

THE BREAD OF LIFE IS COME

John 6:25-69

Why is it that so many people –people the world views as eminently successful –wealthy, powerful people...

...Come to the end of life –sometimes while they're still young, have experienced the world's greatness; feel frustrated and empty ...

O.J. Simpson, Richard Nixon, CEOs of numerous huge corporations

They appear to have it all; yet they end up empty!

Jesus affirms that He has come to give meaning to life, to satisfy our thirst, to fill the longings of our hearts.

Contentment isn't found in wealth, possessions, power, or privilege.

Jesus is the Bread of Life who fills us when we're hungry and satisfies our thirst.

JOHN'S PURPOSE FOR WRITING John 20:30-31

[Jesus did many other things John didn't write down [John 21]; but *these* were written:] ...
that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

1. To demonstrate that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God

Christ => Messiah

Son of God => To be someone's "son" meant to be *like Him*.

Only God Himself is like Him **Therefore, Jesus is GOD!**

2. so that we might believe in Him (=trust Him)

3. so that we might receive eternal life.

[John records Jesus' statements, that tell us Who He is.]

Jesus is the Great "I AM" –He is God!

Besides the claim to be God,

Jesus makes 7 specific affirmations of Who He is.

Every time His Jewish listeners hear an "I AM..." statement, it causes a gut reaction,

they're reminded again of God's Name–the Great I AM.

[7 "I Am" statements in John's Gospel. 1st of these affirms...]

JESUS IS THE BREAD OF LIFE John 6

John 6:35, Jesus says: **"I AM THE BREAD OF LIFE.** *He who comes to me will never be hungry; and he who trusts in me will never be thirsty."*

God sent **John the Baptist to prepare the way for coming of Christ.**

People are expecting Messiah to come soon.

John warns them: get ready for His coming–turn back to God.

O.T. prophecies tell what to expect when Messiah comes.

2 promises made side by side:

God will satisfy their thirst

& fill those who are hungry

Relationship between these two was established **in the wilderness:**

God provides **water from the rock** and **manna from heaven** to **satisfy their thirst and their hunger**.

Is. 55:1-2 *"Come, **all you who are thirsty, come to the waters**; and you who have no money, come, buy and **eat**! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without cost. 2 Why spend money on what is not **bread**, and your labor on what does not **satisfy**? Listen, listen to me, and **eat what is good, and your soul will delight in the richest of fare**.*

John shows that Jesus, Messiah, is come, showing

3 times that Jesus is able to satisfy our thirst.

3 Incidents:

John 2: Jesus changes plain water into quality wine.

If Jesus can change water into wine, He can satisfy your thirst!

John 4: Jesus offers living water to a Samaritan woman.

He tells her the problem with regular water: you always get thirsty again! You never get enough. It doesn't satisfy!

4:14: *"Whoever drinks the water I give will never thirst. ... Indeed, the water I give will become a spring of water, welling up to eternal life.*

Jesus can satisfy our thirst!—the deepest longings of our heart.

John 7:37-38: Jesus offers to satisfy our thirst for God

"If anyone is thirsty, let him come to me and drink. Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, streams of living water will flow from within him."

Not only does Jesus satisfy our thirst, He also satisfies our hunger for God.

In **6:35** he says: *"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."*

[Confirmation of Jesus' claim: Multiplies 5 loaves and 2 fish to feed 5000.]

FEEDING OF 5000 6:1-15

Jesus attracts a crowd because of miracles—**not** because of His Person.

When Jesus sees the crowd coming, knowing they need to eat, He creates additional food and satisfies their hunger. =>

DISCOURSE ON THE BREAD OF LIFE 6:22-40

Theme: Seek Jesus; He's the Source of eternal life.

The next day the same people Jesus fed are back for more.

Their quest: They come seeking Jesus (right object!) 24-25

The miracle of the previous day is still on their mind.

