

Lighthouse Bible Church

April 14th, 2013

John 6: 41 – 51

‘The Bread which came down from Heaven’

Stand – Read – Pray

Remember last time, Jesus said to the Jewish people in the crowd, in **Verse 35**, that He was the bread of life and that those who come to Him will never hunger or thirst.

But because Jesus knows their hearts, He knows that they will not come to Him for salvation and everlasting life, even though that had seen Him and heard His teaching about eternal life. He tells them in Verse 36 **you do not believe** and because of their hard hearted unbelief, they could not come to Christ.

Then Jesus told them that only those whom the Father gives will come to Him and when they come, in belief and saving faith, their salvation will be secure and they will never be cast out or lost, because that is the Fathers will.

He tells them in Verse 40 that He is the only way to everlasting life and that He is the only One who can raise them to everlasting life on the last day, the day of judgment.

And that is where we pick it up this morning. The Jews heard His claims about coming down from heaven to do the Father’s will, as He said in Verse 38. They heard Him say that God the Father, His Father, would give Him all those whom He wanted, to be saved. Vs 37. They heard Him say that He alone is the way of everlasting life and they heard Him say in Verses 32 - 35 **My Father gives you the true bread from heaven for the bread of God is He who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world .. I am the bread of life.**

Now, because these are unbelieving Jews to whom Jesus is talking, they don't **understand** what Jesus is saying and they don't **care** what Jesus is saying and they don't **believe** what Jesus is saying, because they are still stuck on the physical and not the spiritual, so look at their response in Verses 41 – 42.

Verses 41 – 42 the Jews then complained about Him because He said 'I am the bread which came down from heaven and they said 'is not this Jesus the son of Joseph whose father and mother we know? How is it then that He says 'I have come down from heaven?'

There are two things that they didn't like about what Jesus said. They didn't like the fact that He said He was the bread of life and that He came down from heaven. Because of their unbelief, they become cynical, complaining and hostile toward Jesus, just like they did earlier in Jerusalem, because that is what unbelief does.

As long as He was feeding them, healing them and doing these miracles for them, they liked Him. But when He made the claims He did and made the demands on their lives, they didn't want anything to do with Him. Not much different than today. But when people walk away from Christ, they never walk away indifferent, they usually walk away hostile, like these **Jews** are doing.

The Jews, it says, **complained about Him**. They grumbled, they murmured, they mocked, they complained, in their unbelief, at His claims. So you know what He does, He doesn't try to make the truth any clearer, because it can't be to unbelief, He makes it harder to understand and this is the reason why. Jesus said in **Matthew 13: 13 – 15 Therefore I speak to them in parables, because seeing they do not see and hearing they do not hear, nor do they understand. And in them the prophecy of Isaiah is fulfilled which says 'hearing you will hear and shall not understand and seeing you will see and not perceive. For the hearts of his people have grown dull, their ears are hard of hearing and their eyes they have closed lest they should see with their eyes and hear with their ears, lest they should understand with their hearts and turn so that I should heal them.**

Listen to this in **2nd Thessalonians 2: 10 – 11** ...they did not receive the love of the truth that they might be saved and for this reason God will send them strong delusion that they should believe the lie that they all may be condemned who did not believe the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness.

Listen to what John says in **John 12: 37 – 40** but although He had done so many signs before them, they did not believe in Him, that the word of Isaiah the prophet might be fulfilled, which he spoke ‘Lord who has believed our report? And to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed’ Therefore they **COULD NOT** believe, because Isaiah said again ‘He has blinded their eyes and hardened their hearts lest they should see with their eyes, lest they should understand with their hearts and turn so that I should heal them. They would not believe so they could not believe.

So these Jews are complaining about Jesus being the bread of life and coming down from heaven and look what they say in Verse 42 that, again, shows that they are thinking on only a physical understanding and not spiritual.

Verse 42: and they said ‘is not this Jesus, the son of Joseph, whose father and mother we know? How is it then that He says ‘I have come down from heaven’

You see that? They are looking at Jesus from purely the physical aspect because unbelief can see nothing else. They think, ‘wait a minute, I know who Jesus is because I know His father Joseph and His mother Mary and I know that He didn’t come from heaven, He came from Nazareth, who is He trying to kid’. Unbelief cannot accept truth.

Look at **Matthew 13: 54 – 58** *Read*

And it is the same today, people will acknowledge that Jesus is a prophet, a good teacher and miracle worker, someone they can call on in time of need, someone who will meet my physical, emotional and felt needs, an all-around nice guy, but when it comes to His claims about who He is and where He came from and that fact that He is the only way to heaven, and what He demands of you, people, unbelievers, don't want to hear it and they can't comprehend it, they chaff against it, they get angry because of it.

