

1. Last week I completed our study of Joh 5:33-47 by way of the Doctrine of Witnessing. When time-expired we were about to begin an analysis of Joh 6:1-14.

2. Since we earlier studied the feeding of the five-thousand I want to briefly review Joh 6:1-14.

Joh 6:1 After these things Jesus went over the sea of Galilee, which is the sea of Tiberias.



Joh 6:2 And a great multitude followed him, because they saw his miracles which he did on them that were diseased.

Joh 6:3 And Jesus went up into a mountain, and there he sat with his disciples.

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.

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."

1. In this chapter John follows the same method as in the last. He first relates the sign, and then gives our Lord's interpretation. As to the Samaritan woman, and to the inhabitants of Jerusalem, so now to the Galileans, Jesus manifests Himself as sent to communicate to man life eternal.

1.1 The sign by means of which He now manifests Himself is, however, so new that many fresh aspects of His own person and work are disclosed.

2. The occasion for the miracle arose because Jesus sought a time and a place of rest. Jesus had retired to the north-east side of the sea of Tiberias, probably to a spot near Bethsaida, that He might have some rest.

3. But the people, eager to see more miracles, followed Him round the head of the lake, and, as they went, their number was augmented by members of a Passover caravan which was forming in the neighborhood or was already on the march.

4. This pursuit of an exhausted Jesus, instead of offending Him, touched Him.

4.1 He saw them toiling up the hill in groups, or one by one, some quite spent with a long and rapid walk, mothers dragging hungry children after them, His first thought was, what can these poor tired people get to refresh them here?

5. He turns therefore to Philip with the question, “Whence are we to buy bread that these may eat?” This Jesus said in order “to prove” or test Philip.

6. Apparently, this disciple was a shrewd business man, quick to calculate ways and means, and rather apt to scorn the expectations of faith. Every man must rid himself of the defects of certain qualities emanating from his Old Sin Nature.

7. Jesus gave Philip an opportunity to overcome his weakness.

8. Philip, like many another, missed his opportunity, and, wholly oblivious of the resources of Jesus, casts His eye rapidly over the crowd and estimates that “two hundred pennyworth” (fifteen cents ?) of bread would scarcely suffice to give each enough to stay immediate cravings.

9. Philip’s friend Andrew suggests that the whole provision he can hear of in the crowd is a little boy’s five loaves and two fishes.

10. These helpless, meagerly furnished, meagre in food and meagre in faith, are set in contrast to the calm faith and infinite resources of Jesus.

11. The ground is thus prepared for the miracle in the confessed inability of the disciples and of the crowd. Jesus takes the matter in hand. With an air of authority and calm purpose which must have impressed the on-lookers He says, “Make the men sit down.”

11.1 And there on a grassy spot near the left bank of the Jordan, and just where the river flows into the lake of Galilee many in the crowd with their families begin to sit.

12. With the evening sun sinking behind the hills on the western shore and the shadows lying across the darkened lake, the multitude break up into groups of hundreds and fifties, thinking that somehow food is about to be furnished.

12.1 They seat themselves as those who expect a full meal, and not a mere snack. Though where the full meal was to come from who could tell?

12.2 This expectation must have deepened into faith as the thousands listened to their Host give thanks over five loaves and two fishes.

13. And then, as He proceeded to distribute the ever-multiplying food, the first awe-struck silence of the multitude gave way to exclamations of surprise and to excited and delighted comments.

13.1 The little lad, as he watched with widening eyes his paltry but precious lunch doing the work of beginning to feed a multitude. Perhaps the boy thought: "Oh what a story I have to tell when I get back home."

14. Now let's see what we can learn from Joh 6:15-25.

Joh 6:15 When Jesus therefore perceived that they would come and take him by force, to make him a king, he departed again into a mountain himself alone.

Joh 6:16 And when even was now come, his disciples went down unto the sea,

Joh 6:17 And entered into a ship, and went over the sea toward Capernaum. And it was now dark, and Jesus was not come to them.

Joh 6:18 And the sea arose by reason of a great wind that blew.

Joh 6:19 So when they had rowed about five and twenty or thirty furlongs, they see Jesus walking on the sea, and drawing nigh unto the ship: and they were afraid.

Joh 6:20 But he saith unto them, It is I; be not afraid.

