

## **John 6:22-35**

### ***I Am the Bread of Life***

#### **Introduction**

Well I wonder if you noticed that in the Autumn of 2020, during the Covid Pandemic – the **number #1 search term**, for recipes on Google was:

Bread!

Baking bread you probably remember became the **new hit craze** among various other things to do **while being stuck at home...**

And **what's really interesting about this** – is that this craze **didn't originate** with the Australia or America (or any of the Westernized countries) **but this spread** from Turkey to Nigeria and **all over** the entire world – everyone all of a sudden **became obsessed** with the notion of baking bread!

In fact, I'm told that the sudden spike in baking actually led to a **flour shortage** that drove up prices of every other grain on the market...

So **Bolivia and Peru** were suddenly caught off guard by the sudden interest in Quinoa...

And the Ethiopian government put out **export controls** on the transportation of Teff which I'm told is a grain **indigenous to the country of Ethiopia!**

And so it's almost as if the whole world (during the craziness of the Pandemic) **suddenly rediscovered** the **simple, enjoyable, substance** of:

Bread!

Bread is one of the **oldest staples** of the world – first baked in the Mediterranean basin at the dawn of human existence – later adapted by the Egyptians who introduced us to Yeast and changed the whole game!

Commercialized by the Romans who brought flour from North Africa daily – and **at its height** the Roman Empire was allegedly making 300,000 free loaves of bread **every month** to the Citizens of the city!

Bread is **as old as time**...and yet **the staple** of almost every civilisation...

## John 6

Well here in John 6 we see **a similar craze** (a similar searching) for the substance of bread...

But the bread **that they are seeking** (just like the bread of the pandemic) is a bread that **does not satisfy** – and **does not last** – and **ultimately perishes** under the weight of time...

And so Jesus here in John – He picks up this metaphor of bread... and He uses that to demonstrate that **their deepest need** in this life – their greatest comfort is **not** to obtain more food, and more clothing, and more money, and more sex, and fortune, and fame... but their **deepest need**; their greatest comfort is found **only in** the eternal satisfaction of forgiveness of sins that only Jesus brings!

## Main Point

And so this morning as we come to **the third instalment** of John chapter 6 – here's what I want us to ultimately see:

*Do not live for the bread that perishes but live for the Bread of Life!*

The bread that perishes! (22-27)

The Bread of life! (28-35)

## John 6

So, John chapter 6 let's begin at verse 22 – John says this:

*The next day, the crowd that had stayed on the other side of the sea saw there had been only one boat. They also saw that Jesus had not boarded the boat with His disciples, but that His disciples had gone off alone. <sup>23</sup> Some boats from Tiberias came near the place where they had eaten the bread after the Lord had given thanks. <sup>24</sup> When the crowd saw that neither Jesus nor His disciples were there, they got into the boats and went to Capernaum looking for Jesus. <sup>25</sup> When they found Him on the other side of the sea, they said to Him “Rabbi, when*

*did you get here?” <sup>26</sup> Jesus answered, “Truly I tell you, you are looking for me, not because you saw the signs, but because you ate the loaves and were filled. <sup>27</sup> Do not work for the food that perishes but for the food that lasts for eternal life, which the Son of Man will give you, because God the Father has set His seal of approval on Him...*

## Opening Gambit

Now in the West we don't often think in terms of staples...

Staple food – staple meals – staple diets – staple income...

At least not in the way that those in Asia, or Africa, tend to think in those terms!

Now this is partly because **when we go to any major city in the West** – we are met with a vast array of restaurants and eateries from all over **the various parts of the world**...

But in the first century Palestine it's estimated that **around 85% of one's salary** was spent on the subject of food...

And it wouldn't go toward obtaining various food – but it would go toward obtaining staple food:

Bread...

Wheat...

Grain...

And so in the ancient world if you **did not** work – you **could not** eat!

Because you needed to work **for the staple of that society!**

Bread was the staple diet of every person living in the 1<sup>st</sup> Century...

And Jesus **you remember** has just created a **whole lot** of food –for a **whole lot** of people!

## Recap

And so **the next day** when the crowd that had been **fed** by Jesus **couldn't find Him** on the **East side** of the lake – they got into some boats and **met Him on the West side** of the Lake!

