

The Gospel According to John

9-4-2019

1. Last week, I taught Joh 6:1 to 6:48 where we studied the feeding of the 5000. When the clock tolled 7:45 P.M. I was about to begin an analysis of Joh 6:49-51 by way the *Doctrine of Manna*.
2. Before we return to that study, I want to give you opportunity to rebound.
3. I want to review some of that learned last week and then begin new material on page five.

The Feeding of the 5000

Joh 6:1 After this, Jesus crossed to the far shore of the Sea of Galilee (that is, the Sea of Tiberias),

Joh 6:2 and a great crowd of people followed him because they saw the miraculous signs he had performed on the sick.

Joh 6:3 Then Jesus went up on a mountainside and sat down with his disciples.

Comment: Before we can determine on what mountainside Jesus “sat down with his disciples,” we must recall where Jesus last visited. His last act was a healing of the formerly blind man in Jerusalem.

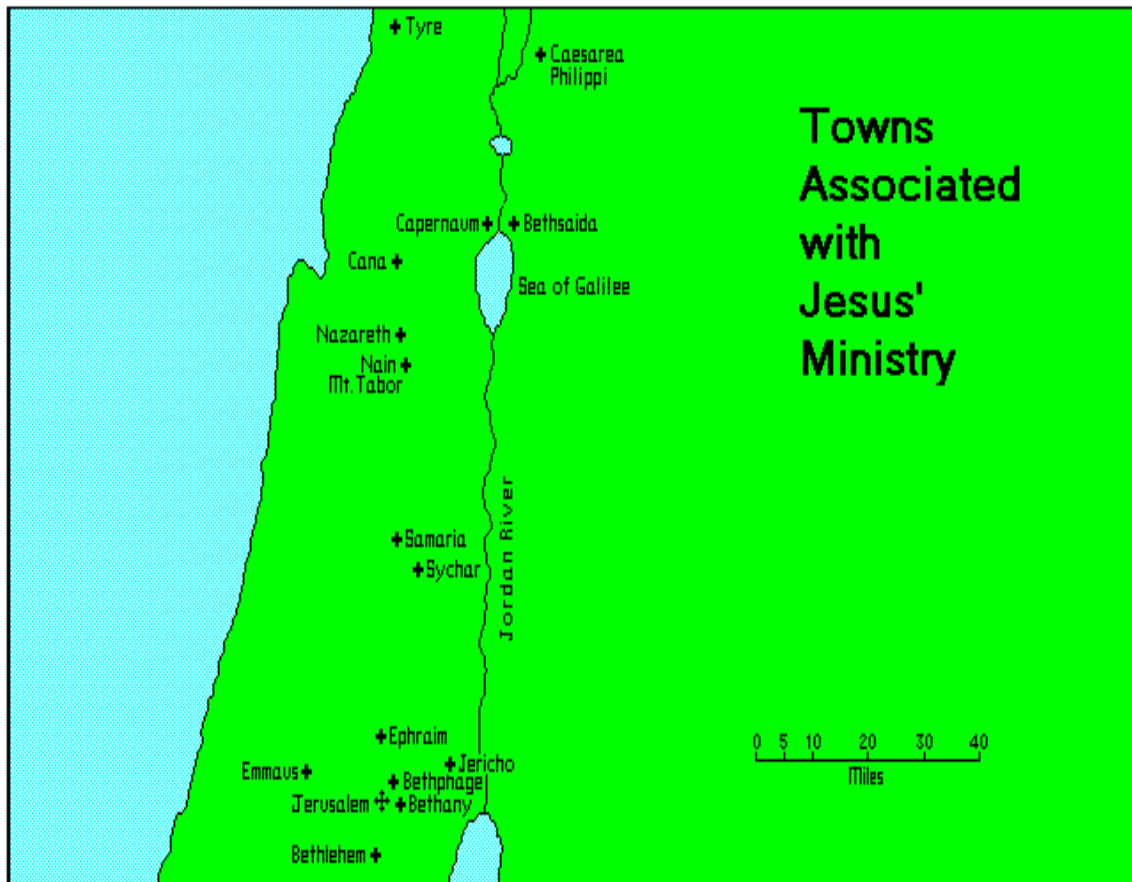
Joh 6:4 The Jewish Passover Feast was near.

