

John 6:22 – 54

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~ The Lord Jesus fed a crowd of five thousand in the last leg of our Spiritual Safari expedition through the entire Word of God; and we saw how the masses in Israel wanted to make Jesus their king at that time. The number one concern amongst the people was liberation from Rome; and they thought Jesus could make it happen, seeing how He was in the line of David. They believed He was SUPPOSED to make it happen, according to Scriptural prophecy. The people believed in His miracles, but they were only satisfied temporarily because He had fed them physically. They weren't interested that Jesus was the Son of God and was offering them salvation from their sins; no, they're only interested in eating - that is, they can only focus on physical and material gain. That's all they understand as important, and they're not interested in the rest.

In our last report, we examined what I consider a miraculous escape from the mob by Jesus. We do know Jesus went up into the mountain to pray and He sent the disciples across the Sea of Galilee. The apostles thought they were going to die in the storm that arose, because it was a particularly fierce storm. Then, they saw Jesus walking on the water coming to them and took them to shore! When the seas get rough in your life, and you can't row any more - do you watch for the Lord Jesus to come to you and take you safely to the shore on the other side? Well, the crowd is disappointed because they are looking for Jesus, but Jesus is already gone....

22 The day following, when the people which stood on the other side of the sea saw that there was none other boat there, save that one whereinto his disciples were entered, and that Jesus went not with his disciples into the boat, but that his disciples were gone away alone;

23 (Howbeit there came other boats from Tiberias nigh unto the place where they did eat bread, after that the Lord had given thanks)

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~ The movement is from the Sea of Galilee to the mountain where the feeding took place; near Tiberius - and then they traveled by boat the rest of the way to Capernaum. That seems to be the geographical movement. This is also the first time John tells us how the Lord giving thanks. This is also the first time John has called Him Lord. The common name for Him is Jesus because He is the Word made flesh. That Word just happens to be Jesus....

24 When the people therefore saw that Jesus was not there, neither his disciples, they also took shipping, and came to Capernaum, seeking for Jesus.

25 And when they had found him on the other side of the sea, they said unto him, Rabbi, when camest thou hither?

26 Jesus answered them and said, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Ye seek me, not because ye saw the miracles, but because ye did eat of the loaves, and were filled.

~ That indirect answer by Jesus will reveal their motive for even seeking Him in the first place. Jesus is using a word that means they were filled of the Father; but being dead spiritually, their only interest was being fed physical food. Well, Jesus is saying, "stop working for the food that perishes!" The food Jesus feeds you with will satisfy and edify and sustain you forevermore. This is the same approach Jesus made to the woman at the well in Samaria. At the well, the issue was water; but here, the subject is bread. There are two common place things that are essential in maintaining life: bread and water. When we put this all together with Jesus was the "Word" – what can we really know about God? How do you explain the Word became flesh? Well, the Lord Jesus says He is water, and He gives living water. Jesus is reaching down and communicating with us on a level that we can understand. We all know what water and bread are....

27 Labour not for the meat which perisheth, but for that meat which endureth unto everlasting life, which the Son of man shall give unto you: for him hath God the Father sealed.

28 Then said they unto him, What shall we do, that we might work the works of God?

~ Most people want to do something to repay the Lord for their being saved; and these people in verse twenty-eight did exactly that, too. Man has always felt that he needs to work at being saved; and many men feel completely capable and competent of working out their own salvation. They have a misconception that God must accept their good deeds. It's a tragic tale of Biblical illiteracy. Alright, if you did want to work out your salvation, verse twenty-nine would be the place to begin....

29 Jesus answered and said unto them, This is the work of God, that ye believe on him whom he hath sent.

~ The work of God is not a commandment, but that which is wrought of the Lord Himself. It's all about what God has done for us; not what we can do for Him - or for ourselves. It is the work of the Holy Spirit moving and working through the individual that affects change. This passage is saying God Himself provides the spiritual food that enables us to believe; His work provides a way for us to have faith! Friends, if that doesn't seat itself at the most prestigious place of honor in your thinking then there is nothing that I can tell you that will make you see how wonderful the Lord Jesus can truly be. That which God has given us, we are to partake of; God has provided a banquet. The Lord wants us to go out into the highways with Him and tell people to come. We are to tell them they are invited to a free meal of gourmet spiritual food....

30 They said therefore unto him, What sign shewest thou then, that we may see, and believe thee? what dost thou work?

~ And this reveals the absolute hardness of the human heart. These people have been miraculously fed. Surely the multitude knew the circumstances under which that food came forth. Here, they say, "... show us a sign" – meaning they didn't believe anything at all. They went right back to the dinner table of their thinking, too. Well, the manna wasn't a one time

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feeding, friends; God fed them every single day for forty years. All this crowd is after is something physical....

31 Our fathers did eat manna in the desert; as it is written, He gave them bread from heaven to eat.

32 Then Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Moses gave you not that bread from heaven; but my Father giveth you the true bread from heaven.

33 For the bread of God is he which cometh down from heaven, and giveth life unto the world.

34 Then said they unto him, Lord, evermore give us this bread.

~ Manna gave physical life in the wilderness, but God gave the manna. The Lord Jesus gives us spiritual life. These people are just like the woman at the well saying ".... give me." She wanted water and they want bread. Remember, it took nearly two full reports for the Lord Jesus to get her thinking out of the well of Jacob and onto the spiritual. Likewise, it's taking a while to get these people away from the dinner table and to the spiritual bread that gives spiritual life. Here, the Lord Jesus joins the two together. Christ is also the spiritual manna that comes down from Heaven; and Christ is the bread of life that we are to feed upon constantly. Remember, manna was a miracle food - and it was thrilling. When they went into the Promised Land, they were given the old corn to eat. Spiritually, that speaks of the Word of God and friends, you can just trust me that a lot of people do not like to be fed the old corn....