Joh 6:21 Then they willingly received him into the ship: and immediately the ship was at the land whither they went.

Joh 6:22 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;

Joh 6:23 (Howbeit there came other boats from Tiberias nigh unto the place where they did eat bread, after that the Lord had given thanks:)

Joh 6:24 When the people therefore saw that Jesus was not there, neither his disciples, they also took shipping, and came to Capernaum, seeking for Jesus.

Joh 6:25 And when they had found him on the other side of the sea, they said unto him, Rabbi, when camest thou hither?

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Joh 6:15 Jesus, knowing that they intended to come and make him king by force, withdrew again to a mountain by himself.

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?"

Jesus Walks on the Water

1. Jesus, knowing that there were those who intended to come and make him king by force, made him withdraw to a place of solitude probably to higher ground.

2. When evening came, his disciples went down the mountain to the lake's shore 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.
 3. A strong wind was blowing and the waters grew rough.
 4. When they had rowed three and a half miles, making little progress they saw Jesus approaching the boat, walking on the water; and they were terrified. Our Lord said to them, "It is I; don't be afraid."
 5. Recognizing Him they took him into the boat, and immediately, and quite miraculously, the boat reached the shore near Capernaum.
 6. 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 with his disciples.
 7. Then several boats from Tiberias landed near the place where the people had eaten the bread after the Lord had given thanks.
 8. 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.
 9. When they found him on the other side of the lake, they asked him, "Rabbi, when and how did you get here?"
 10. The disciples pressed Jesus to take food, but he declined on the grounds that he had nourishment of which they were ignorant.
 11. The Lord in Joh 6:26-40 astounds His disciples and hopefully unbelievers everywhere.
- 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."

1. I think the best way to study Joh 6:26-40 is to review how bread is used in Scripture.
2. Bread, meat and food are used often in Scripture both literally of food to nourish the physical body and metaphorically for spiritual food to nourish the soul.
3. For example, bread can be found more than three hundred times in the Bible: of that three-hundred it appears 75 times in the New Testament.

4. Some of you may remember when we studied John Chapter Four. It was here Jesus spoke of sowing and reaping; a process which produced food. The Lord used the process to teach a Samaritan lady about food from heaven.

5. Jesus was in a land which was originally given to Israel as part of the promised land. Because of the defeat of the Northern Kingdom by Assyria Samaria was “was born.”

6. Jesus traveled there where he presented His kingdom message. It was here in this land he encountered a Samaritan lady who wanted more doctrine. John will help us better understand food from heaven.

7. First I want to show you a map of Samaria.



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Joh 4:34 "My food," said Jesus, "is to do the will of him who sent me and to finish his work.

1. He had been doing this in their absence as He spoke with the Samaritan lady. He now must explain the difference between that which enters the stomach and that which enters the soul. Col R. B. Thieme called the process "metabolization."

2. The Lord in conversing with the Samaritan called the process "sowing and reaping." Four months till harvest would be a normal expectation in the natural realm, but by lifting up their eyes the disciples could see a harvest already white and ripe for reaping.

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Joh 4:35 Do you not say, 'Four months more and then the harvest'? I tell you, open your eyes and look at the fields! They are ripe for harvest.

Joh 4:36 Even now the reaper draws his wages, even now he harvests the crop for eternal life, so that the sower and the reaper may be glad together.

Joh 4:37 Thus the saying 'One sows and another reaps' is true.

Joh 4:38 I sent you to reap what you have not worked for. Others have done the hard work, and you have reaped the benefits of their labor."

3. In spiritual work, sower and reaper are ordinarily different persons who rejoice together in what their combined efforts accomplish.

4. Here in Samaria and in many other locations the disciples, although not the sowers of the seed, will perhaps later participate in a reaping.

5. Jesus manifests Himself as sent to communicate to man life eternal. The sign by means of which He now manifests Himself often takes various forms.

6. We spoke to some of these processes in last week's lesson under our Doctrine of Witnessing.

7. Let me provide some closure of not just how Jesus used food processing such as sowing and reaping in His witness in Samaria but I want to point out how he took the message directly to the heart of this poor but seeking lady.

The Woman of Samaria

Joh 4:7 When a Samaritan woman came to draw water, Jesus said to her, "Will you give me a drink?"

