

The Gospel of John
Week Ten
John 6:35-65

Day One

35 Then Jesus declared, "I am the bread of life. He who comes to me will never go hungry, and he who believes in me will never be thirsty. 36 But as I told you, you have seen me and still you do not believe. 37 All that the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never drive away. 38 For I have come down from heaven not to do my will but to do the will of him who sent me.

v. 35 – This statement raises an interesting question in my mind. **Did the Jews really believe that Jesus was suggesting He was a perpetual food and water source? Did they really think He was calling Himself bread that people would have to eat?** I doubt it very much. I think they clearly understood that He was talking about spiritual things, but His direct talk about Himself was something they were not accustomed to hearing. I'm sure no other rabbi in Israel talked about Himself like Jesus. The others talked about God and the things of God. Jesus talked about the things of God like He was God.

v. 36 – Jesus tied what He was saying to faith. The people did not believe, but it wasn't that they had no reason to believe. They had seen Jesus heal and multiply bread. He had proved Himself to be the One who ministered to the people with miraculous power, yet the people wanted something else to satisfy their curiosity and justify their faith. Jesus was not going to give them anything in this instance except His teaching on Himself.

Jesus did not simply talk about bread and water but about faith in Him and that being the source of life for the people.

v. 37 – Jesus indicated that there was an element of God's choice in who came to Him in faith. **Is this an indication of predestination or that God sets the standard for access to God, which is faith, and anyone who comes to Jesus must come only through faith? What do you think?**

Jesus readily accepts those whom the Father sends, those who have faith. He is not interested in driving them away. The Lord does not put barriers between Him and His people; the only requirement is that they put their trust in Him. So Jesus was not trying to drive anyone away through what He was saying. He was simply trying to find those who were "His" and those who were only interested in what He could do for them.

v. 38 – Once again Jesus made it clear that He had not come to do His own will. He was doing the will of the One who sent Him, who was God the Father. Jesus was not among the people creating a movement or gathering a following. He was there to create a people for God who had come through faith in His Son. All other religious leaders have come to gather a people for themselves or around their ideas or doctrines. Jesus was doing the

will of the Father. It would be important for Jesus to establish that fact in the minds of His followers. He was more than a prophet. He was an emissary from heaven!

Day Two

39 And this is the will of him who sent me, that I shall lose none of all that he has given me, but raise them up at the last day. 40 For my Father's will is that everyone who looks to the Son and believes in him shall have eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day." 41 At this the Jews began to grumble about him because he said, "I am the bread that came down from heaven." 42 They said, "Is this not Jesus, the son of Joseph, whose father and mother we know? How can he now say, 'I came down from heaven'?"

v. 39 – Jesus was implying, I think, that anyone who was following Him and then left was not really given to Him by the Father. Remember, there was a large crowd with Jesus and they wanted to make Him king because He had fed them. Jesus was looking to “weed out the crowd” by determining who was following for eternal life and not just to have their needs met.

Jesus’ ability to preserve those who are His extends to the Final Judgment and Resurrection. He wasn’t talking about bread that would sustain natural life but spiritual life for all eternity. That is great power that could only come from God Himself! Jesus was proclaiming His divinity throughout this entire dialogue with the people.

v. 40 – Moses, Elijah and John the Baptist were great prophets, but they claimed no such powers to do what Jesus promised to do. He promised to give eternal life and raise up those who believe on the last day. Notice that Jesus did not say that He would ask the Father to do this. He said that He would do it Himself. He had that kind of power to preserve every person who came to Him for eternity. Wow! He truly was the bread of life, bread that would sustain life forever. If a person promises to sustain life forever, that person must live forever as well. Jesus of course could do that because He is God and does live forever. **Do you see how straightforward Jesus is being here?** He is telling the crowd who He was and is!

v. 41 – Here the Jews were not “hung up” on Jesus being the bread but that He said He was bread from heaven. They knew that He was claiming to be God, One who had come down directly from heaven. If Jesus came down from heaven, that meant He lived in heaven and there is only One who lives in heaven and that is God!

