



SEEKING FOR THE REAL BREAD

We all know the story of how Jesus fed the 5,000 with five barley loaves and two small fish. What Jesus tells his disciples afterward is the important lesson. Like many of us today, the disciples were looking for something tangible that they could see, touch, and taste. Jesus taught them to seek for the eternal bread of life that cannot be detected by the senses. What is more important? Is it more important to seek the tangible, or the eternal?

Satan, along with the world, will do everything to convince you that the tangible is the most important. They will do their utmost to make you strive for the acquisition of wealth and fortune which will be left behind. The world will tell you that those who are seeking for the real bread are just looking for a pie in the sky, or are dreamers.

In reality, those who seek and find the real bread have the greater wealth. Their wealth will last for all eternity, while those who are seeking the tangible wealth end up with nothing. The choice is yours. Look at what Jesus taught.

John 6:1-71

Feeding the 5,000

1 After these things Jesus went over the sea of Galilee, which is the sea of Tiberias.

2 And a great multitude followed him, because they saw his miracles which he did on them that were diseased.

3 And Jesus went up into a mountain, and there he sat with his disciples.

4 And the passover, a feast of the Jews, was nigh.

5 When Jesus then lifted up his eyes, and saw a great company come unto him, he saith unto Philip, Whence shall we buy bread, that these may eat?

6 And this he said to prove him: for he himself knew what he would do.

7 Philip answered him, Two hundred pennyworth of bread is not sufficient for them, that every one of them may take a little.

8 One of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, saith unto him,

Child's Offering

9 There is a lad here, which hath five barley loaves, and two small fishes: but what are they among so many?

10 And Jesus said, Make the men sit down. Now there was much grass in the place. So the men sat down, in number about five thousand.

11 And Jesus took the loaves; and when he had given thanks, he distributed to the disciples, and the disciples to them that were set down; and likewise of the fishes as much as they would.

Gathering the Fragments

12 When they were filled, he said unto his disciples, Gather up the fragments that remain, that nothing be lost.

13 Therefore they gathered them together, and filled twelve baskets with the fragments of the five barley loaves, which remained over and above unto them that had eaten.

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Seeing the Miracle

14 Then those men, when they had seen the miracle that Jesus did, said, This is of a truth that prophet that should come into the world.

Perceiving the Desires of the World

15 When Jesus therefore perceived that they would come and take him by force, to make him a king, he departed again into a mountain himself alone.

Crossing the Sea

16 And when even was now come, his disciples went down unto the sea,

17 And entered into a ship, and went over the sea toward Capernaum. And it was now dark, and Jesus was not come to them.

18 And the sea arose by reason of a great wind that blew.

Jesus Walking on Water

19 So when they had rowed about five and twenty or thirty furlongs, they see Jesus walking on the sea, and drawing nigh unto the ship: and they were afraid.

20 But he saith unto them, It is I; be not afraid.

Ship Transported to Land

21 Then they willingly received him into the ship: and immediately the ship was at the land whither they went.

Seeking the Lord for the Wrong Reasons

22 The day following, when the people which stood on the other side of the sea saw that there was none other boat there, save that one whereinto his disciples were entered, and that Jesus went not with his disciples into the boat, but that his disciples were gone away alone;

23 (Howbeit there came other boats from

Tiberias nigh unto the place where they did eat bread, after that the Lord had given thanks:)

24 When the people therefore saw that Jesus was not there, neither his disciples, they also took shipping, and came to Capernaum, seeking for Jesus.

25 And when they had found him on the other side of the sea, they said unto him, Rabbi, when camest thou hither?

26 Jesus answered them and said, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Ye seek me, not because ye saw the miracles, but because ye did eat of the loaves, and were filled.

Seeking for Everlasting Life

27 Labour not for the meat which perisheth, but for that meat which endureth unto everlasting life, which the Son of man shall give unto you: for him hath God the Father sealed.

Desiring to Do Good

28 Then said they unto him, What shall we do, that we might work the works of God?

29 Jesus answered and said unto them, This is the work of God, that ye believe on him whom he hath sent.

Seeing and Not Seeing or Seeking for a Sign

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.