Now I don't know about you – but I find this an amazingly moving scene to visualize... I mean picture for a moment 5,000 men (plus women and children), jumping into some boats, rowing on the sea, and searching for Jesus on the other side!

5,000 boats rowing on the water **at the exact same time!**

This would have been an amazing scene to behold!

Now maybe they did this **in a few trips** – we don't really know...

But the irony of the scene **should not be lost on us...**

As the people come to Jesus, teaching in the synagogue... 5,000 of them are searching for Him, **with all the wrong motives...**

Verse 25:

*And when they found Him on the other side of the sea, they said to Him, Rabbi, when did you get here?*

Now **I would have loved** for Jesus to have turned around at that point and said to them:

I walked...

But that's **not what He says**...instead He turns around and says to them:

*You're seeking me because you ate some delicious fish burgers... and now you want me to do it again!*

## False Motives

Now I don't know if you've noticed this – but whenever Jesus is asked a **deceptively clever** or **cunning** questions designed to trick or deceive Him:

He **doesn't really take too kindly** to that...

I mean let's be honest if Jesus were around today in our churches today **99% of the members myself included** would probably be offended by Him...

We **wouldn't wanna** eat with Him – and we **wouldn't wanna** listen to Him – because He just **DOES NOT CARE** about **personal feelings or emotions, or opinions!**

He does NOT care for people who have **fake or false** motives – He does not care for your best life now!

## Why are you seeking Me?

And so look at the way He responds to them in verse 26:

*Truly I tell you, you are looking for me, **not because** you saw the signs but because you ate your fill!*

## Nicodemus Treatment

So He gives to them **what one pastor has called: *the Nicodemus treatment***...

You remember how Jesus responded to Nicodemus in John chapter 3:

*Rabbi we know that you're a teacher who is sent from God, for no one could these things unless God were with Him...(he's flattering Him)...*

And how does Jesus respond?!?!?

*Truly truly I tell you, you must be born again... don't try and flatter me with fallacious words Nicodemus...you have a serious problem with your sin that's needs to **be dealt with!***

And that's what we see happening here:

*You're seeking me, not because you saw the signs **and believed**, but because you ate your fill...*

They had some delicious fish burgers... and they wanted **to get some more!**

They wanted **free food for life!**

### **Dominos**

I remember reading this week an article that happened a few years ago, about a promotion that Dominos in Russia were running for 2 months, where apparently if you tattooed the **Domino's logo** somewhere on a **visible part** of your body – you would get:

One free pizza – every week – for the **rest of your life!**

Now apparently this promotion was supposed to run for **two months** – but got cancelled **after just 4 days** because there were **so many people** coming in to Dominos with tattooed arms, or tattooed legs, or tattooed whatever's!

Because people were promised **free food...**

They had **grossly underestimated** the **ability** of people's love for food!

And so I think **in the end** there was about 400 people who got this deal before it closed – because they were about to bankrupt the Russian government in pizza!

**WE LOVE FREE FOOD!**

You ever notice that **when someone cooks you a meal** it tastes so much than **when you cook that meal...**

**WE LOVE FREE FOOD!**

And that's what we see happening here in John 6!

They were seeking Jesus not because they saw the sign and believed but because they ate their fill!

### **85% Income**

Now remember what this means for them... this means that because (Jesus had provided them with bread) He was giving to them:

85% of their salary!

85% of their daily income!

He was giving to them a **remarkably safe** and **economically secure** future!

And so Jesus knows what they're after!

He knows that providing them with food – they **didn't have to work** another day in their life – or **if they did work** they would just about **double their income!**

### **The food that endures**

And so notice how Jesus responds to them in verse 27 – He says:

*Do not work for the food that perishes but for the food that lasts for eternal life, which the Son of Man will give you, because God the Father has set His seal of approval on Him...*

### **Work**

Now we read this and we **sometimes get jaded** by that word *work* there in verse 27 – and we think:

Okay Jesus is telling us **not to work** for salvation!

That we are saved by **grace alone** through **faith alone!**

And that's **true and right and proper** to believe – but **not** what Jesus is saying here... or at least it's not the main emphasis...

He's **not contrasting** a Faith/Works theology – nor is He saying that we shouldn't work to earn our food!

