

DAY THIRTEEN 13

THE BREAD OF LIFE

John 6:1-34

After these things Jesus went away to the other side of the Sea of Galilee (or Tiberias). And a great multitude was following Him, because they were seeing the signs which He was performing on those who were sick. And Jesus went up on the mountain and sat with His disciples.

Now the Passover, the feast of the Jews, was at hand. Jesus lifted up His eyes, and seeing that a great multitude was coming to Him, said to Philip, "Where are we to buy bread, that these people may eat?" He was saying this to test him; for He Himself knew what He was intending to do.

Philip answered Him, "Two hundred days pay worth of bread is not sufficient for them, even for everyone to receive just a little." One of His disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, said to Him, "There is a boy here who has five barley loaves and two fish, but how can this be enough for so many people?" Jesus said, "Have the people sit down." It was a large grassy area. So the men who sat down were about five thousand.

Jesus took the loaves; and having given thanks, He distributed the bread to those who were seated; and also gave them as much of the fish as they wanted. And when they were full, He said to His disciples, "Gather up the leftover fragments that nothing may be lost." And they gathered them up, and filled twelve baskets with pieces from the five barley loaves, left over by those who had eaten. When the people saw the sign which He had performed they said, "Truly this is the Prophet who is supposed to come into the world." Jesus, perceiving that they were intending to come and take Him by force to make Him king, withdrew again to the mountain to be by Himself.

Now when evening came His disciples went down to the sea, and after getting into a boat, they started to cross the sea to Capernaum. It had already become dark, and Jesus had not yet come to them. And the sea began to be stirred up because a strong wind was blowing. When they had rowed about three or four miles, they beheld Jesus walking on the sea and drawing closer to the boat; and they were frightened. But He said to them, "It is I; do not be afraid." They received Him into the boat and immediately the boat came ashore at their destination.

The next day the multitude that stood on the other side of the sea saw that there was no other small boat there, except

Jesus spent much of His three or four year public ministry around the sea of Galilee, many miles from Jerusalem.

Passover was the chief feast of the Jews. It was a time of reflection and commemoration of God delivering Israel out of Egypt.

This meal was truly miraculous and set the stage for many things that Jesus' followers needed to be taught. The disciples were amazed by so much materializing from what they knew to be far too little.

Every impulse of man is to focus on what we can see. Jesus came to make clear that we are to live for unseen things, yet they are every bit as real!

"Son of Man" is a prophetic term that indicates Jesus' identity with humanity, but also carries traces of His oneness with God. In order to save mankind, Jesus became one of us.

If there was a way to eat bread that would keep them alive forever, then they wanted it!

The Jews knew that Jesus was claiming incredible things about Himself, and it offended them that a mere son of a carpenter would make such a claims.

one, and that Jesus had not entered with His followers into the boat, but that His disciples had gone away alone. There came other small boats from Tiberias near to the place where they ate the bread after the Lord had given thanks.

When the multitude saw that Jesus or His followers were no longer there, they got into small boats, and came to Capernaum, looking for Jesus. And when they found Him on the other side of the sea, they said to Him, "Teacher, when did You get here?" Jesus answered them and said, "Truly, truly, I say to you, you seek Me, not because you saw signs, but because you ate of the loaves, and were filled. Do not work for the food which perishes, but for the food which endures to eternal life, which the Son of Man shall give to you, for on Him the Father, even God, has set His seal of favor and truth."

They said to Him, "What shall we do, that we may work the works of God?" Jesus answered and said to them, "This is the work of God, that you believe in Him whom He has sent." They said to Him, "What do You do for a sign, that we may see it, and believe You? What work do You perform? Our fathers ate the manna in the wilderness; as it is written, 'He gave them bread out of heaven to eat.'"

Jesus said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, it is not Moses who has given you the bread out of heaven, but it is My Father who gives you the true bread out of heaven. For the bread of God is that which comes down out of heaven, and gives life to the world." They said to Him, "Lord, give us this bread forever."

John 6:35-71

Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life; he who comes to Me shall not hunger, and he who believes in Me shall never thirst. But I said to you, that you have seen Me, and yet do not believe. All that the Father gives Me shall come to Me, and the one who comes to Me I will certainly not cast out. For I have come down from heaven, not to do My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me. And this is the will of Him who sent Me, that of all that He has given Me I lose nothing, but I will raise it up on the last day. For this is the will of My Father, that everyone who looks upon the Son and believes in Him, may have eternal life; and I Myself will raise him up on the last day."

The Jews therefore were grumbling about Him, because He said, "I am the bread that came down out of heaven." And they were saying, "Isn't this Jesus, the son of Joseph, whose father and mother we know? Why is He saying, 'I have come down out of heaven'?"

Jesus answered and said to them, "Do not grumble among yourselves. No one can come to Me, unless the Father who sent Me draws him; and I will raise him up on the last day. It is written in the prophets, 'They shall all be taught by God.' Everyone who has heard and learned from the Father comes to Me. Not that any man has seen the Father, except the One who is from God; He has seen the Father. Truly, truly, I say to you, he who believes has eternal life. I am the bread of life. Your fathers ate the manna in the wilderness, and they died. This is the bread which comes down out of heaven, so that one may eat of it and not die. I am the living bread that came down out of heaven; if anyone eats of this bread, he shall live forever; and the bread which I shall give for the life of the world is My flesh."

Even His followers struggled with Jesus' words. Once again He drew their attention to where He had come from. This is what made the fulfillment of all of Jesus' words possible.

This had a negative effect upon Jesus' followers. Peter, however, submits to what to him is becoming obvious.

The Spirit is alive in people who embrace Christ as the Deliverer of our eternal soul. He then sends the gift of His Spirit to help us communicate with Him and to be obedient to His words.

The Jews therefore began to argue with one another, saying, "How can this man give us His flesh to eat?" Jesus therefore said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink His blood, you have no life in yourselves. He who eats My flesh and drinks My blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day. For My flesh is true food, and My blood is true drink. He who eats My flesh and drinks My blood abides in Me, and I in him. As the living Father sent Me, and I live because of the Father, so he who partakes of Me shall live because of Me. This is the bread which came down out of heaven; not as the fathers ate, and died, he who eats this bread shall live forever."

These things He said in the synagogue, as He taught in Capernaum. Many of His disciples, when they heard Him say this, said, "This is a difficult statement; who can accept it?" But Jesus, conscious that His followers grumbled at this, said to them, "Does this cause you to stumble? What will happen if you see the Son of Man ascending where He was before? It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing; the words that I have spoken to you are spirit and are life. But there are some of you who do not believe." For Jesus knew from the beginning who they were who did not believe, and who it was that would betray Him.

And He was saying, "For this reason I have said to you, that no one can come to Me, unless it has been granted him from the Father." As a result of this many of His disciples withdrew, and were not walking with Him anymore. Jesus said to the twelve, "You do not want to go away also, do you?" Simon Peter answered Him, "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have words of eternal life. And we have believed and have come to know that You are the Holy One of God."

Jesus answered them, "Did I Myself not choose the twelve of you, and yet one of you is a devil?" He meant Judas the son of Simon Iscariot, for he, one of the twelve, was going to betray Him.