The people grumbled because Jesus made this claim! Jesus’ tactic was working. Those who were enamored with Him enough to make Him king were becoming disgruntled and that is just what He wanted to happen.

v. 42 – The Jews knew Jesus and His family, or so they thought. Jesus had grown up in Nazareth, not far from Capernaum. Both those towns were in Galilee so Jesus was a native of that region. They knew Him and His parents, so they were struggling with how Jesus could say He was from heaven. Once again, we see that Jesus was not trying to win

“converts” in this sermon, but drive away those who were there for the wrong reasons. The only acceptable reason was faith; anything less was unacceptable to God the Father.

Why are you following Jesus? Have you put your faith in Him for eternal life or for what He can give you in this life? True, there are benefits to following Jesus in this life, but the real reward comes in the form of eternal life.

Day Three

43 "Stop grumbling among yourselves," Jesus answered. 44 "No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him, and I will raise him up at the last day. 45 It is written in the Prophets: 'They will all be taught by God.' Everyone who listens to the Father and learns from him comes to me. 46 No one has seen the Father except the one who is from God; only he has seen the Father.

v. 43 – Jesus knew that the people were displeased and his advice to them was simple: “Stop grumbling and that’s an order!” His advice is the same to you, as is evidenced by the following verses:

Do everything without grumbling or arguing, so that you may become blameless and pure, "children of God without fault in a warped and crooked generation” (Philippians 2:14).

Offer hospitality to one another without grumbling (1 Peter 4:9).

"How long will this wicked community grumble against me? I have heard the complaints of these grumbling Israelites” (Numbers 14:27).

Are you grumbling at this point in your life?

v. 44 – Jesus was working to drive off those who were only following because they wanted a political or earthly Messiah. Jesus was much more than that and refused to allow the people to dictate who He was or to define His mission. **Do you allow others to do that to you – dictate you identity or purpose?** Jesus refused and you need to as well.

v. 45 – Jesus quoted from Isaiah 54:13 here, which is a prophesy concerning the greatness of Zion in that God will always be with her. Read Isaiah 54 for yourself and you will understand that Jesus was telling the people that He had the capability to fulfill that prophetic word, if they would just believe in Him

Jesus said that anyone who heard and obeyed the Father would come to Him. That is quite a strong statement. That means anyone who believes in anyone other than Jesus is not in relationship with God the Father. I did not say that; Jesus did. This flies in the face of modern conventional wisdom that states there are many ways to God. As long as one is sincere, then there can be many acceptable ways to God. Jesus did not agree.

v. 46 – Jesus is the only One who has seen the Father, therefore is the only One who can show anyone the way. He understands the Father because He came from His presence. I can only imagine what the Jews thought when they heard that statement. Jesus claimed that He had seen God! This was utter nonsense to anyone who had not come to believe that He was the Christ and more than the Christ. That He was God Himself!

This entire chapter contains one long sermon from Jesus concerning His divinity. Of course, we understand this now, looking back on history. The Jews did not have the benefit of our perspective, so they were struggling with these claims. What's more, Jesus was not hiding anything or mincing His words. He was direct and to the point, yet those who had no faith were completely confused and offended.

Day Four

47 I tell you the truth, he who believes has everlasting life. 48 I am the bread of life. 49 Your forefathers ate the manna in the desert, yet they died. 50 But here is the bread that comes down from heaven, which a man may eat and not die. 51 I am the living bread that came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever. This bread is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world."

v. 47 – Jesus said He who believes has everlasting life. He would later say that whoever eats His flesh and drinks His blood would have eternal life. So we learn from this that eating His flesh and blood is the same as having faith in Him.. It is not some cannibalistic or super-mystical claim. Jesus was very clear. If you believe in Him, you will live forever with Him. If you don't, you will live forever, but apart from Him.

vs. 48&49 – Jesus declared Himself to be the bread of life. Many of the people were following Jesus for bread, but it was not the bread that mattered most. They were seeking bread like the manna, which would be consumed and then one would die. The bread Jesus was offering, which was Himself, would lead to everlasting life. It was the bread of faith and obedience. **Are you eating that bread? Have you put your trust in Jesus for everything where life and godliness are concerned?**

The people wanted someone who could do what Moses did. Yet what God provided through Moses was only transitory. It was there one day and gone the next. What Jesus was offering would last forever. The manna seemed to figure prominently in the thinking of those who followed Jesus to this point. Jesus knew they had to go far beyond manna as their spiritual goal.