Joh 6:5 When Jesus looked up and saw a great crowd coming toward him, he said to Philip, "Where shall we buy bread for these people to eat?"

Joh 6:6 He asked this only to test him, for he already had in mind what he was going to do.

Comment: The far shore of the Sea of Galilee would place the feeding just north of the city of Bethsaida in a secluded grassy area. I have marked that area on the map entitled “Towns Associated with Jesus’ Ministry” with an X.

1. The exact location of the “feeding” is somewhat problematic.



Joh 6:7 Philip answered him, "Eight months' wages would not buy enough bread for each one to have a bite!"

Joh 6:8 Another of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, spoke up,

Joh 6:9 "Here is a boy with five small barley loaves and two small fish, but how far will they go among so many?"

Joh 6:10 Jesus said, "Have the people sit down." There was plenty of grass in that place, and the men sat down, about **five thousand** of them.

Joh 6:11 Jesus then took the loaves, gave thanks, and distributed to those who were seated as much as they wanted. He did the same with the fish.

Joh 6:12 When they had all had enough to eat, he said to his disciples, "Gather the pieces that are left over. Let nothing be wasted."

Joh 6:13 So they gathered them and filled twelve baskets with the pieces of the five barley loaves left over by those who had eaten.

Joh 6:14 After the people saw the miraculous sign that Jesus did, they began to say, "Surely this is the Prophet who is to come into the world."

Comment: Jesus performed His miracles from His humanity and this included the feeding of the five thousand.

2. Philip was at first amazed and doubted the Lord's ability.

Joh 6:7 Philip answered him, "Eight months' wages would not buy enough bread for each one to have a bite!"

Joh 6:8 Another of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, spoke up,

Joh 6:9 "Here is a boy with five small barley loaves and two small fish, but how far will they go among so many?"

3. Notice how the attitudes of the disciples changed.

Joh 6:14 After the people saw the miraculous sign that Jesus did, they began to say, "Surely this is the Prophet who is to come into the world."

4. Now let's see what we can learn from Joh 6:16-25.

Joh 6:16 When evening came, his disciples went down to the lake,

Joh 6:17 where they got into a boat and set off across the lake for Capernaum. By now it was dark, and Jesus had not yet joined them.

Joh 6:18 A strong wind was blowing and the waters grew rough.

Joh 6:19 When they had rowed three or three and a half miles, they saw Jesus approaching the boat, walking on the water; and they were terrified.

Joh 6:20 But he said to them, "It is I; don't be afraid."

Joh 6:21 Then they were willing to take him into the boat, and immediately the boat reached the shore where they were heading.

Joh 6:22 The next day the crowd that had stayed on the opposite shore of the lake realized that only one boat had been there, and that Jesus had not entered it with his disciples, but that they had gone away alone.

Joh 6:23 Then some boats from Tiberias landed near the place where the people had eaten the bread after the Lord had given thanks.

Joh 6:24 Once the crowd realized that neither Jesus nor his disciples were there, they got into the boats and went to Capernaum in search of Jesus.

Joh 6:25 When they found him on the other side of the lake, they asked him, "Rabbi, when did you get here?"

Words to the People

Joh 6:26 Jesus answered, "I tell you the truth, you are looking for me, not because you saw miraculous signs but because you ate the loaves and had your fill.

Joh 6:27 Do not work for food that spoils, but for food that endures to eternal life, which the Son of Man will give you. On him God the Father has placed his seal of approval."

Joh 6:28 Then they asked him, "What must we do to do the works God requires?"

Joh 6:29 Jesus answered, "The work of God is this: to believe in the one he has sent."

Joh 6:30 So they asked him, "What miraculous sign then will you give that we may see it and believe you? What will you do?"

Joh 6:31 Our forefathers ate the manna in the desert; as it is written: 'He gave them bread from heaven to eat.'"

