

# The Bread of God

*John 6:22-34*

**Thought for the Day:** Jesus Christ is God's provision for eternal life to all who believe in Him as Savior and Lord.

In John 6, Jesus presents Himself as the Bread of God that gives eternal life to those who place their faith in Him as Savior and Lord. The foundation for this claim is laid in 6:1-15 with the miraculous Feeding of the Five Thousand. This miracle is followed by a second miracle, Jesus and Peter walking on the water in John 6:16-21 (Cp. Matt. 14 and Mark 6).

In John 6:22-34, Jesus presents Himself as the Bread of God. And in 6:35-59, Jesus makes the claim that He is the Bread of Life that gives eternal life to all who place their faith in Him.

## **22 On the next day...**

- The events and conversations recorded in John 6:22-59 took place on the day following:  
1) The miracle of the Feeding of the 5,000; and 2) The miracle of Jesus and Peter walking on the water of the Sea of Galilee.

**...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 were gone, and their "free meal ticket" was nowhere to be found!

**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.**

- They went in search of Jesus and found Him in the synagogue in Capernaum (vs. 59).

**25 When they found him on the other side of the sea, they said to him, "Rabbi, when did you come here?"**

- Jesus ignored their question and immediately addressed their motivation for seeking Him.

**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.**

- They weren't motivated by the miraculous signs He was performing, they were motivated by the prospect of free food!
- In addition to the Feeding of the 5,000, Jesus had performed many other miracles throughout Galilee. These should have convinced them that He was the prophesied Messiah of the Hebrew Scriptures, but that was of no apparent interest to them.

**27 Do not labor for the food that perishes, but for the food that endures to eternal life, which the Son of Man will give to you.**

- Jesus is speaking here, as He often did, to the issue of priorities: Physical vs. spiritual.
- We need physical food in order to maintain our physical life, and Scripture is very clear that we need to work in order to earn a living. (Prov. 21:25-26; 2 Thess. 3:10)
- Just as we need physical food for physical life, so we need the Word of God (both living—Jesus, and written—the Bible) for spiritual life. (Matthew 4:4)

- Just like the physical food that fed these people the day before, Jesus, the Son of Man—God in human flesh—is the Source of the spiritual food that will give us eternal life.

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

- God the Father has placed His seal of approval on Jesus, His Person and Work. (Matthew 3:17; 17:5).

**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."**

- They didn't ask, "What is this food that produces eternal life?" Rather, they asked, "What kind of works do we have to do in order to earn this food from God?"
- Note "works" (plural) vs. "work" (singular).
  - There is only one work of God that is pleasing to Him with regard to salvation: We must place our faith in Jesus Christ, and this must be the continuous, settled disposition of our heart—we are trusting in Him alone for our eternal salvation.
- The idea is deeply engrained in the heart of man: That eternal life, salvation, must be earned; it must be deserved; we must work to earn our way to heaven.
  - It takes a special work of God in our hearts and minds to accept the idea that salvation is a free gift; there is absolutely nothing we can do to earn or deserve it!
  - Because of sin, we have to work hard to earn our physical food; that is God's established order since the Fall of Man. (Genesis 3:17-19)
  - People transfer that idea to the notion of spiritual food—we must work to earn it.
  - Here is the great stumbling block for so many people: "The only 'work' that a man can do that is acceptable to God is to believe in Christ." (*Ryrie Study Bible, p. 1611*)

**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.'"**

- Jesus had already performed a number of signs and miracles that they had witnessed, most recently, the Feeding of the Five Thousand.
- It's not that they hadn't seen plenty of evidence that He was the Messiah, the Son of God. It's that they wanted Him to provide them with free food on a daily basis.

**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."**

- Jesus identifies Himself as the "bread of God...who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world." (Cp. John 5:26; 3:16)
- What they (and we) must do to receive that bread is believe in Him. (Cp. John 6:29)

**34 They said to him, "Sir, give us this bread always."**

- They were not asking for the gift of eternal life; they were asking for an endless supply of physical food so they would have more time to pursue their selfish, sinful pleasures!
- What do we want from Jesus? Why?