

Grumbling over Bread from Heaven: John 6:41–59
Jaunting thru John: Message 20

Grace Chapel

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INTRODUCTION

REVIEW

PROLOGUE (John 1:1–18)

Jesus Christ created the universe. John the Baptist testified, so all might believe in Christ, but most of His own people rejected Him, but all believers become God's children thru faith in Him

EARLY MINISTRY (John 1:19–4:54)

THE FIRST DISCIPLES (John 1:19–51)

John the Baptist pointed all to Christ, so some of John's disciples followed Jesus & believed in Him.

FIRST SIGN WITNESSED BY THE APOSTLE JOHN (John 2:1–11)

When Jesus turned water into wine (His first Galilean sign), His disciples believed in Him.

MINISTRY IN JUDEA AT PASSOVER (John 2:13–3:36)

Many (including Nicodemus) believed in Jesus at the Passover feast because of the miracles Jesus performed, but Jesus cryptically predicted His death & resurrection as the great sign proving that He is the Messiah, & then He went into the Judean countryside to make disciples of the new believers.

THE SAMARITAN WOMAN: John 4:1–26

Jesus offered living water to a Samaritan woman, who questioned His ability to quench thirst eternally, but then asked Him if He were the Christ when He told her all things about herself.

MINISTRY IN SYCHAR: 4:27–42

She persuaded townfolk to see if Jesus might be the Messiah, as the 12 focused on food, so Jesus said the fields are ready for harvest & let them join in reaping (tho they failed to sow); & many Samaritans believed in Him

MINISTRY IN GALILEE 4:43–45

He went to Galilee, because no prophet is a hometown celebrity; they welcomed Him after seeing His signs

HEALING THE ROYAL OFFICIAL'S SON: 4:46–54

An official urged Jesus to come to Capernaum Jesus to heal his son, Jesus said, "Your son lives," which he believed; as he went home, his servants said, "Your son lives." He & his house believed

CONTROVERSY SECTION: John 5–12

HEALING THE LAME MAN: 5:1–15

On the Sabbath Jesus told a lame man to walk. Officials scolded him & sought to confront his healer

HEALING THE LAME MAN: 5:16–23

When Judeans sought to kill Jesus as a Sabbath-breaker who claimed equality w/ God, He said that He does what the Father does & will do greater works (raising the dead) & judging the world.

HONORING THE FATHER BY HONORING THE SON: 5:24–30

Jesus wants to give His opponents life (which He will do, if they believe), but He will judge (& condemn) them as unworthy of life (if they do not believe in Him) (5:24–30)

TWO, THREE, & MORE WITNESSES: 5:31–47

Jesus, the impartial Judge at the GWT, cannot also be accuser at GWT; He could call on John Baptist as witness, but does not receive man's testimony; so Jesus calls on His works as a greater witness, He also calls on the Father, Scripture & Moses to accuse these rejecters of Christ's words

THE BREAD OF LIFE

Jesus asked Philip where to buy food for a crowd following Him to see if he would anticipate a Messianic sign, but Andrew found a lad w/ bread & fish, so the people sat, Jesus gave thanks & broke bread; the 12 gave each all he wanted & filled 12 baskets w/ leftover crumbs; so people called Jesus the coming Prophet

WALKING ON WATER (6:15–21)

Jesus went up the mountain rather than being forcibly made king; at nightfall the 12 stopped gathering crumbs & left for Capernaum w/o Him, but a gale arose, then Jesus walked on the sea to them, entered the boat & immediately they reached Capernaum

JESUS: THE BREAD OF LIFE (6:22–40)

People sailed to Capernaum to find Him; they asked when He arrived, but He said they misunderstood His signs & told them to work (to understand) food that lasts for eternal life (that He gives)—an idea they like—so He said that God works to persuade that Jesus (sent by the Father) is the Christ, but they want manna, but Jesus said He, the true heavenly bread, came to give life to the world—which they wanted Him to keep doing; so He clarified that He is the life-giving bread, so believers are secure forever, because He obeys the Father

NEW EXPOSITION

Identifying the Locale:

6:24–25 and 59 identifies the place as Capernaum (a village of about 1500 people)

6:59 says that the discussion of verses 41–58 occurred in the synagogue at Capernaum

The question arises: Did the discussion of verses 25–40 also occur in the synagogue?

