

## **Life and Ministry of Jesus Christ The Bread of God, Part 1**

Last 2 weeks...

- the Good Shepherd sees the multitude and is moved with compassion...
  - feeding 5000 \* X with 5 loaves and 2 fishes
  - giving thanks for all to hear
  - multiplying by dividing in His hands for all to see
- v14-15
  - Code Blue!
  - an emergency of Messianic proportions –  
the will of His Father vs the will of these people
- Jesus immediately orders His disciples to go back to the other side of the Sea of Galilee, sending away from this place corrupted with
  - false Messianic hopes
  - impulsiveness of man rather than inspiration of God
  - will of man contrary to the will of the Father
  - Biblical ignorance and confusion
- Jesus dismisses “those men”...the 5000 He fed...and goes to pray with the Father
  - the death of John the Baptist
  - what is coming next...another momentous shift in His life and ministry
- Jesus comes to His embattled disciples, walking on the water
  - an unforgettable demonstration of Who He is
  - continues on to His appointments in the plain of Gennesaret

This time...this shift in the life and ministry of Jesus Christ happens in a teaching/debate:  
The Bread of God

- the end of His Popularity
- the beginning of the Hostility

The topic: His Deity

We will be in John 6  
For context: v22-66

v22-24 The day following, when the people:

Who are “the people” in v22 and v24?

Those that yesterday

- followed on foot the boat used by Jesus and His disciples in v1-2
- were fed by Jesus in v11
- rightly recognized Jesus as the Prophet foretold by Moses in v14
- were the impulsive “king makers” of v15
- were dismissed the prior evening by Jesus in v15
- had seen the 12 disciples get back into their boat and go back to the west side of the Sea of Galilee
- had seen Jesus retire alone up the mountain
- stood on the other side of the Sea of Galilee from the events of v21 (i.e. back in Bethsaida vs Jesus’ ministry in plain of Gennesaret)

Over night the fishing fleet from Tiberias had arrived to where the Jordan River enters the Sea of Galilee...

- the best fishing spot
- near the location where the Lord (parenthetical comment by John, written in 90s, after the identity of Jesus was clearly established)
  - gave thanks to the Father for the poor boy’s lunch
  - multiplied by dividing in His hands and fed 5000+

but the 12 disciples had not returned to pick up Jesus

So the morning after the events of v1-15

(and after Jesus went to His disciples walking on the water...

of which they had no knowledge),

“those men” (v14) realize that Jesus is gone too!

Their “king” had escaped!

i.e. He refused to be made king

When they...or more likely the leading “king makers” among them...realized that Jesus had given them the slip sometime during the night,

they, it seems, convinced some of the fishermen from Tiberias to take them (leading “king makers” vs 5000 men) to Capernaum to look for Jesus

(faster than walking and without the difficulty of attempted murder by the devil)

They went to Capernaum because it was his ministry HQ (or so they still thought; Jesus now only visits there, He no longer is based there given the prior shift in His ministry – parables vs direct teaching, called prince of devils)

And from the context (v22-66), His resistance to their desire to make Him King affected their understanding and acceptance of His miracle of feeding them with 5 loaves and 2 fishes, as well as His Messianic claims

v25 Rabbi, when did You come here:

First of all, yesterday they called Jesus that Prophet (foretold by Moses),  
the Messiah King

Now, they call Him Rabbi

Seems like a “step down” in respect and expectation and hope to me...  
the “king makers” have “cooled” to Jesus.

In their minds, He who would not be King could not be Messiah

Secondly, where did these men find Jesus?

