

A Study of John's Gospel

Lesson 8: Jesus the Bread of Life (6:35-71)

Jesus continues to teach the Jews in the Synagogue in Capernaum with His lesson that He is the Bread of Life. The Jews seek this Bread of Life for what they believe are the "physical" benefits that they will never hunger (6:35)

"I am the Bread of Life, whoever comes to me shall not hunger" (6:35-40)

Jesus continues to teach them about how He is the Bread of Life. The Jews do not grasp His point and are seeking to have the bread where they will never hunger. (Remember a similar lesson Jesus taught to the Samaritan woman at the Well – John 4:14, 15) Jesus goes on to teach the Jews concerning his mission on this earth to do the will of His Father that sent Him.

"the Jews began to complain about Jesus. . . How can he now say, 'I came down from heaven'" (6:41-51)

The Jews complain about Jesus' teaching concerning him being the "Bread of Life" based upon their knowledge of His earthly birth. Jesus tells them that they cannot come to Him unless His Father brings them. Jesus goes on to explain more about the benefit of the Bread of Life and the superiority of it over the Manna which the Israelites received from Heaven. A person can eat of the living bread from Heaven and not die because the bread is His body which he gave for the life of the world.

"Anyone who eats my body and drinks my blood has eternal life. I will raise him up on the last day" (6:52-59)

The Jews again begin to argue since they do not understand the true meaning of what Jesus is trying to teach them. Jesus tries to show them the value of eating His body and drinking His blood and how the "Bread of Life" sent from Heaven is superior to the Manna from Heaven that His Father sent the Israelites in the wilderness.

"From this time on, many of his disciples turned back. They no longer followed him" (6:60-71)

Some of Jesus' disciples complain about His teaching on the Bread of Life and His Blood and turn back from being His disciples. He asks His 12 disciples if they too want to turn back. Peter speaks for the 12 and replies to Jesus, , "Lord, who can we go to? You have the words of eternal life. We believe and know that you are the Holy One of God."

Questions:

1. Jesus first claimed to give food (27) and now claims to be "the bread of life" (35a). How does one "eat" this bread? (35b)
2. What assurance is given to one who comes to Jesus (37b)?
3. What explanation is given with regard to how the Father draws people to Jesus (45)?
4. How does Jesus explain the superiority of the Bread of Life to the manna in the Wilderness (49-50)?
5. What is meant by "eating" and "drinking"(verses 53-56)?
6. What in Jesus' teaching caused some of his "disciples" to turn back and no longer follow Him (66)?