

Teaching Notes: John Chapter 6

Review

In Chapters 4 and 5 we encountered

- Three Healings
 - Samaritan Woman
 - Nobleman's Son
 - Impotent Man and Pool of Bethesda
- Four Witnesses
 - John the Baptist
 - The works of Jesus
 - The Father
 - The Scriptures

Three Key Declarations

1. Equal to God in His Divine Nature John 5:17-18
2. Equal to God in His Divine Power John 5: 19-21
3. Equal to God in His Divine Authority John 5:22-24

Chapter Six

- Longest chapter in John's Gospel – 71 Verses
- First of the seven "I AM" statements

Feeding of the 5000

- Jesus up on a mountain
- Only the men are counted
- Philip – where do we buy bread
- Andrew - here is a lad with 5 barley loaves and two fish
- Jesus orders the men to sit down
- Takes what He is given and gives thanks
- Distributes to the disciples
- Disciples distribute to the people
- All are fed
- 12 baskets left over - like abundance of wine at the wedding – more than enough

Storm at Sea

- Jesus went alone for prayer
- Disciples went ahead in the boat
- Storm and sea – fear in disciples
- Jesus walking on the water – be not afraid – in boat, safely on the other side

Bread of Life

- The people follow Jesus and find Him – what was their motive?
- Call Him Rabbi but don't listen to Him – remember they just called Him prophet/king
- Truly, Truly I say to you (4 times in this chapter) - you follow me for wrong reason

- Work for the food which endures for eternal life
- The Son of Man (Jesus) is the one who will give you this food
- The Father's seal is on Jesus (we are sealed in Eph 1:13)
- What is the works of God – Jesus – singular “the work of God” is to believe on Me

Manna

- Our fathers (Moses) gave us manna in the wilderness
- It was not Moses but my Father who gave you the manna and now is giving you the true bread
- This true bread gives life to the world
- Give us this bread – like woman at the well

Moses

Bread mediated through Moses
 Temporary – ceases after wilderness
 Given only to Israel
 Only sustained physical life

Jesus

Jesus directly given from God
 Continues forever, continuously given
 Given to the entire world
 Sustains spiritual life forever

Belief and Unbelief

- Although you have seen what I have done (feeding 5000) you do not believe – Prophet/King vs unbelief
- All who come to me I will not cast out
- I came down from heaven and I only do the will of my Father
- This is the Father's will – that I lose nothing (note John 17:12); also, the 12 baskets of fragments
- I will raise them up on the last day (three times in this passage) – John 11:25-26
- All who sees (beholds) the Son and believes on Him has eternal life – Nicodemus
- Grumbling
- Jesus – I AM THE BREAD OF LIFE THAT CAME DOWN FROM HEAVEN (verse 41 and 48)
- No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws them – raise the up on last day

Declarations of Jesus (verses 45-58)

- If you have heard and learned from the Father you will come to Me
- No one has ever seen the Father – only Me
- The manna was not enough
- If you eat the bread that I am giving you will not die
- I am living bread, if you eat this bread you will live forever
- The bread I am giving for the life of the world is my flesh
- No life within you with out eating of this bread
- Eat my flesh, drink my blood = eternal life and I will raise you up on the last day
- My flesh is true food and my blood is true drink
- Eat my flesh and drink my blood you will abide in me
- You will live forever

The Response

- This is a difficult statement
- Spirit gives life, the flesh profits nothing
- My words are spirit and life
- Many departed
- Disciples – Peter’s confession

Closing Reflections and Further Insights

1. Three Miracles – feeding 5000, walking on water, calming the storm reveals that Jesus is sovereign over all creation and not just a leader like Moses but the source of eternal life
2. Like the water into wine, the Lord is able to provide all our needs abundantly
3. His claims in chapter 5 (equal to God in Nature, Power, Authority) are demonstrated here
4. The key is believing – ie FAITH
5. God is the ultimate and only source of life that satisfies and that comes through Jesus
6. The world apart from God is dead – why we need the “new birth” (John 3)
7. Coming to Jesus (belief on Him) you will never go hungry or thirsty
8. Passage looks at God’s Sovereignty and human responsibility
9. Those that respond in faith, by God’s grace (no works on our part) are secure - Jesus loses none
10. Many heard but refused to accept and come