

Theme: The true bread of heaven has no expiration date. Everyone who truly partakes of the bread of life will live with him, not in unending *existence*, but in eternal *life*. This is the will of the Father.

Background: Jesus is about to declare *who he is*. Used a metaphor that is rooted in the complexity of his person and work. The focus of the chapter is, from beginning to end, Jesus.

Introduction: Seeking? Finding? But not what you were looking for?

I. Bread *From* Heaven

A. Seeking Jesus

1. The crowd finds Jesus
 - In Capernaum, with no idea how he got there
 - In the synagogue (for all or part of the discourse)
2. With their own agenda
 - “Seeking” is good, if you know what you are looking for

B. Missing the signs (26)

1. Answering a question they didn’t ask
 - Their question: “Rabbi, when did you come here”
 - Answer: I know why you are here

NOTE: Did you ever miss a sign or direction when traveling? You can end up way off course on the way.
2. Looking for food that perishes
 - He fed them once – can he do it again?

NOTE: They want full stomachs – but have empty hearts

 - Looking for the food of earth – not the bread of heaven
3. Who is at “work”
 - a. What “works” can they do
 - As soon as they hear “work” they know what to do
 - Moses gave them the law (*Manna* – in Jewish thought and writings)
 - Does Jesus have something new to *do*?
 - b. Not “works” but “work”
 - The *work* of God? Believe
 - In the one God has sent!

NOTE: Not our works – but another’s “work” that gives us true bread
4. Where their “food” comes from
 - a. Moses or God
 - Too much of Moses – not enough of God! (32)
 - b. The food God sends from heaven (32,33)
 - Jesus is real food, he is *true* bread

APPLICATION: Thankfulness to God for giving us the true bread

- c. Still missing the point
 - Give us *this bread* (34)
 - Like the Samaritan woman

APPLICATION: Let us not be quick to judge those who do not see the true bread.

II. The Bread of Heaven (The real, true *Bread*)

- A. Imperishable – Endures to eternal life
 - Seal of God – seal of approval
 - No expiration date!
- B. Given – Not Earned (27, 32)
 - They wanted the way to earn approval, salvation
 - But the Father *gives* the true bread of heaven! (32)
- C. The Bread of God (33)
 - Jesus doesn't just provide true bread – he *is* true bread
 - Making God known (1:18)
 - Whose words are the *Word of God* (5:19ff)
- D. Life giving (33)
 - Life to the world!! Not just Jews.
- E. “I am the bread of life”
 - Stating his divine place and purpose
 - First of seven “I am” statements of Jesus

III. The Will of the Father

- A. Satisfaction Guaranteed (35; Isaiah 55:1ff)
 - A spectacular offer and promise
 - Perfect security
- B. The Father's gift (37)
 - 1. “All that the Father gives to me will come to me”
 - All who come to Jesus are a gift of the Father to the Son
 - God cannot fail to give, deliver what he has promised
 - 2. “...and whoever comes to me I will never cast out”
 - Does this soften the force and teaching of the first statement? No.
 - What has been given to him, what belongs to him he will not drive away
 - 3. Sent for one purpose (38)
 - To do the father's will (cf. 5:19)
- C. Seeing *and* believing (29, 36)
 - 1. To believe in him whom God has sent is to do the *work* that God requires
 - 2. The cost of *not* believing?
- D. The promise of life (40)
 - 1. Raised up on the last day
 - Not to unending existence but to *life!*
 - 2. Raised from death to life
 - 3. From bondage to sin to freedom from sin

To the praise of his infinite power and love!