35 And Jesus said unto them, I am the bread of life: he that cometh to me shall never hunger; and he that believeth on me shall never thirst.

36 But I said unto you, That ye also have seen me, and believe not.

37 All that the Father giveth me shall come to me; and him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out.

~ That, friends, brings us to a profound truth that is not very well understood today. These people have seen Jesus perform miracles right in front of their eyes, but they believed not. Now, many want to argue about election versus free-will; and these people usually have all their eggs in one basket or the other. Our safari does not deign attempt to reconcile the two because I discovered a long time ago that I cannot present that to you properly. There was a time I could have written a fifteen-page report reconciling the two. There was a time in my life when I had all the answers. Here, we have election and free-will both in the same verse thirty-seven. All that the Father giveth to Me = election;him that cometh to Me = free will. Both are true – that's what I know. The ones who come are, apparently, the ones the Father gives to Him; but, quite frankly, as far as you and I are concerned, God has given us a free-will and we have to exercise it to come to Him. Whosoever will may come is the injunction; and it is an honest invitation. You can argue election all you want to, but anyone may come to the Lord Jesus. Those who come to Him He will not cast out. If you're wondering if you're one of the elect, you can come to Him and be sure. Further, the will of God is for you to come to the Lord Jesus in faith. That is a tremendous statement, beyond words of description....

38 For I came down from heaven, not to do mine own will, but the will of him that sent me.

39 And this is the Father's will which hath sent me, that of all which he hath given me I should lose nothing, but should raise it up again at the last day.

40 And this is the will of him that sent me, that every one which seeth the Son, and believeth on him, may have everlasting life: and I will raise him up at the last day.

41 The Jews then murmured at him, because he said, I am the bread which came down from heaven.

42 And they said, Is not this Jesus, the son of Joseph, whose father and mother we know? how is it then that he saith, I came down from heaven?

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~ Our Spiritual Safari clearly sees Jesus teaching that He is the Bread that came down from Heaven; as in, He is the Son of God. Jesus is teaching His virgin birth here, too. Jesus said He came down from Heaven and there's only one way that could have happened – through the virgin birth. That Holy Thing was conceived of the Holy Spirit as it was told to Mary! Jesus coming down out of Heaven is the Christmas story complete. You can jingle all the bells in the one-horse sleigh and scream ho-ho-ho at the top of your lungs all day long, but if you don't have the virgin birth being taught, you just don't happen to have a Christmas story. These people thought they knew Who He was – the son of Joseph – but He was NOT the son of Joseph! When Jesus asked, "who are my mother and my brethren?" – He didn't mention the Father because we all know Who that is....

43 Jesus therefore answered and said unto them, Murmur not among yourselves.

44 No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him: and I will raise him up at the last day.

~ The word for 'draw' here is one that means 'to drag' – and that's divine election, my friend. I cannot explain in less than fifty thousand words the fact that you have free will that you can exercise and be responsible for. If I did write that report, you would never reach the end. Anyone who is honest realizes a responsibility and that they may accept or reject Christ. It's completely up to you....

45 It is written in the prophets, And they shall be all taught of God. Every man therefore that hath heard, and hath learned of the Father, cometh unto me.

~ We can place our finger on Scripture after Scripture that refers to this passage. There are more than a dozen Scriptures that say we can come to God. We come to the Lord by listening to the Word of God. That is where the emphasis should be placed when teaching the Bible....

46 Not that any man hath seen the Father, save he which is of God, he hath seen the Father.

47 Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me hath everlasting life.

48 I am that bread of life.

49 Your fathers did eat manna in the wilderness, and are dead.

50 This is the bread which cometh down from heaven, that a man may eat thereof, and not die.

51 I am the living bread which came down from heaven: if any man eat of this bread, he shall live for ever: and the bread that I will give is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world.

52 The Jews therefore strove among themselves, saying, How can this man give us his flesh to eat?

53 Then Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except ye eat the flesh of the Son of man, and drink his blood, ye have no life in you.

54 Whoso eateth my flesh, and drinketh my blood, hath eternal life; and I will raise him up at the last day.

~ Our final section of Scripture in this report is so important I don't want you to miss it. I would suggest reading this entire chapter again. I think the Lord is as clear as He can be about the truths we have learned in this report. This report draws a line in the spiritual sand of belief. We decide, not election, which side of that line we are going to finish on. Jesus came to this earth and the Word was made flesh. Jesus went to the cross and laid His human life down as a sacrifice to pay for your sins and mine. When we accept and partake of THAT – THEN we are saved. Does that sound vivid? – The people in Jesus day sure thought it was! The Jews had a real problem with Jesus saying He was giving them His flesh to eat. If we do not partake

of the Lord Jesus Christ spiritually then we are just as dead as any thing that has no life in it. That just happens to be more of a reality than physical death. Our safari leaves off today where so many people disagree: about the last supper. Do you trust the Lord Jesus Christ in faith with your life today? Do you trust the work of the Lord Jesus Christ on the cross is adequate? ~

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