

John 6:25-50 – The Bread of Life

Jesus used physical examples to speak about spiritual truths. He told Nicodemus that one must be born from above to enter the kingdom of God. Nicodemus misunderstood this to mean physical birth. Jesus was talking about being born of God which is a spiritual birth. Jesus asked the Samaritan woman for a drink of water. Jesus then said that he offered water that would be a spring of water welling up to eternal life. The partaker of this water would never thirst again (4:14). The woman misunderstood Jesus. She thought this was physical water that would allow her to never go to Jacob's well again. In chapter six, Jesus talked about bread. The people were satisfied after they ate their fill of the loaves but now they were hungry again. Jesus told them to labor for the food which endures to eternal life. Jesus spoke of spiritual truths but the people couldn't get their minds off of their growling stomachs.

Read John 6:25-34.

In verse 24 the people left for Capernaum seeking Jesus. When they found Jesus they asked him when he got there. Jesus didn't answer their surface question. Jesus got to the heart of why they were seeking him. Why were the people seeking Jesus? (6:25-26)

Instead of seeking Jesus for the wrong reasons what did Jesus tell the people they needed to do? The people asked a clarifying question. In the question they mentioned doing works of God. Notice the plural word "works". In Jesus' clarifying statement, what did Jesus tell the people? Notice that Jesus spoke of "the work of God" which is singular. Compare this "work of God" with the many laws given through Moses. (6:27-29)

The people revealed how shallow their belief was that Jesus was "the Prophet who is to come into the world". If they believed he was the Prophet spoken of in Deuteronomy 18:15 then they should have listened to Jesus. Instead of listening to Jesus, what did the people want Jesus to do? The people gave Jesus a suggestion of the kind of sign they wanted to see? What were the people really asking for? Notice that the people even quoted scripture to Jesus! (6:30-31)

Jesus spoke about the bread which comes down from heaven in a way that could be understood in two ways. The people finally told Jesus plainly what they wanted him to do for them. What was it? (6:32-34)

Read John 6:35-50.

Verse 35 contains the first of seven “I am” statements of Jesus found in the Gospel of John. What was this statement and what did Jesus mean by it? The people went to Capernaum seeking Jesus but did they believe in Jesus? (6:35-36)

What did Jesus say about those who believed in him and those who didn't? (6:37)

People will often ponder what the will of God is about this or that. What is definitely God's will? (6:38-40)

These “seekers” had a problem with what Jesus said. What did they grumble about? (6:41-42)

According to verse 44, why weren't these people receiving Jesus' words and believing in him?

What is true of those who come to Jesus and believe in him as the Son of God? (6:45-47)

How is the Bread of Life different than the manna that God gave the people of Israel in the desert? (6:48-50)

Like Nicodemus, the Samaritan woman and even the disciples, these “seekers” had their minds set on the physical. Jesus was telling them about eternal life. The physical perishes. Jesus offered them something that would endure forever. This eternal life only comes through Jesus.