- On the plain of Gennesaret, where He had ministry appointments?
- In Capernaum?

v59 tells us this teaching/debate/confrontation took place in the synagogue  
in Capernaum

So unrecorded in the Gospels is Jesus and His 12 disciples moving from  
the plain of Gennesaret to Capernaum that morning

v26 Ye seek Me not because...but because:

Just as Jesus perceived what they were thinking in v15, He knows their motives  
for searching for Him now

- Not because
  - they saw and knew the miracles, which
    - were Messianic
    - did prove Jesus was the Messiah, the Son of God
  - they wanted Him, just Him, their Messiah
- But because
  - they wanted
    - the material, earthly benefits of being around Him
    - a daily food ticket, with no labor
  - their motive was selfish and self-centered,  
not Godly and God-centered

They had wrong motives to come to Him to go along with their false hopes for  
Him and His mission

Jesus revealed their hearts

And He did so with the certainty of the all-knowing God

- Verily, verily...emphasis
- I say unto you...Thus says the LORD

v27 meat which perishes...meat that endures unto everlasting life:

Jesus gives the “king makers” a life lesson:

- Do not labor for earthly food that spoils and does not arrest/defeat death
- Labor for (spiritual) food that endures to everlasting life

The life lesson is that food is a matter of “life and death”

- Matt 4:4 Man shall not live by bread alone but every word...of God
- Matt 6:25, 31-34
- The world offers food for our days on earth but not for what lies beyond in eternity
- Only the Son of Man (Adam’s race vs only the Jews) offers food for all eternity, for this life AND beyond

The Son of Man, the worker of the miracles that prove He is the Son of God, is the One that God the Father sealed

- stamped, attested to  
 (“This is My beloved Son in Whom I am well-pleased)
- with truth  
 rabbis taught the people that the seal of God was truth
  - the 3 letters of the Hebrew word “truth” are the first, middle, and last letters in the Hebrew alphabet
  - truth is the first, the last, and everything in between

The Son of Man, The Messiah...has food for everlasting life

The Son of Man is...God, the Son of God

v28 What shall we do:

The question of the “king makers” is one of self-sufficiency

What shall we do?

What do we need to do to do the works of God?

How do we labor for/work for/earn/get ourselves into the Kingdom of God

You have been preaching?

Well according to Scripture...

Ps 14:2-3 (Rom 3:10-12)

1 Kings 8:46a there is no man that sins not

Is 64:6

Ezk 18:4

Man’s problem is wrong-being...Rom 7:18, sin nature, offensive nature

Man cannot get into the Kingdom of God by his own merit, performance, or righteousness

This verse...is the Question of Religion (salvation by works, same author)

v29 This is the work of God...believe:  
Jesus' answer is very direct and simple

This is the...singular, exclusive...work of God (for sinners):  
believe on/in Jesus Christ, sent from heaven by the Father  
(Messiah, Word of God made flesh, Kinsman-Redeemer)

Gen 15:6     \     Jesus' answer is progressive revelation  
Hab 2:4       /  
Eph 2:8-9

To believe is: to trust, to lean on, to have confidence in, to have faith in...  
is based on humility, submission, agreement  
e.g. wall, Billy  
is not: a work whereby we earn salvation...  
we do not earn salvation by our faith

Entrance into the Kingdom of God requires

- faith...the Author and Finisher of which is Jesus Christ
- leaning on the King...only, with one's full weight
- trusting our eternal soul with the King...exclusively, without reservation
- the gift of God...the righteousness of the King

Our wrong-being is made right-being by God's grace, received by faith

v30-31 What sign...manna in the desert:  
"You are saying that the work pleasing to God is to believe in You.  
So what sign/miracle are You going to do so we can  
• see  
• believe in You?"

The response of the "king makers" to Jesus simple and direct statement in v29 is:

1. mind-blowing:  
Are you kidding me?  
His miracle of feeding them and the other 5000 \* X people  
right before their very eyes is insufficient?!  
Did they not zealously respond to that miracle with v14-15?!  
They need a greater miracle than that to believe in Jesus?!  
What happened between last night and now?

2. revealing:

Jesus' unwillingness to be made king by them ran contrary to their (false) hope in Him being the Messiah.

If He would not be their king, He would not be their Messiah and they would not be His disciples.