v. 50 – **I wonder if Jesus pointed to Himself when He said, “Here is the bread of life”?** Jesus was being direct and clear about the way to eternal life. He was the source. He had the key. The manna was simply a shadow or precursor of what was yet to come in Jesus. Now the fulfillment or antitype of the typical manna had arrived.

v. 51 – The Jews knew that Jesus was not talking about actually eating His flesh, which was somehow to be considered bread. They knew what He was saying and it offended them. Jesus had the ability to promise eternal life and deliver on that promise. He reiterated this truth so that they would hopefully grab hold of this truth and be saved. Most were unable to do so, but Jesus kept trying. Jesus was a great teacher and stayed true to His mission

Jesus said to him, "Today salvation has come to this house, because this man, too, is a son of Abraham. For the Son of Man came to seek and to save what was lost" (Luke 19:9-10).

The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the devil's work (1 John 3:8).

Are you true to your mission, the reason that God sent you here? Do you know what your mission is? What gifts do you have that will help you accomplish your purpose? How much do you know about yourself, the way you work, what motivates you and drains your energy? The answers to all these questions are very important as you seek to be effective for the Lord.

Day Five

52 Then the Jews began to argue sharply among themselves, "How can this man give us his flesh to eat?" 53 Jesus said to them, "I tell you the truth, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you. 54 Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day. 55 For my flesh is real food and my blood is real drink.

v. 52 – The Jews were agitated by this point in the discussion and they could not comprehend how Jesus could be who He said He was. As stated earlier, they did not think that Jesus expected them literally to eat His flesh. If this conversation was taking place in the synagogue, note that it wasn't just a lecture. The people were involved, giving feedback and asking questions. **Does your leadership style give people a chance for feedback, questions and debate?**

v. 53 – Jesus was not trying to win an argument or debate the people. He was trying to sort out the wheat from the tares, so to speak, sort between those who believed in Him from those who did not. So knowing that the people were struggling with the obvious things that He had just said, Jesus decided to throw some gasoline on the fire. He said that they not only had to eat His flesh but drink His blood.

The Law forbid Jews from eating any blood at all, so this talk was absolutely offensive to the listeners. Jesus, being a good Jew, would have known this, but He said it anyway. There is no way the Jews interpreted this to mean that they had to drink Jesus' blood. They knew He was saying that He was the way to God and it offended them greatly. We saw earlier that the promise of eternal life was made for anyone who believed in Jesus, so eating and drinking had to be the equivalent of faith.

vs. 54&55 – Jesus then “poured it on,” making a statement that His flesh is real food and His blood real drink. He was contrasting His mission to the aforementioned manna, which was eaten but the effects of which only lasted for a moment. The effects of “eating” and drinking Jesus lasted for all eternity. He is enough to insure that anyone who puts their trust in Him will have eternal life.

The prophets talked about God, but Jesus talked about God like One who knew and that is what attracted those who did put their faith and trust in Him. This is what is meant when it is written that He spoke as One with authority.

They went to Capernaum, and when the Sabbath came, Jesus went into the synagogue and began to teach. The people were amazed at his teaching, because he taught them as one who had authority, not as the teachers of the law (Mark 1:21-22).

Jesus knew for certain and spoke out of that certainty. Anyone who reads Jesus’ words and thinks that Jesus had any questions about His identity is a fool. Jesus was clear about who He was and He made it clear to those around Him. Those to whom the Father granted eternal life knew what He was saying and accepted it in faith. Those whom the Father did not grant such life did not hear and misunderstood.

Day Six

56 Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood remains in me, and I in him. 57 Just as the living Father sent me and I live because of the Father, so the one who feeds on me will live because of me. 58 This is the bread that came down from heaven. Your forefathers ate manna and died, but he who feeds on this bread will live forever." 59 He said this while teaching in the synagogue in Capernaum.

vs. 56&57 – Jesus compared His relationship with those who put their trust in Him to the relationship He has with the Father. The Father sent and sustains the Son; it is inconceivable that there should be any separation between them. The same is true for the relationship between the believer and Jesus. There can be no separation or divide, if the person maintains their faith and trust in Him.

What, then, shall we say in response to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all—how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things? Who will bring any charge against those whom God has chosen? It is God who justifies. Who then can condemn? No one. Christ Jesus who died—more than that, who was raised to life—is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us. Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? As it is written: "For your sake we face death all day long; we are considered as sheep to be slaughtered." No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, 39 neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation,

will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord (Romans 8:31-38).