Joh 4:8 (His disciples had gone into the town to buy food.)

Joh 4:9 The Samaritan woman said to him, "You are a Jew and I am a Samaritan woman. How can you ask me for a drink?" (For Jews do not associate with Samaritans.)

Joh 4:10 Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God and who it is that asks you for a drink, you would have asked him and he would have given you living water."

Joh 4:11 "Sir," the woman said, "you have nothing to draw with and the well is deep. Where can you get this living water?"

Joh 4:12 Are you greater than our father Jacob, who gave us the well and drank from it himself, as did also his sons and his flocks and herds?" Joh

Joh 4:13 Jesus answered, "Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again,

Joh 4:14 but whoever drinks the water I give him will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life."

Joh 4:15 The woman said to him, "Sir, give me this water so that I won't get thirsty and have to keep coming here to draw water."

Joh 4:16 He told her, "Go, call your husband and come back."

Joh 4:17 "I have no husband," she replied. Jesus said to her, "You are right when you say you have no husband.

Joh 4:18 The fact is, you have had five husbands, and the man you now have is not your husband. What you have just said is quite true."

Joh 4:19 "Sir," the woman said, "I can see that you are a prophet.

Joh 4:20 Our fathers worshiped on this mountain, but you Jews claim that the place where we must worship is in Jerusalem."

Joh 4:21 Jesus declared, "Believe me, woman, a time is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem.

Joh 4:22 You Samaritans worship what you do not know; we worship what we do know, for salvation is from the Jews.

Joh 4:23 Yet a time is coming and has now come when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for they are the kind of worshipers the Father seeks.

Joh 4:24 God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in spirit and in truth."

Joh 4:25 The woman said, "I know that Messiah" (called Christ) "is coming. When he comes, he will explain everything to us."

Joh 4:26 Then Jesus declared, "I who speak to you am he."

Joh 4:27 Just then his disciples returned and were surprised to find him talking with a woman. But no one asked, "What do you want?" or "Why are you talking with her?"

Joh 4:28 Then, leaving her water jar, the woman went back to the town and said to the people,

Joh 4:29 "Come, see a man who told me everything I ever did. Could this be the Christ?"

Joh 4:30 They came out of the town and made their way toward him.

Joh 4:31 Meanwhile his disciples urged him, "Rabbi, eat something.

Joh 4:32 But he said to them, "I have food to eat that you know nothing about."

Joh 4:33 Then his disciples said to each other, "Could someone have brought him food?"

Joh 4:34 "My food," said Jesus, "is to do the will of him who sent me and to finish his work.

Joh 4:35 Do you not say, 'Four months more and then the harvest'? I tell you, open your eyes and look at the fields! They are ripe for harvest.

Joh 4:36 Even now the reaper draws his wages, even now he harvests the crop for eternal life, so that the sower and the reaper may be glad together.

Joh 4:37 Thus the saying 'One sows and another reaps' is true.

Joh 4:38 I sent you to reap what you have not worked for. Others have done the hard work, and you have reaped the benefits of their labor."

Joh 4:39 Many of the Samaritans from that town believed in him because of the woman's testimony, "He told me everything I ever did."

8. So much for the Samaritan Lady; now I want to return to the original context—the 6th chapter of John.

9. Now let's see what we can learn from the **Doctrine of the Bread of Heaven**.

Doctrine of Bread of Heaven

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.

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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.

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 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.

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."

Joh 6:52 Then the Jews began to argue sharply among themselves, "How can this man give us his flesh to eat?"

Joh 6:53 Jesus said to them, "I tell you the truth, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you.

Joh 6:54 Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day.

Joh 6:55 For my flesh is real food and my blood is real drink.

Joh 6:56 Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood remains in me, and I in him.

Joh 6:57 Just as the living Father sent me and I live because of the Father, so the one who feeds on me will live because of me.

Joh 6:58 This is the bread that came down from heaven. Your forefathers ate manna and died, but he who feeds on this bread will live forever."

1. John follows the same method as to the Samaritan woman, and to the inhabitants of Jerusalem, so now to the Galileans, Jesus manifests Himself as sent to communicate to man life eternal.

2. The sign by means of which He now manifests Himself is, however, so new that many fresh aspects of His own person and work are disclosed.

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