

The Gospel of John

Chapter 6:22-40

March 30, 1997

- **The Gospel of John Outline:**

- Chapter 1 Our Lord is the Word, the Light and the Life
- Chapter 2 The Lord of the Wedding Feast; Zeal for the purity of the temple
- Chapter 3 Spiritual Birth, Belief and Salvation vs. Unbelief and Condemnation
- Chapter 4 The Ministry in Samaria, The Harvest, The Faith of the Nobleman
- Chapter 5 Paralytic man healed on the Sabbath, Unity of The Father and Son
- Chapter 6 The Bread of Life

- **Review and Introduction**

After He miraculously fed the multitude, Jesus sequesters Himself on the mountain presumably to pray. When nighttime came, the disciples took a boat from Tiberias toward Capernaum and a storm arose. Jesus comes to them walking on water and calms the sea and the wind.

In this section, Jesus teaches the multitude in the city of Capernaum.

- **Exposition of John 6:22-40**

22 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—²³ however, other boats came from Tiberias, near the place where they ate bread after the Lord had given thanks—²⁴ when the people therefore saw that Jesus was not there, nor His disciples, they also got into boats and came to Capernaum, seeking Jesus.²⁵ And when they found Him on the other side of the sea, they said to Him, "Rabbi, when did You come here?"

- When the people returned to see Jesus the next morning, they could not find Him although they thought that He would have been there because there had been no other boats. Finding other boats the people set off to find Jesus and sailed to Capernaum. Having reached the city they discover that Jesus was there and they were puzzled at how he arrived there without a boat. Apparently, the miracle of Jesus walking on the sea was only for the benefit of the disciples.

26 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."²⁷ "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."

- Jesus reveals that the people sought after Jesus not because they knew Him as Lord but because they were hungry again. They were probably looking for Him to provide breakfast as He describes their activity as laboring for that which perishes.
- There are a myriad of reasons why people come to Christ. Whether they are looking for financial help, or help with relationships or seeking career counsel unless they are coming unto Him as sinners seeking gracious forgiveness of sins there search for help will be useless.
- Jesus teaches them to labor for food which yields everlasting life. God has made the world in such a way that it is necessary for us to labor so that we can earn a living and sustain ourselves. Even if our occupation has no clear eternal implications God is still honored when we work hard to support our families. But beyond this, with the time we have, do we set our sights on the eternal or the temporal? Consider Paul who spent his life ministering to people because he knew that there are two eternal things; God's Word and people. Do we spend our time ministering to people for eternal things? (1 Thess. 2:17, 4:9-12)
- The everlasting life comes from the Son of Man because the Father has placed a seal upon Him. This seal is most likely the seal of the Holy Spirit which descended upon Christ at His baptism by John.

28 Then they said to Him, "What shall we do, that we may work the works of God?"²⁹ Jesus answered and said to them, "This is the work of God, that you believe in Him whom He sent."

- Perhaps the people were wanting to do away with hunger all together rather than really understanding what Jesus was saying. They manifested a zeal for the works of God but this account will show later that many truly did not know what Jesus was speaking about. It is interesting to consider that here believing is referred to as a "work" and not just any work but a "work of God." There have been those who have contended that believing in Christ is not a work. But this verse suggests that it truly is a work. But knowing that we are saved by grace through belief, the work of belief is provided by

God to us so that we are unable to boast even in our belief.

30 Therefore they said to Him, "What sign will You perform then, that we may see it and believe You? What work will You do?"³¹ "Our fathers ate the manna in the desert; as it is written, 'He gave them bread from heaven to eat.' "

- Having just been miraculously fed, the people want to see another sign. Perhaps they were hoping for another meal which is why they quote the verse about the provision of manna.

32 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."³³ "For the bread of God is He who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world."

- Here Jesus reveals a remarkable messianic truth where the provision of manna to the Israelites in the desert was a picture of the true "bread" which would come down in the form of the Son of God. As in many cases, we can turn to Old Testament passages and find pictures or "types" foreshadowing the coming Messiah. Now that Christ has come, our understanding of the events which were typological becomes more full.

34 Then they said to Him, "Lord, give us this bread always."³⁵ 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."³⁶ "But I said to you that you have seen Me and yet do not believe."³⁷ "All that the Father gives Me will come to Me, and the one who comes to Me I will by no means cast out."

- The people still do not fully understand our Lord's words. They are asking for the true bread and Christ has to explain to them that He is the bread of which He refers. The miracles that Jesus had performed were successful in getting the people to look at Christ, but the miracles themselves were not a sufficient basis for faith. Even after experiencing the miracles the people still wanted further assurance (namely more food) that Christ was the true bread from heaven.
- In the last verse in this section we can see the providence of God in His effectual calling; those whom the Father gives to Jesus are the ones who will come. If the Father had not given each one to Jesus, they would not come.

38 "For I have come down from heaven, not to do My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me."³⁹ "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."⁴⁰ "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." NKJV

- Here we have some of the most wonderful verses on the perseverance of the Saints. The elect are the ones whom the Father has given to Christ. It is Christ's obligation to keep them and lose none of them. Furthermore, His role is to raise them up at the end of time which we call the resurrection.
- But what assurance has Christ provided that He will raise us up on the last day? It is His resurrection from the dead. If Christ did not raise from the dead, neither will we. But as surely as He rose from the dead so too will all those whom the Father has given unto Christ be raised up. (1 Cor. 15:20-28)