Do you have this kind of confidence in your relationship with Jesus? Do you see that He is always with you and will never forsake you?

v. 58 – Jesus repeated Himself many times so that there was no doubt as to what He said. Moses and the manna could give temporary life. Faith in Jesus gave eternal life. **Do you see any room here for the doctrine that there are other ways to heaven and God except Jesus? Is there any way that Jesus was simply accommodating the beliefs of His listeners? Was Jesus limited in what He said by the ignorance or limited worldview of the Jews who were listening?** There is no way, for Jesus is the only way!

This is not a message that pertains only to Jews, but to all mankind. If a believing Jew could “eat” Jesus and live forever, then a believing Gentile could and can as well. Our job is to spread that message and truth, which is called the good news or gospel.

Doesn't this message make life and God simple? Put one's faith in Jesus, and He will preserve you and grant you eternal life, as long as you abide in Him, which implies obedience. I am glad God has made it that simple, for a simple mind like yours and mine.

Day Seven

60 On hearing it, many of his disciples said, "This is a hard teaching. Who can accept it?" 61 Aware that his disciples were grumbling about this, Jesus said to them, "Does this offend you? 62 What if you see the Son of Man ascend to where he was before! 63 The Spirit gives life; the flesh counts for nothing. The words I have spoken to you are spirit and they are life. 64 Yet there are some of you who do not believe." For Jesus had known from the beginning which of them did not believe and who would betray him. 65 He went on to say, "This is why I told you that no one can come to me unless the Father has enabled him."

v. 60 – The people got more than they bargained for when they followed Jesus and found Him in Capernaum. They encountered some hard sayings and they were struggling with them, which is just what Jesus wanted to happen. He could not allow them to follow simply because of the signs, which indicated the truth of the message. They had to accept the message, rendering the signs and wonders the means to the end and not the end themselves.

v. 61 – Jesus finished the job He had begun by being a bit sarcastic. He said, “So you are offended by what I said? Well, if that offends you, what will you do with this?” and then made another strong statement, knowing that those who were struggling would struggle even more!

v. 62 – Jesus alluded to the fact that He would return to the place from which He came, which was the presence of God. **If the peoples struggled with the fact that He came from heaven, what would they do when it was time for Him to return?** Of course, they would not be able to handle that event, which became clear when Jesus actually did come back from the dead and ascend to heaven. The unbelieving Jews circulated reports that His followers had stolen His body!

v. 63 – Jesus told the woman in John 4 that those who worshipped the Father had to do so in spirit and in truth. Here Jesus said that the words He had spoken were spirit and life, because they were truth. True worship is not determined by whether or not one raises his or her hands in church. True worship is determined by whether or not one is rightly related to Jesus by faith. That is where worship begins and where it ends – a life yielded to Jesus, which makes it a life that will never end!

Jesus is the Word and He spoke words of life. **What else could He do?** He is the Way and the Life! We must feed off His every word, which is what Scripture said:

He humbled you, causing you to hunger and then feeding you with manna, which neither you nor your ancestors had known, to teach you that people do not live on bread alone but on every word that comes from the mouth of the Lord (Deuteronomy 8:3).

If Jesus was saying that His words had life, then He was saying that He was uttering the words of God, thus making Himself God. No prophet had ever claimed that his words could give eternal life because no prophet was God. Jesus was a prophet and God, so His words were supremely powerful to impart life.

vs. 64&65 – Jesus knew the hearts of those who were there, another proof that He was God. Only God knows the hearts of men and Jesus knew. Jesus could teach like He did, not worrying about the results for the results were in the Father's hands. Those who were granted life would not leave, those who were not would drift away. When Jesus ministered, He had faith in the Father and proceeded accordingly. Do you have that same kind of faith? Jesus was practicing what He had taught the disciples:

And if any place will not welcome you or listen to you, shake the dust off your feet when you leave, as a testimony against them” (Mark 6:11).

Do you fret over results or lack thereof? You should not do that. Just be obedient and God will take care of the rest. Don't judge the results of what you do prematurely. Allow God to bring forth the harvest; you just do your job of preaching the gospel to all men.