Joh 6:32 Jesus said to them, "I tell you the truth, it is not Moses who has given you the bread from heaven, but it is my Father who gives you the true bread from heaven.

Joh 6:33 For the bread of God is he who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world."

Joh 6:34 "Sir," they said, "from now on give us this bread."

Joh 6:35 Then Jesus declared, "I am the bread of life. He who comes to me will never go hungry, and he who believes in me will never be thirsty.

Joh 6:36 But as I told you, you have seen me and still you do not believe.

Joh 6:37 All that the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never drive away.

Joh 6:38 For I have come down from heaven not to do my will but to do the will of him who sent me.

Joh 6:39 And this is the will of him who sent me, that I shall lose none of all that he has given me, but raise them up at the last day.

Joh 6:40 For my Father's will is that everyone who looks to the Son and believes in him shall have eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day."

Words to the Jews

Joh 6:41 At this the Jews began to grumble about him because he said, "I am the bread that came down from heaven."

Joh 6:42 They said, "Is this not Jesus, the son of Joseph, whose father and mother we know? How can he now say, 'I came down from heaven'?"

Joh 6:43 "Stop grumbling among yourselves," Jesus answered.

Joh 6:44 "No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him, and I will raise him up at the last day.

Joh 6:45 It is written (Exo 4:15; Isa 5:13) in the Prophets: 'They will all be taught by God.' Everyone who listens to the Father and learns from him comes to me.

Joh 6:46 No one has seen the Father except the one who is from God; only he has seen the Father.

Joh 6:47 I tell you the truth, he who believes has everlasting life.

Joh 6:48 I am the bread of life.

Comment: The best way to understand Jesus answer to these Jews is to review the *Doctrine of the Advantage of Being a Jew*.

5. Now let's see what we can learn from Joh 6:49-51.

Joh 6:49 Your forefathers ate the manna in the desert, yet they died.

Joh 6:50 But here is the bread that comes down from heaven, which a man may eat and not die.

Joh 6:51 I am the living bread that came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever. This bread is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world."

Comment: I think the best way to teach these verses is to review the *Doctrine of Manna*.

Doctrine of Manna

1. Manna is used in Scripture both figuratively and literally.

1.1 The more important Old Testament Scriptures relating to Manna are Exo 16:14-35; Num 11:1-9 and Jos 5:12. I shall quote in part:

Exo 16:14 When the dew was gone, thin flakes like frost on the ground appeared on the desert floor.

Exo 16:15 When the Israelites saw it, they said to each other, "What is it?" For they did not know what it was. Moses said to them, "It is the bread the LORD has given you to eat ...

Exo 16:22 On the sixth day, they gathered twice as much ... and the leaders of the community came and reported this to Moses.

Exo 16:23 He said to them ... "Tomorrow is to be a day of rest, a holy Sabbath to the LORD. So bake what you want to bake and boil what you want to boil. Save whatever is left and keep it until morning."

Exo 16:26 Six days you are to gather it, but on the seventh day, the Sabbath, there will not be any."

Exo 16:27 Nevertheless, some of the people went out on the seventh day to gather it, but they found none.

Exo 16:28 Then the LORD said to Moses, "How long will you refuse to keep my commands and my instructions? ...

Exo 16:33 So Moses said to Aaron, "Take a jar and put an omer of manna in it. Then place it before the LORD to be kept for the generations to come."

Exo 16:34 As the LORD commanded Moses, Aaron put the manna in front of the Testimony, that it might be kept.

Exo 16:35 The Israelites ate manna forty years, until they came to a land that was settled; they ate manna until they reached the border of Canaan.

Num 11:1 Now the people complained about their hardships ...

Num 11:4 ... "If only we had meat to eat!

Num 11:5 We remember the fish we ate in Egypt at no cost--also the cucumbers, melons, leeks, onions and garlic.

Jos 5:12 The manna stopped the day after they ate this food from the land; there was no longer any manna for the Israelites, but that year they ate of the produce of Canaan.

