

## THE GOSPEL OF JOHN SESSION 8

**Review:** Last week we went through most of chapter 6 where Jesus fed the five thousand men illustrating that he is the Bread that came down from heaven to fill hungry humanity. He then sent the disciples out on the sea of Galilee while he sent the multitudes away. The disciples were caught in a strong windstorm, and he came walking on the water to them. When he got into the boat, he moved it immediately to the other side. The next day the crowd followed him over the sea and found him. Jesus then revealed their true reason for seeking him, more natural bread instead of spiritual. He then tells them that he is the Bread of life that came down from heaven and gives life to the world. They could not grasp nor believe what he was telling them and they became frustrated with him.

**John 6:41-42** The Jews then murmured at him, because he said, I am the bread which came down from heaven. And they said, Is not this Jesus, the son of Joseph, whose father and mother we know? how is it then that he saith, I came down from heaven? *They did not believe that he was the Son of God which is what was necessary for their salvation. People who don't believe truth when it is revealed to them are later always confused by it.*

**John 6:43-45** Jesus therefore answered and said unto them, Murmur not among yourselves. 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. 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. *Jesus reveals a cornerstone truth here: that it is impossible to come to Christ for salvation unless the Father draws them and the Spirit teaches them. What does the Spirit of God teach?*

- **Convicts of sin** – The Spirit of God turns light on in the conscience and proves the sinner guilty. The sinner is in darkness and cannot know his/her condition apart from the Spirit.
- **Reveals who Christ is** – The Spirit can show Jesus as the Christ, the Son of God that died on the cross and resurrected to the sinners. With eyes of faith sinner can see Christ for who he really is.
- **Draws sinners to Christ** – The word “draw” means to cause to move in a particular direction by pulling. Every sinner that has ever come to Christ, was compelled to do so by the pulling of the Holy Spirit.

**John 6:46-51** Not that any man hath seen the Father, save he which is of God, he hath seen the Father. Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me hath everlasting life. I am

that bread of life. Your fathers did eat manna in the wilderness, and are dead. This is the bread which cometh down from heaven, that a man may eat thereof, and not die. 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. *He compares the manna which their fathers ate in the wilderness with himself. Both Christ and the manna came down from heaven, manna didn't provide everlasting life while he does. We often talk of his blood that had to be shed and rightly so, but his body was offered for sins as well and was broken.* **1 Peter 2:24** Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed.

**John 6:52-58** The Jews therefore strove among themselves, saying, How can this man give us *his* flesh to eat? 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. Whoso eateth my flesh, and drinketh my blood, hath eternal life; and I will raise him up at the last day. For my flesh is meat indeed, and my blood is drink indeed. He that eateth my flesh, and drinketh my blood, dwelleth in me, and I in him. As the living Father hath sent me, and I live by the Father: so he that eateth me, even he shall live by me. 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. *These Jews were getting frustrated because they were taking a spiritual message literally, and choking on it. Jesus did not mean that they literally had to eat his flesh and drink his blood. He was making the point that only he could satisfy the hunger of the soul and he could do that by being inside them. Ever since the cross and resurrection, he is able to be inside of us and sustain us like food to the body. "Eat my flesh and drink my blood" is a metaphor for complete faith in his atoning sacrifice. Eating and drinking also used as metaphor for abiding in him which implies a deep intimate and continuous spiritual union between the believer and Christ. "I will raise him up at the last day" is the promise of resurrection and eternal life to those who feed on him.*

**John 6:59-60** These things said he in the synagogue, as he taught in Capernaum. Many therefore of his disciples, when they had heard *this*, said, This is an hard saying; who can hear it? *These people struggled with spiritual truth like Nicodemus did. They could not receive spiritual truth because they did not believe that he was the Christ.*

**John 6:61-66** When Jesus knew in himself that his disciples murmured at it, he said unto them, Doth this offend you? *What* and if ye shall see the Son of man ascend up where he was before? It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing: the words that I speak unto you, *they* are spirit, and *they* are life. But there are some of you that believe not. For Jesus knew from the beginning who they were that believed not, and who should betray

him. And he said, Therefore said I unto you, that no man can come unto me, except it were given unto him of my Father. From that *time* many of his disciples went back, and walked no more with him. *To fully understand this we must know who all was being addressed. This was said in a synagogue in Capernaum to the crowd that followed him from the feeding, the people that regularly attended this synagogue, and the twelve disciples. He pressed the point that he came down from heaven and that offended many of them. He asks the question "What if you saw me ascend back up from where I came"? He said that because there were some there that would see him ascend. He knew that his own disciples (the twelve) didn't understand this message any better than the crowd did, the only difference was they believed in him and that belief would allow them to see him go back up from whence he came. The crowd that came for another meal were offended at the truth and went back to never follow him again. His words are spirit and life which means they are to the soul what food is to the stomach.*

**John 6:67-69** Then said Jesus unto the twelve, Will ye also go away? Then Simon Peter answered him, Lord, to whom shall we go? thou hast the words of eternal life. And we believe and are sure that thou art that Christ, the Son of the living God. *The Lord's miracles could fill up a room, and his preaching could clear it out. The same people that ate the day before, said "this is that prophet that should come into the world", made effort to run him down the day following, heard spiritual truth that could have saved them all, choked on it, got upset and went back to never walk with him again. So, the Lord then turns to the twelve and asks if they are leaving too. Peter makes a great statement of faith, the only problem is that he speaks for them all not knowing that Judas is the betrayer.*

**John 6:70-71** Jesus answered them, Have not I chosen you twelve, and one of you is a devil? He spake of Judas Iscariot *the son of Simon: for he it was that should betray him, being one of the twelve. Peter was sure that the other disciples believed what he believed and felt like he felt. He was wrong! Jesus revealed that one of them was a devil. Judas was a devil because he aligned himself with Satan instead of the Savior.*

**Tonight's application: John 6:56** He that eateth my flesh, and drinketh my blood, dwelleth in me, and I in him. *This is spoken in the present tense continually. People that have been saved by Jesus Christ must also be sustained by him. Believers have spiritual appetites that only Christ can satisfy. One of the best indicators of salvation is that you have a hunger for the word of God. You desire to hear it preached and taught. You desire to take it in and comprehend it. We fellowship with Christ through his word, his Spirit, his church, through prayer and worship. We strongly encourage prayer and reading the scriptures regularly so that you'll have a strong relationship with Christ, not fulfill religious activity. The best way to become more like Jesus is to just be with him.*