What about you, how do you see Jesus, do His claims seem far-fetched to you? If they do, then maybe you are coming from a heart of unbelief. Notice how Jesus answers their complaints in Verse 43.

Verse 43: Jesus therefore answered and said to them ‘do not murmur among yourselves.. He tells them, stop complaining amongst yourselves. You have seen My miracles and signs and healings the last two days and you have heard My words about the kingdom of heaven, and all you can do is murmur. Stop it!

He doesn't try to explain in more detail where He came from or why He said what He did, or why He did what He did, He just tells them to stop murmuring. You know why He doesn't even address them with an explanation? Because of what **1st Corinthians 2: 14** says **But the natural man, the unbeliever, does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him, nor can he know them because they are spiritually discerned.** Then He says to them in Verse 44.

Verse 44 no once can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him and I will raise him up at the last day.

We looked a little at this verse last time when we looked at Verse 37 where Jesus said ‘all that the Father gives Me will come to Me..’. Jesus tells these unbelieving people that the reason you don't believe Me is because My Father who sent Me has not drawn you.

That word **draw** is used other places in scripture like in **John 18: 10** of Peter drawing his sword, or in **John 21: 6** of the disciples drawing in a net full of fish or **Acts 16: 19 / 21: 30** of Paul being drawn out of the temple physically and by force.

Jesus says no one can come to Me unless the Father draws them, independent of themselves, to **come to Christ**. No unbeliever can come to Christ apart from God drawing them. They can not do it on their own, no matter how religious they are or how educated they are or how much they know about God and the Bible. It is a sovereign work of God for salvation.

In other words, you can't find God on your own nor would you want to as **Romans 3: 11** says 'there is none who seeks after God'. It is just like a lost sheep never looks for the shepherd but they shepherd looks for the lost sheep and did Jesus say 'I came to seek and save that which was lost'.

But when the Father does draw you, you can come to Christ, you would have the desire to come to Christ, you would seek after Him because He is drawing you to His Son. Our prayer as believers, every Sunday and every day, is that when an unbeliever attends this service or there is an unbeliever that you know, that God would draw them to Himself.

And when someone is drawn by the Father so that they come to Christ, Christ will **raise them up on the last day**. They are secure, as we saw last time, and will experience the resurrection to life that we saw in **John 5: 29**. 3 different times Jesus uses that same phrase, 'raise them up at the last day' to show the believers how secure they are and that there is coming a judgment day of resurrection to condemnation for unbelievers and eternal life for believers.

Then Jesus tells them in Verse 45 that what He has been telling them is not something new, it is something that has been written by the Old Testament prophet Isaiah and others long ago. Look at Verse 45.

Verse 45 it is written in the prophets ‘and they shall all be taught by God. Therefore everyone who has heard and learned from the Father comes to Me.

He says, this isn’t anything new, Isaiah taught it back in **Isaiah 54: 13**, other prophets taught similarly. You Jews who study the scriptures tenaciously, you who claim to follow the prophets, yet you don’t grasp the truth that it is God that draws someone to His Son and it is God who teaches someone to know the truth so they can respond.

He is saying that the **drawing** and **teaching** of God are two different aspects of God’s sovereign call to salvation, to come to Christ. Isn’t that what **Romans 10: 17** says **so then faith comes by hearing** (and not merely hearing but understanding) **and hearing by the word of God**. It is the parable of the soils of Matthew 13 where in **Matthew 13: 23** the good soil is **the one who hears the word and understands it who bears fruit**.

That is why Jesus says ‘everyone who has heard and learned from the Father **comes** to Me. Again, it is that effectual call that cannot and would not be resisted that results in someone coming to saving faith in Christ. By the way that hearing and learning is **from the Father**, not from within ourselves or from some type of spiritual experience or some other revelation outside the scriptures, it is ‘from the Father’ and Him alone.

You know what He is saying to these Jews that is making them more irritated by the minute, He is saying ‘you have never been taught by God, because if you had, you would believe in Me as the bread of life as the way of salvation and you would come to Me, but you will not. He uses their own prophet to rebuke them.

