

Week 15

TRUE BREAD

John 6:22-25

A new day and the crowd who had been fed are looking for Jesus. They are ready for breakfast and they were going to follow Him wherever He went.

There had been around 20,000 in that crowd the day before so we don't know how many now got into boats and rowed across the water to Capernaum but it was a crowd.

They were truly puzzled about how and when He went to Capernaum but He drilled down to the truth, as usual. They wanted to find out what else He could do for them.

V26

They did not realize what had been revealed to them, He said, you are so focused on the material blessings provided you have not seen the truth.

Jesus always sees the heart; He knows secret motives of all who profess Christianity.

V27

This is a remarkable statement, let's look at it. First and foremost it is not meant to promote laziness. Labor for food was appointed to man in the Garden of Eden, labor is honorable. Jesus Himself was a carpenter before beginning His ministry. Jesus is warning us to not be focused on the things of the world as we labor, to not work to get stuff, only giving attention to the things of the world.

What does it mean to labor for food for our souls? We must read our bibles like people digging for treasure. Go wholeheartedly to church on Sunday; fight daily against sin, the world and the devil, like those fighting a war. And Jesus promises God will fill our hungry souls, when we are hungry for Him.

Their question is; what does God require?

V29

Now Jesus will give a discourse on what God requires. They missed the point of Jesus' words about how He would give the food that lasts; they wanted to know what they had to do. Notice the question is typical; what are we to do, doing was their idea of the way to heaven. They wanted to know what they could do to establish their own righteousness. The work we are to do to please God, as plainly stated by Jesus, is to have faith, to believe in Jesus and all He has to tell us about Himself.

What does it mean to have faith, to believe in Jesus? The bible definition of faith is found in Hebrews 11:1 "Faith is the confidence that what we hope for will actually happen; it gives us assurance about things we cannot see". NLT. The NASB says "Faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things unseen". In other words to have faith in Jesus is to have confidence in what He has told us about Himself and to trust that His finished work on the cross is what is needed for eternal life.

Many who sincerely seek God wonder what He wants them to do. The religions of the world have many answers to this question, but Jesus answer was brief and simple: believe in him whom God has sent. Satisfying God does not come from the work we do, but from having faith in Him.

Jesus corrected them; they got it wrong, their commentaries got it wrong, God gave the manna not Moses and even that was not true bread that results in eternal life. The true bread was Jesus, it was not physical, it is spiritual.

The phrase "true bread" is by comparison to the bread that is temporal. The manna was real true food for the body, but it could not benefit the soul. Christ was the true spiritual food of which manna was a type.

Another way of saying this is "the Bread of God is that bread which comes down from heaven". Because He does not reveal here that He is the bread, which is in keeping with the gradually unfolding truth which He is giving them. Bread of God seems to be the same thing as "the true bread".

"Gives life to the world", shows a contrast between the manna and the true bread. The manna fed the hunger of the 12 tribes of Israel. The bread of God was for the whole world and provided eternal life for every member of the human race who would take it.

V33

The present tense here should be noticed; it seems to say “What Moses could not give you, the true bread which feeds the soul, my Father does give you and is actually giving you at this moment”. This word “giving” means the sense of offering that for acceptance which may not be received. It is remarkable to consider that Christ is God’s gift to the whole world that His redemption was made for all mankind that He died for all, and is offered to all. It is a gift, which is “thrown out” like so many gifts of God and is profitable to none but

V34

This reminds me of the Samaritan woman, “give me this living water”. It seems like there was an idea that something wonderful was being offered but the mind of most was on the temporal not the spiritual.

V35

Another I AM statement saying in essence “I the LORD GOD am here to provide you with everything you need for your spiritual life”

Christ is given by God to be the Satisfier, the Reliever of man’s spiritual need. The soul of every man is naturally starving because of sin. In Jesus alone, in Him and His atoning death, in Him and His grace love and power, will empty souls find fulfillment. In Jesus there is life, He is the Bread of Life.

V39

All who come to Jesus in sincere belief can be assured of God’s promise of eternal life. You cannot lose your salvation; these are the words of the One Who provides your salvation. This is called eternal security; we will see it in several places in John’s gospel.

This explains the will of God concerning the Son’s mission into the world. He would receive all and lose none, that anyone might come to Him and no comer would be lost. True believers may fail in many ways but they shall never be cast away. The will of God the Father and the power of God the Son preserves to eternal life.

V42

They thought they knew who His parents were but they didn't bother to investigate, which always amazes me. Remember a couple weeks ago we discussed the virgin birth at length and the promise from Isaiah 7:14 "Behold a virgin shall conceive and bear a Son and shall call His name Immanuel". They assumed He was Joseph's son. He had some amazing powers and did some wonderful things but they were offended by Him. I think it had a lot to do with His low social status. They were prepared to accept a King but a lowly, suffering Messiah was not in their plans.

V43-44

Here I quote J.C.Ryle restatement of Jesus words. You are murmuring among yourselves because I speak of coming down from heaven; and you are making my apparently low origin an excuse for not believing on Me. But all the time the fault is not in my sayings, but in your lack of grace and your unbelief. There is a deeper truth here to which you seem totally blind and that is, man's need of God's grace in order to believe on Me. You are never likely to believe until you acknowledge your own corruption, and ask for grace to draw your souls to me. Your unbelief and murmuring do not discourage Me".

Jesus did not mean to excuse the unbelief of His hearers; He desired to show them their danger and guilt and to make them see that faith in Messiah was not such an easy thing as they had thought it would be.

Friend, if you say you can't believe in Jesus then are you prepared to admit your own sin and lack of faith and ask God to give you the faith to believe? Is God drawing you right now to Jesus and your pride will not allow you to admit you need a Savior? Most would rather believe that their salvation is in their own power, if they just do enough good things. How much is enough?

Jesus has done everything necessary to supply your salvation; will you accept this free gift?

V45

This they should have known. It means that all who are willing, who humble themselves and surrender to God will be taught by Him. That is why I always pray for God to teach us, He knows what He wants us to learn. He wrote the Bible, He is the best Teacher.

V46

This verse almost seems like a parenthesis. The Father is the eternal God Who no one can see, or has seen. The teaching is that inward teaching of the heart which the Father gives by His Spirit. I hope you are experiencing that as we study together.