

## Jesus, the Bread of Life

*John 6:35-40*

**Thought for the Day:** As food is necessary for physical life, so Jesus is essential for spiritual life. When we place our faith in Him to be the Savior of our soul, He gives us the gift of eternal life. Because Jesus is God, we can trust His promises that He will never lose us nor cast us out of His presence forever.

John 6 is one of the most important chapters in the Gospel of John. It is important because it clearly reveals to us: 1) Who Jesus Christ is; 2) Why He came to planet earth; and 3) What we must do in order to receive God's gift of eternal life through faith in Him. Our eternal destiny depends on what we do with the truths that are presented in this chapter!

### **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."**

- (Cp. verses 32-33). Bread is considered to be a food staple. It is so essential that we often use the word "bread" to refer to food, in general.
- Obviously, Jesus is not talking here about physical food; He's talking about the spiritual food that provides spiritual life.
- Jesus is claiming that He is the source of spiritual life for the whole world. (Cp. John 14:6)
  - He alone can satisfy our spiritual hunger and thirst—the deepest needs of our life.
  - He alone is the way to God the Father—all others who make such claims are false prophets.
  - He alone is the source of eternal life for everyone in the world—no one will find eternal life apart from Him.
- Jesus is also claiming that everyone who comes to Him, everyone who places their faith in Him, will receive this life, this spiritual nourishment, that He offers.
- Jesus' claim to be the bread of life is the first of seven "I am..." declarations in John.
  - John included seven "signs" (miracles) in His Gospel to convince us that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God. (John 20:30-31)
  - John included the seven "I am" declarations made by Jesus to convince us that Jesus is the I AM of Exodus 3:14—Jesus is Yahweh, Jehovah God of the Old Testament.

### **36 But I said to you that you have seen me and yet do not believe.**

- Jesus' listeners had seen and experienced His miracles and heard His messages, but all they could focus on was the physical food He had provided!
- They were not yet willing to trust in Him as the Messiah, the Son of God; they were not yet ready to accept His provision of eternal life.

### **37 All that the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never cast out.**

- In this one verse of Scripture we see both Divine Sovereignty and Human Responsibility in the matter of our salvation. But above all, we see the Eternal Security of those who believe in Jesus Christ for salvation.
- Divine Sovereignty: In eternity past, before the creation of the universe, God sovereignly chose those who would be His for all eternity. (Ephesians 1:3-6)

- Human Responsibility: "Whoever comes to me" is an open invitation to the whole world to come to Jesus for salvation. (Revelation 22:17; John 3:16)
- Eternal Security: "All that the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never cast out." (Philippians 1:6; Romans 8:28-30; Hebrews 12:2; 2 Peter 3:9)
- "This verse is very important because it states in a few words two of the most important teachings in the Bible. The first is that God has given certain ones to Christ and that **all** those whom He has given will be saved. The other is the teaching of man's responsibility. In order to be saved, a man must come to the Lord Jesus and accept Him by faith. God does choose some people to be saved, but the Bible never teaches that He chooses some to be damned. If anyone is saved, it is because of the free grace of God. But if anyone perishes forever, it is his own fault. All men are condemned by their own sinfulness and wickedness. If all men went to hell, they would be receiving only what they deserve. In grace, God stoops down and saves individual people out of the great mass of humanity. Does He have the right to do this? He certainly does. God can do as He chooses, and no man can deny Him this right. We know that God will never do anything that is wrong or unjust."

"But just as the Bible teaches that God has elected certain persons to salvation, it also teaches that man is responsible to accept the gospel. God makes a universal offer—that if a man will believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, he will be saved. God does not save men against their will. A person must come to Him in repentance and faith. Then God will save him. No one who comes to God through Christ will be **cast out.**"

"The human mind cannot reconcile these two teachings; [they are an antinomy]. However, we should believe them even if we cannot understand them. They are Biblical teachings and are clearly stated here." (*MacDonald, pp. 1461-62*)

### **38 For I have come down from heaven, not to do my own will but the will of him who sent me.**

- "Jesus did not work independently of God the Father, but in union with him. This should give us even more assurance of being welcomed into God's presence and being protected by him. All who respond positively to God's call can be assured of his protection. This protection covers them in this life and for eternity. Our spiritual hunger and thirst are satisfied in this life, and we know in the future that we will be raised from the dead to live with Jesus forever." (*The Life Application Commentary Series*)

### **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."**

How firm a foundation, ye saints of the Lord,  
Is laid for your faith in His excellent Word!  
What more can He say than to you He hath said,  
To you who for refuge to Jesus have fled?

The soul that on Jesus hath leaned for repose  
I will not, I will not desert to his foes;  
That soul, tho' all hell should endeavor to shake,  
I'll never, no never, no never forsake. (*John Rippon*)

- John 10:27-29