ.

Now, what is the point here? The point is that we are totally incapable and unable to come to Jesus. Because morally he can not. It takes God's power to bring a person to Jesus and accept him for what he really is.

You say, "well, I am having a difficult time accepting Jesus as God incarnate in human flesh." I find people all the time struggling with this issue. And I am not saying this simple to repeat myself. But I am saying it because it is true. People all the time are telling me of this problem.

And you may be here today listening to what I am saying. And you maybe struggling with this. And you say, "Hay! I can't accept that."

I am telling you that the Bible teaches that no one can possible accept it,, EXCEPT THE FATHER, HIMSELF, DRAWS HIM.

Don't you understand? It is the power of God that saves me.

YOU say, "Well, I am struggle with this." Of course your are..Every person struggles with this. But it is God's power that finally saves you. Not his own desire.

Dear Friends, we need to fall at the mercy and power of God. We need to ~~do~~ as one dear man that I heard of, ^{WHO} trusted Jesus on his own. He said to God... "God I just ^{need} you. I don't know if I can believe this or not. But I am asking you, right now, I want you so bad, just reveal your son to me."

Listen, joy came into his heart...peace came over his life...and he immediately sensed that he had the saviour ~~WHY~~ as his own.

WHY? Because he was willing to say to God.. "I just can't seem to understand this salavation thing, but, I am willing to let go and fall on my knees before an almighty God and say, "God whatever the truth, I want to know it." I want to know it. And plead the mercy of God.

Dear friends, God want to show you the truth more than you want to receive it. He really does . ~~it~~ is a fantastice thing. *(Handwritten signature)*

I want to ask you a question. "What does it mean to be drawn by the Father? That is an important point in that text. What does it mean to be drawn by the Heavenly Father?" What is going to happen? Does that mean that an usher is going to come down and grasp you? Unh? You say, "Well the father is showing this to me."

What does it mean to be drawn by the Father? How would you know? Suppose you are seating here right now, How would I know when I am being drawn by the heavenly Father?

Well, all we can do is go to the Bible and see what we have.

Now, again referring to the Septuagint, that is the Greek O.T. The reason we do that is because the N.T. is Greek, if I want to find out how these words are used in the O.T. I have to look at the Greek to make sure it is the same word. So, I found this word in two interesting places.

For example in Song of Solomon chapter 1 verse 4, the great love book in the Bible, Song of Solomon chapter 1 verse 4. The woman is talking, that wonderful story. That sho-a-night woman, Solomon's one and only. The other 9 hundred and 99 God didn't want him to have. But his one and only was a woman by the name of (BY" shage.)

And she says here in Vs 4 "Draw me after you"

And it is the same word that I find here in John 6. And the whole issue there in Song of Solomon is God's Love...LOVE.. DRAW ME AFTER YOU....

It is God's love. God's love draws a person after him.

So, I learn something about the drawing power of God. It is based on his love.

The same thing is found over in Jeremias 31:3 where it says that I "have loved you with an everlasting love". And the last part of the verse says "Therefore I have drawn you with lovingkindness". And it is the ^{same} ~~say~~ word that is used here in John 6.

So, God with lovingkindness, with his great love, is drawing you. He loves you no matter what you have done. And you sit there asking questions about the identity of ~~the~~ Christ when he is saying..."I love and I will forgive your sins. And I want to give you eternal life. "

He is drawing you by his own love. That is not all. When I come to the N.T. I find some interesting usages of the word.

I would like you to turn to John 21. John chapter 21 verse 6..This is the story of Jesus appearing to His discples after the resurrection.

Vs 6 says .."And He said to them, "Cast the neet on the right=hand side of the boat, and you will find a catch." They cast therefore and then they were not able to haul it in because of the greata number of fish."

The word "haul it in" is the same word "^{DRAWN of The Father}~~drawing you~~" in John 6.

Look at Vs 11.."Simon Peter went up, and drew the net to land." Same ~~w~~ word, used in John 6 of the F~~a~~ther drawing all men to Jesus.

