**Book of John: Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus**

**John 6, Part Two**

**Who is Jesus: The Bread of Life**

Last week, we read the eye witness report of two events that should not have happened but did. First, Jesus provided bread and fish to a group of over 5,000 plus people who had sought him out and were hungry. It was a like a Passover feast on the hillsides of Galilee, remembering the manna provided to the Israelites 2,000 years earlier. It made the people think that Jesus was the king, prophet and provider promised in Deuteronomy 18:15. But Jesus did not come to be an earthly king—he had other purposes for coming to earth. Leading a revolt or drawing attention of the Jewish and Herodian authorities, was not one of them.

Jesus fled and instructed the disciples to leave by boat. These experienced fishermen found themselves in trouble on the Sea of Galilee as a storm tried to overtake them. Jesus, against the possible, comes through the violent waves and the powerful wind to calm the sea and lead them to shore. It was a lesson to them, not only of His power over nature, but also his presence in the worst of conditions.

Tonight we are going to join Jesus, the disciples, and the crowd that continues to follow him across the lake to the synagogue in Capernaum. Here Jesus will address a press conference with the crowd and make it clear to them who he is and what he came for. Did he come to fill their bellies, did he come to be the “new Moses?” Decisions will be made—will they follow him, or part their ways with the Son of God?

**John 6:22-34: A Press Conference in Capernaum**

*The thing that makes human beings different from the animals is that having a full belly*

*and a comfortable place to rest does not satisfy us.* Ray Stedman, January 1984

Crowd’s Question #1: (25)

 Jesus’ response:

 What is benefit of ignoring their question?

Crowd’s Question #2: (28)

 Jesus’ response:

Crowd’s Question #3: (30)

 Jesus’ response:

 *Earthly symbols must be converted into spiritual truths.*  Gary M. Burge, 2000.

 The symbol of bread: that which \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ life.

 The bread from God is: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (33)

Crowd’s Demand(34):

**John 6:35-50 Manna Sent from Heaven is Jesus**

Remember, the Jews looked to Moses as the source of the manna in the desert.

 (35-40) Jesus: His mission—

 His authority-

 (41-43) The crowd forgets all his healings, restorations and feeding

 Merely a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

 Grumbling: A reminder of the Israelites (Numbers 11:1-23)

 (44-45) Understanding Jesus requires two things:

 My open \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

 God the Father’s \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

 (46-51a)The benefit of the spiritual bread:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

 It is easy to downplay this benefit until you see how hard mankind works to live beyond his/her natural years.

**John 6:51b-59 His Future Sacrifice Revealed: This is my body given for you**

*…graphic…shocking…compelling…confusing…intimate…*  Gary Burge

*…everywhere in Scripture, both Old and New Testaments alike, there is this emphasis upon the necessity for blood, for a death, in order to cure and deliver us from the evil grip of sin in our lives.*  Ray Stedman

 What is closeness with God?

 Who provides that closeness?

**John 6: 60-71 A Time to Respond**

Many want the miracles & provisions of Jesus without wanting an intimate & committed dependance on him. Many wanted the physical bread but not the spiritual bread.

List the various reactions and responses to the “I am the Bread of Life” sermon:

Is Jesus worried about the number of people that follow Him?

 Will followers of Jesus always understand what He is doing and saying at the moment?

God often reveals His plans giving mankind plenty of lead-time and clues.

 What two future events does Jesus reveal in the chapter?

 (62-63)

 (70-71)