

# **Eternal Life Through Believing in Jesus**

## **18) Bread of Life**

*'On the following day, when the people who were standing on the other side of the sea saw that there was no other boat there, except that one which His disciples had entered, and that Jesus had not entered the boat with His disciples, but His disciples had gone away alone — however, other boats came from Tiberias, near the place where they ate bread after the Lord had given thanks — when the people therefore saw that Jesus was not there, nor His disciples, they also got into boats and came to Capernaum, seeking Jesus. And when they found Him on the other side of the sea, they said to Him, "Rabbi, when did You come here?"'*

**(John 6:22-25)**

*'Jesus answered them and said, "Most assuredly, I say to you, you seek Me, not because you saw the signs, but because you ate of the loaves and were filled. Do not labor for the food which perishes, but for the food which endures to everlasting life, which the Son of Man will give you, because God the Father has set His seal on Him"'*  
**(John 6:26-27)**

**Jesus did not respond to their question but, as with Nicodemus and the woman at the well, got straight to the root of their problem**

- ✓ They followed Him because of the signs, but didn't get the significance of the sign. The kind of Saviour they wanted was one who could do miracles to liberate them from the Romans
- ✓ They also followed Him because they were fed
- ✓ But Jesus told them not to labour for the bread that perishes but for living bread that endures eternally. The bread He gives can do what ordinary bread cannot - give spiritual life, nourish the soul and even impact the body
- ✓ He was not teaching salvation by works (labour) as the phrase '*the Son of Man will give you*' indicates. Only He can give this, and He has been sealed by the Father. A seal guaranteed authenticity and ownership

***'Then they said to Him, "What shall we do, that we may work the works of God?" Jesus answered and said to them, "This is the work of God, that you believe in Him whom He sent"'***  
**(John 6:28-29)**

- ✓ **There was a belief amongst the Jews that there were 3 types of people – the good, the bad and those in between. Those in the middle could progress to the top group by performing certain works**
- ✓ **Jesus made the contrast between 'works' and 'work'. They thought of many different observances and deeds. He gathers them all up into one – faith in Him**

- ✓ **Grace does not incur a debt. If it is by works, God is indebted to us and we have reason to boast and rob Him of His glory!**
- ✓ **The meat that endures to everlasting life is *given* to us by the Son of Man (v.27)**
- ✓ **But the carnal mind, which is enmity against God, is too proud to accept the gift and tries to earn it. *E.g. 'Good Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life' (Luke 18:18). 'Men and brethren, what shall we do?' (Acts 2:37). 'Sirs, what must I do to be saved?' (Acts 16:30). 'Make me like one of your hired servants' (Luke 15:19)***
- ✓ **Jesus answered. 'Do nothing. Only believe'. Accept the work already done — that's why it's called 'the finished work of Christ'**

***'Therefore they said to Him, "What sign will You perform then, that we may see it and believe You? What work will You do? Our fathers ate the manna in the desert; as it is written, 'He gave them bread from heaven to eat.'" Then Jesus said to them, "Most assuredly, I say to you, Moses did not give you the bread from heaven, but My Father gives you the true bread from heaven. For the bread of God is He who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world"' (John 6:30-33)***

- ✓ ***'Show us your credentials. Don't say the feeding of 5,000 because Moses did greater than this'***
- ✓ ***Jesus answered: 1) It was not Moses, but God; 2) That bread was just a symbol of the living bread which only He could give. Even those in the wilderness despised the manna in the end***

*'Then they said to Him, "Lord, give us this bread always." And Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life. He who comes to Me shall never hunger, and he who believes in Me shall never thirst. But I said to you that you have seen Me and yet do not believe'*  
**(John 6:34-36)**

- ✓ **This is the first of the seven 'I am's' in John**
- ✓ **The bread Jesus offers is Himself, in whom is everything we really need**
- ✓ **Without Him we may exist, but not live. Bread can give physical nourishment; Jesus gives life**
- ✓ **They will always hunger for real life, always be chasing something. When we meet Him, that hunger is ended**



***'All that the Father gives Me will come to Me, and the one who comes to Me I will by no means cast out. For I have come down from heaven, not to do My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me. This is the will of the Father who sent Me, that of all He has given Me I should lose nothing, but should raise it up at the last day. And this is the will of Him who sent Me, that everyone who sees the Son and believes in Him may have everlasting life; and I will raise him up at the last day''***

**(John 6:37-40)**

**Jesus speaks of those who come to Him as being given by the Father**

**There is nothing random or 'hit and miss' about salvation. The Father brings these to Christ by invitation through the Word and the Spirit**

## **Seven times in John 17 Jesus speaks of those the Father gave to Him**

***'...You have given Him authority over all flesh, that He should give eternal life to as many as You have given Him'***

**(Jn.17:2)**

***'I have manifested Your name to the men whom You have given Me out of the world. They were Yours, You gave them to Me...'***

**(Jn.17:6)**

***'I pray for them. I do not pray for the world but for those whom You have given Me, for they are Yours'***

**(Jn.17:9)**

***'Holy Father, keep through Your name those whom You have given Me, that they may be one as We are'***

**(Jn.17:11)**

***'While I was with them in the world, I kept them in Your name. Those whom You gave Me I have kept'***

**(Jn.17:12)**

***'Father, I desire that they also whom You gave Me may be with Me where I am, that they may behold My glory which You have given Me; for You loved Me before the foundation of the world'***

**(Jn.17:24)**

## See also

*'...just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world'*  
**(Eph.1:4)**

*'But we are bound to give thanks to God always for you, brethren beloved by the Lord, because God from the beginning chose you for salvation through sanctification by the Spirit and belief in the truth'*  
**(2 Thes.2:13)**

**In verse 36 Jesus said to some 'you have seen  
Me and do not believe'**

**Was He discouraged? No. Because, 'all that the  
Father gives me shall come to me'**

**Our message may be rejected by some, but  
those chosen in Him before the foundation of  
the world will come to Him**

**'Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast,  
immovable, always abounding in the work of  
the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain  
in the Lord'**

**(1 Cor. 15:58)**

**From verse 40 we can see that no one need fear  
they have not been invited,**

***'...everyone who sees the Son and believes in Him  
may have everlasting life'***

**Note the order of the two verbs: 'believing' on  
Christ is the result of 'seeing' Him**

**He must first be revealed *to us* by the Spirit,  
before He will be received *by us***

**Those who are His come to Jesus by invitation  
through the Word and the Spirit**

**\*Those responding to the Word will never be cast out. 'Cast out' is the same term as in John 9:35. Jesus will never do what religion does**

**\*Six times in this chapter Jesus says He came down from heaven. He is of heavenly origin. And He came to do the Father's will. He is not just a prophet speaking God's Word, He is the Son fulfilling His Father's purpose**

**\*Also, He guarantees to keep all those the Father has given to Him and to raise them up at the last day**