

# The Sermons of Jesus

## Lesson 5

### The Bread of Life

In John 6, a large crowd followed Jesus to a deserted area where Jesus did an amazing miracle feeding them all bread even though He started with only 5 loaves. Historically, bread has always been the universal food that sustains physical life. Since they believed Moses miraculously provided their ancestors with manna the crowd seeks Jesus as the “new Moses” who will do miracles and deliver them materially. Jesus’ message to them was that just as bread was necessary for their material life, the bread from heaven (Jesus) was necessary for their eternal life.

1. What rebuke did Jesus give the crowd who was seeking Him (John 6:26-27)? Food is necessary for life and must be earned, but where do we go, what do we do for “eternal life” (Jn 6:27-29)?
2. Throughout this discourse, Jesus continually draws a contrast between the bread the crowd is seeking and the true living bread that God is offering in Jesus. What is the difference between what they were asking for and what Jesus was offering (Jn 6:14-15, 30-40, 48-51)?
3. What was the crowd’s objection to Jesus’ claims (Jn 6:41-42)? How did Jesus explain their reluctance to believe in Him (6:43-47)?
4. Initially when Jesus told the people about a better “bread”, a spiritual living bread that gives life, the crowd asked for it (Jn 6:34). What outrageous answer to their request did Jesus give them in Jn 6:35? This is the first of seven great “I Am” statements in the Gospel of John. What are the others (Jn 8:12; 10:7,9; 10:11; 11:25; 14:6; 15:1,5)?
5. The author clearly is asserting the deity of Christ with these “I Am” statements. When Moses asked God what His name was, what did God tell him in Exodus 3:14? What is the huge difference Jesus gives between Himself and all other leaders (Jn 6:33, 38, 51, 58)?

6. Jesus is offering them a different kind of “bread” that they don’t have but clearly need. The bread Jesus wants to give them is spiritual and they must have it to be spiritually alive and secure eternal life. Conversely, what is their status without the bread of life (Eph 2:1-5)?
  
7. Many people have difficulty with Jesus’ statements in regards to their unbelief in John 6:44, 65. About being saved by the grace of God the scriptures teach that God has an internal ministry within us that convicts and draws. The key verse is John 6:45 quoting from both Isaiah 54:13 and Jeremiah 31:34 saying that part of the New Covenant would be a change of heart wrought by God. What is the most significant difference given in Jer 31:33 for the new reception of God’s word? See also Ezekiel 36:26
  
8. A good tool in uncovering the important themes of Jesus’ sermons is noticing repetition. What is the repetitious theme of Jn 6:29, 35, 40, 47, 69? What is the theme of Jn 6:27, 51, 54, 58, 68?
  
9. In this sermon Jesus is teaching both the necessity of our volition in believing and the necessity for the internal ministry of God “drawing” us. God is working, but man is responsible. Does God exclude people or prevent them from coming (2 Peter 3:9, 1 Timothy 2:4, Jn 3:16)? Are all that come through Jesus welcome and safe forever (Jn 6:39-40)?
  
10. Some theologians call John 6:51-55 the “scandal of the gospel”. What was the reaction of the audience (Jn 6:60, 66)? Follow the progression of unbelief from Jn 6:26 to 6:30, to 6:36, to 6:41, to 6:52, to 6:60, to 6:66. What rhetorical question did Jesus ask His closest disciples in 6:67? How did Peter reply (v 68-69)?