Jesus' Warning: 26-27

Jesus refers back to incident, directing attention to a greater need.

They're seeking Him for the wrong motives. **26**

Jesus answered, "I tell you the truth, you are looking for me, not because you saw miraculous signs but because you ate the loaves and had your fill.

They want to satisfy their *physical* desires.

All they care about is having full stomachs.

6:27 *“Do not work for the kind of food that spoils.” Instead, “work for the kind of food that endures to eternal life, which the Son of Man will give you.”*

He warns us not to seek temporary food. 27a

Normal bread eventually gets stale and moldy.

We spend our life seeking things that never fill us up.

They never satisfy!

We go from one pursuit to another—it all comes up empty!

Seek permanent food that leads to eternal life. 27b

Jesus provides permanent food which leads to life. 27c

Jesus provides a different kind of bread—bread that lasts forever and results in eternal life!

More important than the *physical* bread they came back for is the *spiritual* provision God wants to give us in Jesus, the Bread of Life.

In Him we find the provision we need for *eternal* life.

GOD REQUIRES THAT WE TRUST THE ONE HE HAS SENT 28-29]

Their question:

How can we achieve the works which God requires? **28**

Then they asked him, “What must we do to do the works God requires?”

They thought they could DO something to EARN God’s approval.

Jesus’ answer: 29

“The work of God is this: to believe in the one he has sent.”

God only wants one work: [It’s not a work at all!]

Trust the One He has sent. That’s God’s requirement!

GOD’S PROVIDING BREAD FROM HEAVEN—SOURCE OF LIFE

Their demand for proof: 30-31 *So they asked him, “What miraculous sign then will you give that we may see it and believe you? What will you do? ³¹ Our forefathers ate the manna in the desert; as it is written: ‘He gave them bread from heaven to eat.’”*

God gave us bread from heaven to eat.

YOU make bread *from* heaven for US!

He has already provided *earthly* bread. They want MORE!

Earthly bread never fills the God-sized vacuum *inside* us!

His response: God is offering you bread *from* heaven. **32-33**

Jesus corrects thinking about bread God provided in the wilderness.

2 errors in their thinking:

1. 1st error: They’re thinking **MOSES gave it to them.**

Jesus corrects their thinking.

32-33 *“I tell you the truth, it is not Moses who has given you the bread from heaven, but it is my Father.”*

O.T. NEVER says Moses gave them food.

Every time it says God gave it to them!

Exod 16:2-12 2 In the desert the whole community grumbled against Moses and Aaron. 3 The Israelites said to them, "If only we had died by the LORD's hand in Egypt! There we sat around pots of meat and ate all the food we wanted, but you have brought us out into this desert to starve this entire assembly to death." 4 Then **the LORD said** to Moses, "**I will rain down bread from heaven** for you.

2. 2nd error: Thinking that was "bread from heaven"

Jesus corrects them **32-33** My Father gives you the true bread from heaven. 33 For **the bread of God is He who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world**.

6:35 "**I am the bread of life**. He who comes to me will never go hungry, & he who believes in me will never be thirsty. **47** . . . 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**.

TRUST THE SON & YOU WILL RECEIVE ETERNAL LIFE 34-40

Their hunger: Give US that kind of bread! **34**
 "Sir," they said, "from now on give us this bread."

His offer: 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.

I AM that bread; Trust me and your hunger will be satisfied.

CONCLUSION: If YOU trust me, I will give you eternal life!

Jesus is the bread of life.

He gives life to those who hear the Father & trust Him

John tells us: Set your heart on Jesus! *Trust HIM!*

Jesus is the Living Water

—those who drink from His streams will never thirst again!

Jesus is the Bread of Life

—**THOSE WHO TRUST HIM WILL BE TOTALLY SATISFIED.**

So how will WE respond to Jesus?

Jesus is the Only One Who can satisfy our hunger!

JESUS IS THE BREAD OF LIFE! Will YOU trust Him?