Three reasons for viewing verses 25–58 as occurring in the synagogue:

1. The Judean (synagogue leaders) in verse 41 object to what Jesus said in verses 33 & 38

It seems unlikely that they went to Tiberias/Bethsaida the day before and returned

2. If, however, they went to Tiberias/Bethsaiids and returned, would they adjourn to the synagogue and allow Jesus to take the floor as a controversy is beginning? No.
3. The easiest transition point would be for the people who came across the sea to find Jesus to have found Him (verse 25) as He was teaching in the synagogue..

Implications: There are two groups present: (1) disciples and (2) Judean officials

6:25–40 addresses disciples:

Disciples are those who followed Jesus (not all disciples were believers)

John 6:2 a large crowd followed Him (because of His signs)

John 6:4 the crowd came up the mountain after (followed) Him

6:24–25 Crowd went looking for Jesus (tried to follow Him)

6:41–59 addresses non-disciples: the Judean synagogue officials

Non-disciples (the Judean synagogue officials) never followed Jesus (6:41)

6:60–71: addresses disciples: some of whom ceased following Him

Many disciples (followers) were offended by Bread of life teaching (6:60)

Some of His disciples (followers) did not believe in Him

Many of His disciples stopped following Him (6:66)

6:41–59: Discussion with non-disciples (the Judean leaders)

The Judean synagogue officials grumbled about Jesus saying that He descended from heaven, because they knew His earthly family (6:41–42)

Note: they grumbled about heavenly bread, just as the Israelites grumbled about manna

These Judeans did not:

(1) follow Jesus to where He fed 5000 (because of His signs of healing people)

(2) eat the loaves and fish when Jesus fed the 5000

(3) know of His miraculous trip to Capernaum (walking on water)

But those who had followed Jesus for the past few days knew of these things

Jesus told them to stop grumbling, because only those the Father persuades (draws) by the Father teaching those who learn from Him) will come to Jesus & be raised to life by Christ, the only One who has seen the Father (6:43–46)

Calvinists often perceive this as a scary fatalism, as though people cannot resist drawing

However, verses 44–45 show that drawing occurs as one is taught (= learns) by the Father

Jesus Christ is uniquely qualified to tell them about learning from the Father, because He is the only One who has ever seen the Father (cf. John 1:18)

Whoever believes in Jesus—as the lifegiving Bread—has everlasting life (6:47–48)

Believing in Jesus as the lifegiving Bread distinguishes Him from the manna that could not grant everlasting life (6:49)

Jesus guarantees everlasting life to those who eat of (believe in) Jesus as the lifegiving Bread which came down from heaven that He may give His life—as bread—(on the cross) to grant life to people in the world (6:50–51)

This is a clear reference to the cross, just as John 2:19 is a reference to the cross

The Judean leaders argued amongst themselves as to what Jesus meant in speaking of giving His flesh to be eaten (6:52)

They seem to know that He was speaking figuratively, but argued over what He meant

Jesus clarified that they would (continue to) lack life in themselves, if they did not eat of Him (believe in Him), but if they did eat His flesh and drink His blood, they would have everlasting life and He would resurrect and Christ would indwell them (6:53–56)

They would have everlasting life and He would resurrect and Christ would indwell them, because the Father sent Him and because He has life on earth because of the Father (6:57)

Christ, as the lifegiving Bread differs from the manna (that did not give everlasting life), because whoever eats of Christ, the lifegiving Bread, have everlasting life (6:58)

Jesus said these things (starting in v. 25) while teaching in the synagogue in Capernaum (6:59)
6:60–71: Many disciples were offended

Many of Jesus' disciples were troubled by Jesus' teaching, so Jesus asked His grumbling disciples if they were offended by His teaching (6:60–61)

Jesus asks what they would do if they saw Him ascend back into heaven: a sign (6:63)

Jesus said that the Holy Spirit is who gives life, but (their) flesh is totally unprofitable (in gaining life), but Christ's words are words by which the Holy Spirit gives life (6:63)

Cf. John 3:8

Jesus said that some of His disciples had not believed in Him (for life); He always knew who did and who did not believe and that Judas would betray Him, which is why He said that (apart from the being granted through the Father's teaching) people cannot (& will not) believe Christ (6:64–65)

At this point many of His disciples ceased following Him (6:66)

Jesus asked the Twelve if they also wanted to leave, but Peter affirmed that there was no place to go, because Jesus has the message of everlasting life and that they (other than Judas) had believed in Him as the Christ, the Son of the Living God (6:67–69)

Jesus said that He had chosen them as disciples, even Judas, who would betray Him (6:70–71)

CONCLUSION