

Responses to the Bread of Life (John 6:41-59)

- 6:1-15 Feeding of the multitude: vv 14,15 see the result of the miracle on crowd
- 6:16-21: the disciples in the storm, Jesus coming to them & delivering them
- 6:22-25: the crowds follow the Lord Jesus all the way to Capernaum
- 6:26-40: Jesus teaches the crowd: He is the eternal bread of life come from heaven
- Started with the hostility of the Jews, now we are ending with all of man's hatred

I. Response # 1: We Know Where You Came From (6:41-51)

- Note how the Jews grumbled, the same word for Israel grumbling in the desert
- Human heart reveals itself when it grumbles against God, few escape from it
- First objection: from the Jews: Jesus, the son of Joseph, we know his parents
- If you came from heaven, how do you have earthly parents: couldn't get beyond it
- Jesus responds by telling them that they needed to be taught by God (43-51)
- 1) *Why people cannot see* (6:43-44): They will not submit, they would judge truth
- Unless they humble themselves they will never understand who Jesus really is
- So great is the resistance of the human will, takes sovereign power to draw (44)
- 2) *How people will come to see* (6: 45-46): Jesus' answer he quotes (Isa 54:13)
- Part of the answer Jesus gives is that those who are drawn are taught by God
- God's initiative & human response: God teaches & all who believe come to Jesus
- 3) *Why people need to see* (6:47): There is **only one way to eternal life**: "truly, truly" (emphatic) I say to you all who believe on me have eternal life
- 4) *What exactly it is that people need to see* (6:48-50): Jesus alone is the bread of life, the manna they ate did not give them life but He does
- 5) *What people must do in order to gain eternal life* (6:51): Jesus is *incarnate bread* from heaven; He's the *life giving bread*, whoever receives him has life
- Finally He is the atonement who gives Himself for the life of the world

II. Response # 2: How Can He Give Us His Flesh to Eat (6:52-59)

- They must eat his flesh, lay hold of him by faith for three good reasons
- 1) Absolutely essential to salvation & resurrection to life on the last day (6:53-54)
- 2) Jesus is the only mediator through whom new life may be received (6:55-57)
- 3) The death of Jesus, with it the element of sacrificing for sin, emphasized by its graphic repetition of eating his flesh and drinking his blood (6:53,54, 55, 56)