Then I was really amazed when I looked over at John 18. Turn back, please, to John 18. Do you remember in the garden when Jesus was praying and then Judas had betrayed him and this band of Roman soldiers came to arrest him, and Peter got a little excited. And he wanted to help Jesus.

Vs 10 of John 18 says "Simon Peter therefore having a sword, drew it." That is the same word "the Father drawing us unto him.'

We are not done yet. Turn to Acts 16 verse 19. Acts 16 verse 19... This is the story of Paul and Silas in the city of Philippi. And there was a slave girl in the city that had an evil spirit. And the master of this slave girl was was using her to make money because she could predict the future. Well, Paul cast out the evil demon and these guys lost their profits.

Now, notice Vs 19.."But when her masters saw that their hope of profit was gone, they seized Paul and Silas"....NOW, WATCH THIS..."and dragged them into the market place before the authorities."

Quess what? The word "dragged" is our word in John 6 "drawed"...

Now, I don't believe that these gentlemen walked up to Paul and Silas and taped them on the shouldier and said.."Would you guys plaeae come with us?"

When you read the word "dragged" what does it mean to you? It means they caught Paul and Silas and pulled..dragged..forced them into the market place.

Same word.....When Peter drew out that sword, do you think he took the time to gentle pull it from its cover? YOU KNOW...."Hold it there..don't move while I get my sword out"....

NO! He wiped that sword out and cut that ear off...

Stay with me. You are going to be amazed! Chapter 21 of Acts Verse 30. Acts 21 verse 30..."And all the city was aroused, and the people rushed together; and taking hold of Paul, they dragged (there is our word) they dragged him out of the temple; and immediately the doors were shut."

Now, again, they were not tapping him on the shoulder and asking him if he would like to go. They grapped him. The word means "to grap violently by force". SAME WROD IN JOHN CHAPTER 6.

One more. In James chapter 2 verse 6. James 2 verse 6...I hope you are getting the full impack of what it means when God draws you to Jesus.

James 2:6.. speaking about the assemble of believers and how christians often make the mistake of treating one man better than another because they think he is more important or has more money.

James 2:6...But you have dishonored the poor man. Is it not the rich who oppress you and personally drag you into court?"

Now, when you go to court you are on trail. They don't ask if you would like to go. You know, "Hay, it would really be nice if you could attend." OH, NO...YOU GO. There is no questions ask. When you are told to appear in court, you had better appear.

NOW, WHY AM I SAYING ALL OF THIS? Because I believe that many of us are not trusting God, We are trusting ourselves. And I don't believe you understand the full force of God's power.

Listen, when God gets ready to get awhile of you, friend, you are going to get saved. Did you know that? You are going to be saved.

A man says.."Well, not me brother. I am not going to walk down that isle and make some profession of faith. Not me."

Listen, all I have to tell you is.. "that all that the Father has given to Jesus will come to him,..."

And you are going to come to him. If God wants you to be saved, you are going to be.

You say,.. "Oh, No..Not me..I will resist." GO AHEAD ANDS TRY...Just watch what happens.

And isn't it great to know that the motive behind it all is God's great love.....With loving kindness have I drawn you...HOW? By tapping you on the shoulder? NO WAY!...By grasping you and dragging you before the courtroom, as it were. By taking you by force. His love just overwhelming you. Saying..."I love you no matter what you do. I want you. I love you so much." "I want to give you what you don't deserve."

So, don't ^{sit} stand there emphasizing your importance before God. No Way... God never accepted anybody because they were important.

Don't sit there saying, "I can't come to Jesus because of all my sin." God always accepts people no matter what their sin might be. He accept them anyway. Because his love is much ~~by~~ greater than any of our sin.

GOD'S LOVE DREWS PEOPLE TO CHRIST.

F Now, ^{LOOKS at VS 46} come back to John chapter 6.... In Verse 46 it is clear that he means that this isn't done directly with the individual.

Vs 46..."Not that any man has seen the Father".... The heavenly Father is not going to come down to you directly. He is doing it through another agency. WHAT IS IT? It is through His WORD....

