

John 6:51-71 – You Have the Words of Eternal Life

Jesus said that he was the Bread of God who came down from heaven to give life to the world. The people grumbled about these words. Who did he think he was, this person from Nazareth? They wanted daily bread from Jesus just like God gave the people of Israel manna in the wilderness six days a week. The people of Israel ate that bread for 40 years while wandering in the wilderness. They died in the wilderness without entering the Promised Land. Jesus offered them something better. He offered them food and drink which would last forever. They didn't like it when he said that he came down from heaven. How would they react when Jesus offered them his flesh to eat and his blood to drink? How hungry were they?

Read John 6:51-59.

Jesus said that he was the living bread which comes down from heaven and gives life to the world? What kind of bread did Jesus offer to the people? (6:51)

The people went from grumbling to word fighting. What was the question that they were pondering? Shouldn't their question have been "do we want to eat his flesh?" (6:52)

What does Jesus promise to those who eat his flesh and drink his blood? What is true of those who do not eat his flesh and drink his blood? (6:53-58)

Is the flesh and blood Jesus is speaking about literal flesh and blood or figurative flesh and blood? Is the eating and drinking of Jesus' flesh and blood literal or figurative? (6:53-58)

Read John 6:60-65.

What did many of Jesus' followers say when they heard Jesus talk about eating his flesh and drinking his blood? What did Jesus say about their response? (6:60-62)

What did Jesus mean by "the words which I have spoken to you are spirit and life? (6:63)

Why wasn't Jesus surprised by their negative reaction? What did Jesus know about them that the twelve disciples did not know? Why wasn't Jesus worried about losing many of his followers? (6:64-65)

Read John 6:66-71.

What happened to many of Jesus' followers after Jesus' discussion with them about the Bread of Life which comes down from heaven? (6:66)

Was Jesus concerned about this drop in numbers? Did Jesus try to drive off some of these "free meal" seekers by offering them his flesh and blood to drink? Does this have application to churches who gear their services to be seeker friendly? Are these phrases always true for a church? "Bigger is better". "The more the merrier."

The twelve disciples personally called by Jesus did not leave. Jesus asked them "You don't want to leave, do you?" His question expected a response of "No, we don't want to leave." What was Peter's response? Did Peter understand what Jesus was saying when he talked about eating his flesh and drinking his blood? Do we need to have all the answers as believers? What did Peter believe and know? What did Peter mean by his declaration? (6:67-69)

Peter answered for the twelve. Jesus quickly pointed out that even among the twelve that he personally chose that one of them was a devil. Why did Jesus choose a devil to be one of his chosen disciples? Some may think that Jesus made a mistake by choosing someone to be close to him who would later betray him. John made it clear that it was no mistake. (6:70-71)