Seeking the True Bread

32 Then Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Moses gave you not that bread from heaven; but my Father giveth you the true bread from heaven.

33 For the bread of God is he which cometh

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down from heaven, and giveth life unto the world.

Desiring the True Bread but Refusing it

34 Then said they unto him, Lord, evermore give us this bread.

The Bread of Life

35 And Jesus said unto them, I am the bread of life: he that cometh to me shall never hunger; and he that believeth on me shall never thirst.

Unbelief

36 But I said unto you, That ye also have seen me, and believe not.

37 All that the Father giveth me shall come to me; and him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out.

Doing the Father's Will

38 For I came down from heaven, not to do mine own will, but the will of him that sent me.

39 And this is the Father's will which hath sent me, that of all which he hath given me I should lose nothing, but should raise it up again at the last day.

40 And this is the will of him that sent me, that every one which seeth the Son, and believeth on him, may have everlasting life: and I will raise him up at the last day.

Murmuring and Complaining

41 The Jews then murmured at him, because he said, I am the bread which came down from heaven.

42 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?

43 Jesus therefore answered and said unto

them, Murmur not among yourselves.

Resurrection

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.

Being Taught of God and Jesus Declaring his Divinity

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.

Questions and Dissension

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.

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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.

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

Disciples Murmuring

60 Many therefore of his disciples, when they had heard this, said, This is an hard saying; who can hear it?

61 When Jesus knew in himself that his disciples murmured at it, he said unto them, Doth this offend you?

62 What and if ye shall see the Son of man ascend up where he was before?

Quickened by the Spirit

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.

64 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.

65 And he said, Therefore said I unto you, that no man can come unto me, except it were given unto him of my Father.

Desertion

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?

Peter's Insight

68 Then Simon Peter answered him, Lord, to whom shall we go? thou hast the words of eter-

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nal life.

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

70 Jesus answered them, Have not I chosen you twelve, and one of you is a devil?

71 He spake of Judas Iscariot the son of Simon: for he it was that should betray him, being one of the twelve.

The above Chapter contains a lot of deep insight on who the Lord really is, just like in John 4 where the Samaritan woman was taught about eternal water of life.

I. Feeding the 5,000

A. Testing the Disciples' Faith

- i. In vs. 5 and 6 Jesus asked the disciples about feeding the people. Philip knew how much money they had and reported that they only had enough to give a little portion to each.
- ii. Andrew, on the other hand, reported that a boy was willing to donate his lunch.

B. A Child's Offering

The boy offered everything that he had to offer. He held nothing back, even though he realized that he would go hungry. The faith of the boy demonstrates the faith that each of us should have in the Lord.

C. Gathering the Remains

- i. Twelve baskets were filled of the remains of the five barley loaves. This was when the disciples first saw the miracle. Prior to the gathering the remains, they did not see the miracle.
- ii. There are numerous times that we are just as blind as the disciples were. When they did not see the miracle until they gathered up the remains, we

are also in the same predicament. Numerous times the Lord has done things in our lives that we have totally missed the significance.

D. Perceiving the Wicked Desires of the World

- i. Jesus saw that when the people saw the miracle they wanted to set him up as a king. He knew that their desire was not for the spiritual side of what the Lord was about, but that they were only interested in the temporal aspects of life.
- ii. There are many today that are using Christianity for temporal pleasures without regard for the eternal. There have been wicked men and women throughout history who have used Christianity for monetary gain. This wickedness is the same as the people trying to make Jesus a king.
- iii. Just as Jesus was able to perceive the desires of the world, we also need to perceive the desires of those around us. There are many temptations that will draw the Christian into a pit. We need to see these temptations for what they really are and resist them with all diligence.

II. Walking on Water

A. Resisting Temptation

- i. When Jesus saw that the people wanted to make him a king, he departed into a mountain. The Bible does not give us a clue on how Jesus evaded the people, but there are numerous hints that Jesus was able to disguise himself and virtually disappear. It could be that he was transported to where he

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desired to go.

- ii. Jesus resisted the temptation of the world and withdrew when he saw that the world was willing to use force to get their way.