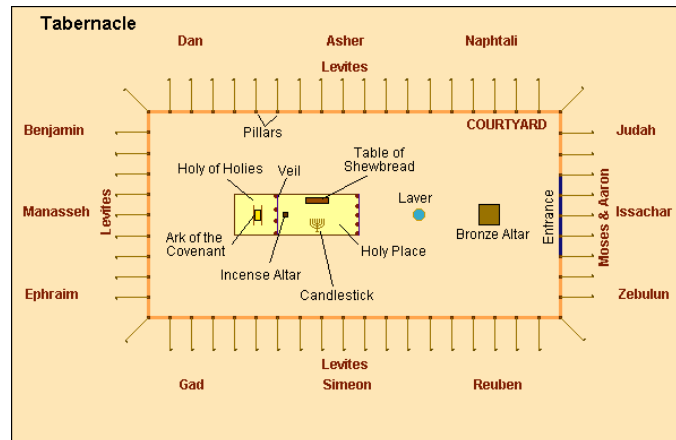
2. Manna was used as a teaching aid in the tabernacle and the temples.

Heb 9:1 Now the first covenant had regulations for worship and also an earthly sanctuary.

Heb 9:2 A tabernacle was set up. In its first room were the lampstand, the table and the consecrated bread; this was called the Holy Place.

Heb 9:3 Behind the second curtain was a room called the Most Holy Place,

Heb 9:4 which had the golden altar of incense and the gold-covered ark of the covenant. This **ark contained the gold jar of manna**, Aaron's staff that had budded, and the stone tablets of the covenant.



3. Let's now see how manna is used analogously in Scripture.

3.1 Manna was used to teach the importance of taking in the Word of God. Due 8:3 compared with Mat 4:4.

Deu 8:3 And he humbled thee, and suffered thee to hunger, and fed thee with manna, which thou knewest not, neither did thy fathers know; that he might make thee know that man doth not live by bread only, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of the LORD doth man live.

Mat 4:4 But Jesus answered and said, It is written in Deu 8:3, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.

3.2 Doctrine is only provided in amounts commensurate with positive volition. First you have to want to hear and then the manna comes; the same with Bible doctrine. As in Christ's kingdom platform "when you hunger and thirst after righteousness you shall be filled."

Mat 5:6 Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

Exo 16:18 And when they measured it by the omer, he who gathered much did not have too much, and he who gathered little did not have too little. Each one gathered as much as he needed.

3.3 Doctrine also is a grace gift from God and it can either be a source of blessing or cursing.

3.4 The Jews of the Exodus generation grumbled at having to eat manna and so God withheld it and made them eat quail until "it came out of their nostrils." Thus, people in every age who reject doctrine (the heavenly manna) are subject to discipline. The same is true today. God will allow people to use their own volition to swallow the lies of the "many scoffers who abound in the last days."

Num 11:18 "Tell the people: 'Consecrate yourselves in preparation for tomorrow, when you will eat meat. The LORD heard you when you wailed, "If only we had meat to eat! We were better off in Egypt!" Now the LORD will give you meat, and you will eat it.

Num 11:19 You will not eat it for just one day, or two days, or five, ten or twenty days,

Num 11:20 but for a whole month -- until it comes out of your nostrils and you loathe it--because you have rejected the LORD, who is among you, and have wailed before him, saying, "Why did we ever leave Egypt?"

3.5 When the Jews did not follow God's protocol bad things happened. The same was true in the Kingdom Age and today. Rejecting the bread of heaven results in consequences.

Exo 16:19 Then Moses said to them, "No one is to keep any of it until morning."

Exo 16:20 However, some of them paid no attention to Moses; they kept part of it until morning, but it was full of maggots and began to smell. So Moses was angry with them ...

Exo 16:27 Nevertheless, some of the people went out on the seventh day to gather it, but they found none.

Mat 8:10 When Jesus saw the faith of the Centurion, he marvelled, and said to them that followed, Verily I say unto you, I have not found so great faith, no, not in Israel.

Mat 8:11 I say to you that many will come from the east and the west, and will take their places at the feast with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven.

