



S O A M A Z I N G

GRACE SO AMAZING TO FOLLOW JESUS

Jn. 6:66-69

Jn. 6:66 From that *time* many of his disciples went back, and walked no more with him.

67 Then said Jesus unto the twelve, Will ye also go away?

68 Then Simon Peter answered him, Lord, to whom shall we go? thou hast the words of eternal life.

69 And we believe and are sure that thou art that Christ, the Son of the living God.

A few weeks ago, we began looking at this chapter to consider what the Bible says about the different attitudes and motives of the “followers of Christ.” What we have seen so far are the following: Some followed Him due to...

1. the sensationalism of His miracles;
2. simply out of selfishness for what they could personally benefit;
3. some followed Him from a faulty perspective of false supposition;
4. a few followed Him due to a proper understanding of His purpose and relationship with mankind according to the Scriptures.

We saw that the challenge of the storm revealed the hardness of the disciples' hearts in that they neglected to consider the feeding of the 5,000.

The Lord Jesus was confronted by followers who were “seeking for Jesus” (6:24) and approached Him with several questions:

1. HOW DID YOU GET HERE? WE ARE CURIOUS.
2. WHAT WORKS CAN BE DONE TO MERIT GOD'S FAVOR?
3. CAN YOU GIVE US A SIGN THAT WE CAN SEE, BELIEVE, AND WORK?

Jn. 6:30 They said therefore unto him, **What sign shewest thou then, that we may see, and believe thee? what dost thou work?**

31 Our fathers did eat manna in the desert; as it is written, He gave them bread from heaven to eat.

❖ Wanting a “sign” is a typical Jewish challenge.

1 Cor. 1:22 For **the Jews require a sign**, and the Greeks seek after wisdom:

Jn. 4:48 Then said Jesus unto him, **Except ye see signs and wonders, ye will not believe.**

- ❖ They had just seen a “sign” in the feeding of the 5,000!
- ❖ All of the followers, religious or His disciples, seemed to miss the importance of the feeding of the 5,000.

This morning, we consider a very important confrontation between Jesus, and His followers: Jesus taught the true lesson of the feeding of the 5,000.

Jn. 6:43 Jesus therefore answered and said unto them, Murmur not among yourselves.

44 **No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him:** and I will raise him up at the last day.

45 It is written in the prophets, And **they shall be all taught of God**. Every man therefore that hath heard, and hath learned of the Father, cometh unto me.

46 Not that any man hath seen the Father, save he which is of God, he hath seen the Father.

47 Verily, verily, I say unto you, **He that believeth on me hath everlasting life.**

48 **I am that bread of life.**

49 Your fathers did eat manna in the wilderness, and are dead.

50 This is the bread which cometh down from heaven, that **a man may eat thereof, and not die.**

51 **I am the living bread which came down from heaven:** if any man **eat of this bread**, he shall live for ever: and the bread that I will give is **my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world.**

❖ Jesus quoted the prophet Isaiah, implying His role after the Rapture:

Isa. 54:13 And **all thy children *shall be* taught of the LORD**; and great *shall be* the peace of thy children.

❖ The “drawing” by the Father is distinctly mentioned in both the Old and New Testament:

Jer. 31:3 The LORD hath appeared of old unto me, *saying*, **Yea, I have loved thee with an everlasting love: therefore with lovingkindness have I drawn thee.**

- ❖ The “drawing” is an expression of “everlasting love” and grace, “lovingkindness.”
- ❖ Jesus stated that the “drawing” would be to everyone, as a result of the cross.

Jn. 12:32 And **I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all *men* unto me.**

- ❖ Jesus “doubled down” on the fact that He is “that bread of life” and “the living bread,” and will give His “flesh” on the cross “for the life of the world.”
- ❖ Jesus was surrounded by Jews that were very familiar with the veil in the Temple. The access to the Holy of Holies was through the veil. Note the connection between the veil and “...his flesh;”

Heb. 10:19 Having therefore, brethren, boldness to enter into the holiest by the blood of Jesus,
20 By a new and living way, which he hath consecrated for us, **through the veil, that is to say, his flesh;**

- ❖ The Jews could not understand the meaning of the Lord's implication of the cross.