They are confirming what Jesus said about their motive in v26

1 Cor 1:22

1 Cor 2:14 they are unbelievers, in spite of the miracles

3. challenging:

they demand their kind of Messiah (King to overthrow Rome),  
not God's kind of Messiah (Lamb to overthrow the devil  
and death)

they demand to see and then believe...

God demands we believe and then we will see

When we were hungry, You gave 5000 \* X of us one meal;  
when they were hungry, Moses gave 2.5M of our ancestors  
manna/bread every day for 40 years

i.e. they are radically downgrading Jesus' miracle in  
feeding the 5000

btw: Why Israel in the wilderness for 40 years? Unbelief

The theme of this teaching by Jesus...in the form of a debate...is: bread (14x)

Because of the "apostate aftermath" of His feeding the 5000:

- the motive of v26...their hearts
- the challenge of v31...their kind of Messiah

v32-33 Moses gave you not...but My Father:

Jesus corrects and then answers their challenge...

with emphasis and "Thus says the LORD"

Correction:

Moses did **not** give the nation manna from heaven,

Moses did not give bread/food that perished (v27a)

Moses did not give bread/food that endured unto everlasting life (v27b)

Answer to their challenge, illuminating His life lesson:

God Who is in heaven (My Father, I am His Son) gave your fathers manna

My Father also gives you true bread...also from heaven

True bread is the food that (v27b)

- endures unto everlasting life
- the Son of Man has and shall give to you

The bread of God is

- He...personal pronoun, the Bread of God is a Person
- which came down from heaven...the origin of “He” is heaven not earth, “He” is God
- gives life (everlasting, v27b) to the world (that is perishing)

Therefore, manna was really just a shadow of the greater reality...“He”

v34 Lord, evermore give:

The disillusioned/deceived/confused/annoyed “king makers” are still looking for earthly bread from heaven, for they are not spiritually discerned and still seeking a sign

“Lord (*kurios*, supreme authority), prove it!

Prove you are the Lord, the Messiah, by giving us this bread, now and always.”

So Jesus again speaks directly and simply

v35 I am the bread of life:

“I am the bread of life.”

I AM...Ex 3:14 (1<sup>st</sup> of 8 “I AM” Statements by Jesus recorded by John)

All spoken after this 2<sup>nd</sup> shift...from Popularity to Hostility

I am the Voice in the burning bush Who spoke with Moses

I am the God Who fed the nation with manna AND the 5000 with  
5 loaves of barley bread and 2 fishes

I am the Bread of God...the greater reality of which the manna...  
and the showbread in the Temple...merely pointed

“He that comes to/believes on Me will never hunger/thirst.”

Comes to Me...for Me and for Me only (right motive for coming to Jesus)

Believing on Me is the work of God that will get you into God’s Kingdom

Earthly bread that perishes cannot satisfy you...you will hungry again  
tomorrow

Case in point: 5000 He fed yesterday are hungry today

True bread...Me...can alone satisfy you, now and forever

If you do not come to Me, you will perish.

If you do not believe on Me, you will perish.

Prov 9:5 Come, eat of my (Wisdom) bread, and drink of the wine  
*which* I have mingled (elements of communion)

1 John 5:11-13

Why did Jesus feed the 5000, a miracle of such magnitude and importance?

1. He was moved with compassion on the people, seeing them as sheep without a Shepherd
2. To “introduce” this illuminating life lesson (food is a matter of life and death), upon which the eternities of the hearers depends, a teaching that will divide and separate the ill-motivated disciples from the true disciples

### **Application**

What would you suppose is the one thing this passage of Scriptures calls us to do?

Come to Jesus, Who is sufficient for all circumstances  
Come for Him, and only for Him  
May He be Lord and not the things that He does

Believe on Jesus Christ, the Author and Finisher of faith  
Hab 2:4  
Rom 6:23

Lean on the One Whom the Father sent, His identity and authority proven by His power to

- feed 5000 \* X people with 5 loaves and 2 fishes
- walk on water
- raise dead people unto life
- give eternal life to Adam’s race

Come to, believe on, Jesus Christ...He will give you food that endures to everlasting life