Then notice what Jesus says in **Verse 46** **Not that anyone has seen the Father, except He who is from God; He has seen the Father.**

Jesus says to them, in essence, I came from heaven, I was with the Father and have seen the Father and the Father sent Me to do His will, so I can speak authoritatively about Him and His plan of eternal life, I am relaying His message. Isn't that what **Hebrews 1: 1 – 2** says **God who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets has in these last days spoke to us by His Son..**

And God's plan, Jesus says in **Verse 47** **most assuredly, I say to you, is that he who believes in Me has everlasting life.**

Notice that those who believe in Jesus, it says, **has** everlasting life, present tense. When you became a believer you inherited everlasting life, now, and that is our hope that will be fully realized in the future. Then Jesus says again in Verse 48-49.

Verses 48 - 49 **I am the bread of life. Your fathers ate the manna in the wilderness and are dead.**

Jesus goes back to where He started back in Verse 35 where He told them there that He was the bread of life that if they came to Him they would never hunger or thirst. He told them back in Verse 27 to eat the food which endures to everlasting life that the Son of Man will give. And He tells them again, I am that bread.

He says your fathers ate the manna in the wilderness, the bread you said came from Moses, that actually came from God, they ate it and are dead. That bread could not keep them alive physically, they died in the wilderness and the reason they died physically in the wilderness and did not go into the promised land is because they were already dead spiritually. That manna didn't help them physically and it didn't help them spiritually, it didn't help them at all.

Then Jesus says to them in **Verses 50 – 51** **This is the bread which comes down from heaven that one may eat of it and not die. I am the living bread which came down from heaven. If anyone eats this bread, he will live forever and the bread that I shall give is My flesh, which I shall give for the life of the world.**

Jesus says to them again, I am the bread that comes down from heaven, from the Father, and anyone who eats of it will not die, not like those who ate the manna in the wilderness and died. He says I am that living bread and if you partake of it you will live forever. That invitation is to **anyone** to eat the bread to live forever.

Then He tells them very specifically, at the end of Verse 51 ‘**and the bread that I shall give IS MY FLESH, which I shall give for the life of the world.** Again, He is talking in metaphors and using something that they experienced just the day before in being fed the miracle bread. He says ‘just like that physical bread keeps you alive physically, the spiritual bread that I offer you can give you life eternally.

Remember that Jesus said back in Verse 32 and 33 **My Father gives you the true bread from heaven, for the bread of God IS HE who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world.**

So Jesus says that in order for you to have everlasting life, to live forever, you must partake of Me, My flesh, as you would a piece of bread. Look at it this way; bread is useless unless it is eaten, right. Just having the bread is not enough to satisfy your hunger and sustain you, you must eat it.

And you take the bread in because you are hungry. When God opens your heart to your lost condition, you then begin to hunger for forgiveness and deliverance from sin to righteousness that the bread of life satisfies.

And you eat that bread personally. No one can eat the bread for you. No one can partake of Jesus for you, no one can receive salvation for you, it is between you and Jesus alone. It is you hearing and learning from God as He opens your heart to come to Christ.

Jesus says 'I will give My flesh for the life of the world'. What He is saying is that He will give Himself sacrificially for the sin of the world. He is alluding to His upcoming death on the cross, His sacrificial death, the shedding of His blood so, as **Hebrews 9: 22** says, **there can be forgiveness.**

He is the lamb of God, as we saw back in **John 1: 29** that would 'take away the sin of the world' and all those whom the Father has given to Jesus will come, all those who see the Son and believe will have everlasting life, all that the Father draws to the Son and all of those who are taught by God will come to the Son and those who believe in Jesus will have everlasting life, all who eat the true bread of life will live forever.

What about you? Have you partaken of the true bread of life, Jesus Christ by putting your faith and trust in Him as your sin bearer as the only way to eternal life. He is talking metaphorically, when He is talking about eating the true bread which He represents, about believing and trusting in Jesus for eternal life. Have you done that today?

Gospel message and closing prayer.

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Verses 4:1 The Jews complained about Him
Matthew 13: 13 – 15, 2nd Thessalonians 2: 10 – 11
John 12: 37 – 40

Verse 42: Is not this Jesus the son of Joseph
Matthew 13: 54 – 58

Verse 43: Do not murmur among yourselves
1st Corinthians 2: 14

Verse 44: No one can come to Me unless...
John 18: 10, John 21: 6, Acts 16: 19, 21: 30
Romans 3: 11, John 5: 29

Verse 45: They shall be taught by God
Isaiah 54: 13, *Jeremiah 31: 34, Micah 4: 2*
Psalms 71: 17, Romans 10: 17, Matthew 13: 23

Verses 46 – 47: Not that anyone has seen the Father
Hebrews 1: 1 – 2

Verses 48 – 51: I am the bread of life
Hebrews 9: 22, John 1: 29

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