1 Cor. 2:14 But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know *them*, because they are spiritually discerned.

- ❖ The Lord Jesus purposely confused the religious followers by teaching a difficult truth.

Jn. 6:52 The Jews therefore strove among themselves, saying, How can this man give us *his* flesh to eat?

53 Then Jesus said unto them, **Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except ye eat the flesh of the Son of man, and drink his blood, ye have no life in you.**

54 Whoso eateth my flesh, and drinketh my blood, **hath eternal life**; and I will raise him up at the last day.

55 For my flesh is meat indeed, and my blood is drink indeed.

❖ The Jews “strove among themselves” (v. 52) regarding Jesus’ teaching.

Original Word: μάχομαι **Transliteration:** machomai

Definition: to fight (Jas. 4:2) **Usage:** I engage in battle, fight; hence: I strive, contend, dispute.

<https://biblehub.com/greek/3164.htm>

- ❖ As the Jews argued, Jesus intensified His teaching about the principle of “eating” His flesh and “drinking” His blood, equating it with “eternal life.” (v. 54, 58)
- ❖ The arguing exhibited the misunderstanding of the meaning of the picture of the cross.

1 Cor. 1:18 For **the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness**; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God.

❖ To understand required the Holy Spirit's illumination, along with astute listening.

Jn. 6:56 He that eateth my flesh, and drinketh my blood, **dwelleth in me, and I in him.**

57 **As** the living Father hath sent me, and I live **by** the Father: **so** he that eateth me, even he shall live **by** me.

58 **This is that bread which came down from heaven:** not as your fathers did eat manna, and are dead: **he that eateth of this bread shall live for ever.**

- ❖ Jesus used the words “dwelleth in me, and I in Him” to indicate fellowship, as well as using “as the living Father” and “by” that indicates “dependence.”
- ❖ Jesus stressed that He “is that bread which came down from heaven.” The manna was eaten by your fathers and they are dead.
- ❖ Jesus concluded by stating the difference between temporality and eternity, physical death or “live for ever” is a personal relationship with Him!

Jn. 6:59 These things said he in the synagogue, as he taught in Capernaum.

- ❖ Jesus taught the religious followers in the synagogue, who were in the right place, listening to the world's greatest teacher about spiritual truth, and yet they murmured.

Summary

- ❖ Having mentioned about manna, the religious followers exhibited their misunderstanding and Jesus used the subject to teach them spiritual truth.
- ❖ Jesus revealed Himself as “the bread of life...the living bread” and the importance of “**he that eateth of this bread shall live for ever.**”
- ❖ God is a spirit (Jn. 4:24) and a relationship with Him must be spiritual. The spiritual bread is reflected in the Lord Jesus Christ and the Word of God.

Jn. 6:63 It is the spirit that quickeneth; **the flesh profiteth nothing: the words that I speak unto you, *they* are spirit, and *they* are life.**

Mt. 4:4 But he answered and said, It is written, **Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.**

Luke 4:4 And Jesus answered him, saying, It is written, **That man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word of God.**

Conclusion

Isa. 55:6 Seek ye the LORD while he may be found,
call ye upon him while he is near:

7 Let the wicked forsake his way, and the
unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return
unto the LORD, and he will have mercy upon him;
and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.

8 For my thoughts *are* not your thoughts, neither
are your ways my ways, saith the LORD.

9 For *as* the heavens are higher than the earth, so
are my ways higher than your ways, and my
thoughts than your thoughts.

10 For as the rain cometh down, and the snow from heaven, and returneth not thither, but watereth the earth, and maketh it bring forth and bud, that it may give seed to the sower, and bread to the eater:

11 So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper *in the thing* whereto I sent it.