B. Crossing the Tiberias Sea

- i. First the disciples started to cross the Tiberias Sea on a hired boat. That night a great wind caused rough seas and the disciples saw Jesus walking on the rough sea.
- ii. Jesus identified himself and entered the boat.
- iii. Immediately, the disciples found themselves, the boat, and Jesus at land where they wanted to go. Those of us who watch Star Trek realize that teleportation was not invented by Einstein or Gene Roddenberry.

III. Seeking the Lord

A. Wrong Reasons

- i. The people who were seeking the Lord Jesus after he departed from them and crossed the Tiberias Sea were seeking him for the temporal miracles that they saw. They were not seeking for the bread of life that would not fail, but were seeking a man who would give them free food.
- ii. Those who sought the Lord for the benefit of food were seeking the Lord for the wrong reason. There are people who are still seeking the Lord for temporal reasons. There are some charlatans who still preach that you will get rich by seeking Christ.

B. Seeking for Everlasting Life

- i. Those who seek everlasting life from the Lord are seeking for the bread of life that will never fail. These are the seekers who are seeking for something that will not only last a lifetime, but will last eternity.

In vs. 27 we read:

Labour not for the meat which perisheth, but for that meat which endureth unto everlasting life, which the Son of man shall give unto you: for him hath God the Father sealed.

It so vital to seek for the eternal rather than for the temporary which the world holds in such high esteem.

- ii. Seeking to Do the Will of God:

The people asked Jesus, "What shall we do, that we might work the works of God?" Jesus responded, "This is the work of God, that ye believe on him whom he hath sent." Many today, just like 2,000 years ago refuse to believe in Jesus Christ. They are seeking for a sign just like they were seeking for a sign back 2,000 years ago. Needless to say, those who refuse to believe refuse to do the will of the Father.

- iii. Seeking for a Sign:

In vs. 28 we see that the people are still seeking for a sign. Here they saw how he fed them, how he crossed the sea, and yet they do not see. They are blind to the miracles that Jesus performed before their eyes. They see but are spiritually blind. They have seen everything that Jesus has done, but still do not see. Isn't this like the world today? They can see the miracles, and yet refuse to acknowledge the miracles. They see, but are blind.

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iv. Seeking the True Bread

God through Moses gave people manna to eat in the wilderness. All who ate the manna are dead, but when you seek and find the true bread you will never die.

When Jesus told them that he was the true bread from heaven. The people rejected the message though they saw all of the things that Jesus did.

Like many people today, they refused to accept the Lord Jesus Christ. Those who see the Lord's miracles and refuse to acknowledge the source, their judgment will be greater than if they had never witnessed any miracle.

IV. Jesus is the Real Bread

The rest of chapter 6 deals with Jesus proving that he is the true bread of God. In order to be saved, we must eat the true bread. We must have Jesus in us, being part of our very being. Without Jesus as an integral part of our life, we have no hope of salvation. Many refuse to accept Jesus as their Lord and Saviour and are thus lost, wandering about seeking for something that they do not know.

If you want to have the real bread, you must follow the instructions given by Peter.

Acts 2:38-41

38 Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.

39 For the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the LORD our God shall call.

40 And with many other words did he testify

and exhort, saying, Save yourselves from this untoward generation.

41 Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls.

When you repent you not only ask God for forgiveness, but you turn away from your sin. Part of your sin was failing to acknowledge the divinity of Jesus Christ. Most people think that repentance only should cover the really bad sins, but failure to acknowledge Jesus for who he is is a really bad sin.

Without Jesus Christ as your savior, it is impossible to be saved. Without eating the bread of life, you have no life. Thus the argument that you have lived a decent life and haven't done worse than others will not stand in God's court. Without Jesus as part of your life you are Guilty!

When you really repent, turning your whole life over to Jesus Christ, you will be filled with the Holy Ghost. If you hold back a portion of your life from Jesus Christ, you will never be filled with his divine spirit. Many seek the Holy Ghost, while refusing to allow Jesus full reign in their lives. Many become frustrated and angry when they do not get the Spirit of God. Many even believe that the Holy Ghost is not for them, which is contrary to what Peter said.

If you are willing to give your whole life to Jesus Christ today, now is the time to seek him with your whole heart and ask him to take total control of your life.