Mat 8:12 But the subjects of the kingdom will be thrown outside, into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth."

Mat 23:34 Wherefore, behold, I send unto you prophets, and wise men, and scribes: and some of them ye shall kill and crucify; and some of them shall ye scourge in your synagogues, and persecute them from city to city.

Rom 9:30 What then shall we say? That the Gentiles, who did not pursue righteousness, have obtained it, a righteousness that is by faith;

Rom 9:31 but Israel, who pursued a law of righteousness, has not attained it.

Rom 9:32 Why not? Because they pursued it not by faith but as if it were by works. They stumbled over the "stumbling stone."

Rom 9:33 As it is written: "See, I lay in Zion a stone that causes men to stumble and a rock that makes them fall, and the one who trusts in him will never be put to shame."

4. Manna was designed to sustain the Israelites physically during their trek to the Promised Land. When they got into the land however the manna and meat as a direct gift ceased; once in the land they were expected to work for their food.

Jos 5:12 The manna stopped the day after they ate this food from the land; there was no longer any manna for the Israelites, but that year they ate of the produce of Canaan.

5. Manna was used to test Israel. So also today, the protocol plan for acquiring doctrine is a test for the believer.

Deu 8:16 He gave you manna to eat in the desert, something your fathers had never known, to humble and to test you so that in the end it might go well with you.

Exo 16:4 Then said the LORD unto Moses, Behold, I will rain bread from heaven for you; and the people shall go out and gather a certain rate every day, that I may prove them, whether they will walk in my law, or not.

5.1 There are negative believers in every age; to some of the Exodus generation the manna was bitter and to others it tasted like honey.

5.1.1 So also today the Word of God is appreciated by some and for others in varying degrees the Word is unappreciated and even hated.

Num 11:6 But now our soul is dried away: there is nothing at all, beside this manna, before our eyes ...

Num 11:10 Then Moses heard the people weep throughout their families, every man in the door of his tent: and the anger of the LORD was kindled greatly; Moses also was displeased.

Num 11:11 And Moses said unto the LORD, Wherefore hast thou afflicted thy servant? and wherefore have I not found favor in thy sight, that thou layest the burden of all this people upon me?

5.1.2 As manna was taken for granted so also is the Word of God. In Psalm seventy-eight Israel's rejection of manna is used in part to describe Israel's "reversionism."

Psa 78:12 He did miracles in the sight of their fathers in the land of Egypt, in the region of Zoan.

Psa 78:13 He divided the sea and led them through; he made the water stand firm like a wall.

Psa 78:14 He guided them with the cloud by day and with light from the fire all night.

Psa 78:15 He split the rocks in the desert and gave them water as abundant as the seas;

Psa 78:16 he brought streams out of a rocky crag and made water flow down like rivers.

Psa 78:17 But they continued to sin against him, rebelling in the desert against the Most High.

Psa 78:18 They willfully put God to the test by demanding the food they craved.

Psa 78:19 They spoke against God, saying, "Can God spread a table in the desert?"

Psa 78:20 When he struck the rock, water gushed out, and streams flowed abundantly. But can he also give us food? Can he supply meat for his people?"

Psa 78:21 When the LORD heard them, he was very angry; his fire broke out against Jacob, and his wrath rose against Israel,

Psa 78:22 for they did not believe in God or trust in his deliverance.

Psa 78:23 Yet he gave a command to the skies above and opened the doors of the heavens;

Psa 78:24 he rained down manna for the people to eat, he gave them the grain of heaven.

Psa 78:25 Men ate the bread of angels; he sent them all the food they could eat.

Psa 78:26 He let loose the east wind from the heavens and led forth the south wind by his power.

Psa 78:27 He rained meat down on them like dust, flying birds like sand on the seashore.

Psa 78:28 He made them come down inside their camp, all around their tents.

Psa 78:29 They ate till they had more than enough, for he had given them what they craved.

Psa 78:30 But before they turned from the food they craved, even while it was still in their mouths,

Psa 78:31 God's anger rose against them; he put to death the sturdiest among them, cutting down the young men of Israel.

End Lesson

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