Vs 45..."And they shall all be taught of God. Every one who has heard and learned from the Father, comes to me."

By the way, he quotes from the O.T. in Vs 45. He quotes from Isaiah 54 verse 13, if you would like to look it up later. Isaiah 54:13.

You say, "It sounds like all will be taught by God." Every single last man, woman, and child.

If you will read that text carefully, it is only God's children who are the "all". Who are the all that will come to God? Only those who are God's children. Only the ones who the Father has given to Christ will come to him.

But, you see, in Vs 46 this is clear that this isn't don't individually. The Faither doesn't come to you in the sense of manifesting himself visable. He is doing it through the Word of God. And the more word of God you hear, the more Word that starts getting into your life, you are going to experience the drawing power of God's love for you.

Don't go on hear say, dear friends. Find out what The Word of God says....And you will experience the drawing power of God's love for you.

~~And if you hear God's Word, respond to it. It is God's love drawing you to himself.....~~

~~Shall we close in prayer.~~

(2E) Secondly

(3) Now, third, Vs 47, notice the provision for eternal life. And John states three important facts about God's provision of eternal life. Three facts. And I want you to understand each one of them.

(1F) Number one, he states a condition for receiving the Word. If you want to receive the word, watch the Father's power draw you to christ. But there is a condition. Vs 47.. "He who believes has eternal life." Literally.. "the one believing". The one constantly trusting Jesus has eternal life. You see, the ~~Fathers~~ ^{FATHER} way is through Jesus.

Jesus said, "I am the way the truth and the life. And one one comes to the Father except through me."

"He who is believing on me"..is having the eternal life.

(2) Secondly, notice the character of that bread. It is emphased again in two ways here.

(1C) First, as to source..Vs 48..."I am the bread of life. Your fathers ate the manna in the wilderness and they died. This is the bread which came down out of heaven". You have got to take this bread in order to have eternal life. And the source is that it is coming down from heaven. It has a heavenly origin.

(2C) And he also emphasizes the sacrifice that is involved. Vs 51.."I am the living bread that came down out of heaven; if any one eats of this bread, he shall live forever; and the bread also which I shall give for the life of the world is my flesh."

He is talking, there about the cross. "I shall give my flesh for the life of the world." Involved in the character of that bread that God says you must have in order to live forever, it comes from heaven. It has a heavenly sources. And when you are born again, you are born from above. It is a heavenly birth. It is a spiritual birth in comparison to a physical birth. But, it also involved the sacrifice of Christ. Jesus has to go to the cross to die for our sins. In order for us to have eternal life.

I am always ask the question: "Why Pastor, was it necessary for Jesus to die? Why couldn't God just let us come into heaven? Why did he have to die?"

Because the one thing that is standing in the way is your sin and mine. Whether you have committed one sin or a thousand, the penalty is death. It is death. "The soul that sinneth must die."

Jesus had to substitute himself at the cross. He had to die the death that we should have died, in order that we can live the life that we don't deserve to live. He had to substitute his life and pay for our sins. We can never pay for our own sins.

You say, "Well, if I die, don't I pay for my own sins?" OH NO... You have missed the point, if that is the way you understand it.

Because you see, you deserve to die. There is no way that your own death can substitute because you are getting exactly what you deserve.

Now, the death of one sinful man could have been substituted for another sinful man. But only God in human flesh could have substituted his infinite life for the sins of the whole world. Only God could have done that.

That is another reason why you must believe that Jesus was God in human flesh. It is the only way that he could have died for you and me in the 20th Century.

(3) And the third thing he mentions, here, ^{is} the consequences. Because his remarks are very clear. You can't miss them. In vs 49 he says - "the fathers ate manna in the wilderness and they are dead -

and vs 50 - if a person eats of the bread that I give shall never die. There ~~is~~^{is} consequence - death - spiritual -

We shall all die - But if we know Jesus, if we believe on him - we shall not face the second death - spiritual death - but we shall live forever. Everlasting Life

Shall we close in Prayer.