But rather we should replace that word **work** with the word **labour/pursue**:

*Do not labour for the food that perishes but labour [or pursue] the food of life...*

In other words:

Jesus is talking about **ultimate priorities...**

**Ultimate goals!**

He's saying:

**Don't make food** your ultimate priority of **what you're living for in life!**

Making food **your all-consuming passion** is a worthless pursuit when it comes to Kingdom realities!

So don't make food (or money, or sex, or perishing pleasures) the number one priority of life!

Because if all you seek **in this life** is food – if all you seek is money – if all you seek is marriage – happiness – wealth – health...

Then you will eat that food – you will drink that drink – you will live that life **and die in your sins!!!**

Because food that **does not last** – is food that **does not satisfy** – and that food will **eventually run out!**

Verse 49:

*Your ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness and died!*

They ate the bread, their tummies were full, they lived for food, and they died in their sin!



So what good is it to gain the world's riches – but lose your soul eternally in hell!

Don't **live** for the food that perishes in life – but live **for the food** that endures which the Son of man  
can give to you!

Make your life's passion about the **all-consuming glory** of God found in the Person and work of  
Jesus and you will be satisfied!

Don't live for things that perish – live for eternal life!

### **Heavy Conviction**

Now as I was reading this verse this... and studying this passage this week:

I was deeply convicted **when I considered**

My life's passion... and my life's work...

And what I am working toward...what am I pursuing in life!

Because **even as a pastor friends** (who is studying the word of God) I get caught up in the **wrong kind** of trivial pursuits – I get caught up in the wrong kind of pursuits – I get caught up in things that  
**won't last...**

Just like your **house** won't last...

And your **lawn** won't last...

And your family won't last – your job – career – status:

**NONE OF IT IS GOING TO LAST!!!**

All of it will perish at the end of the day – because **our hearts were made for something more!**

### **Mansion**

It's like if you were going to travel from here to the Gold Coast – and you decided to build a  
mansion **along the way** in Logan...

And you started to live your life for building this mansion in Logan...that would just be a really strange pursuit...

I mean there's nothing wrong with the fine people of Logan – I lived there for 10 years...

But Logan is NOT your final destination...

Logan is just a place you are passing through!

This world is a place you are passing through!

And if you live for the pursuit of **only this world** – then your heart will be **led astray** to believe that this world is all we have!

### Good Gifts

Now let me play Devil's advocate here for just a moment and say this – that **doesn't mean** that you are to **throw out** the material blessing and the gifts we receive from God – 1<sup>st</sup> Timothy chapter 4:

*Everything created by God is good, and nothing is to be rejected if it is received with thanksgiving!*

God gives material gifts to remind us of His grace...

1 Timothy 6:17:

*As for the rich in this present age, charge them not to be haughty, nor to set their hopes on the uncertainty of riches, but on God, **who richly provides us with everything to enjoy!***

God provides us with gifts to enjoy!

James 1:17:

*For every good gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow of change...*

So, riches are good!

Marriage is good!

Children are good!

Food is good!

Bread is good!

But they are **not the ultimate** gifts that God has given for us to pursue – they are pointers to the gift found in Jesus Christ!

So that in the words of Charles Simeon:

*We enjoy **God in everything** and everything **in God!***

And so the bread was to serve as a visible reminder (a visible sign) of the spiritual satisfaction and **ultimate hope found only in Christ!**

The bread was designed to **fill their tummies** – to show them what **filled hearts and satisfied lives** looks like in Jesus!

## **Honey**

I mean think of the Proverb in Proverbs 24:13 – Solomon writes:

*My son, eat honey, **for it is good**, and the drippings of the honeycomb are sweet to your taste. Know that **wisdom is such to your soul**; if you find it, there will be a future, and your hope will not be cut off...*

So Solomon says why did God create honey, that is **sweet, and tasty, and good?!?!?**

Answer:

So that we would know what the sweetness of wisdom would taste like!

Honey is sweet because it is a parable of what **godly wisdom tastes like!**

And in the same way:

Jesus gave these men bread to **satisfy their tummies....in order to show them** what **satisfied hearts** in Jesus looks like!

The satisfaction they felt **in the filling of the bread** pointed them to **the ultimate satisfaction** found only in Jesus!

Who is the bread of life!

So don't seek for the bread that perishes but seek the food of eternal life...

## Point 2

And that leads us into point number 2:

### Seeking the Bread that Lasts

Have a look at verse 28 – so they responded to Him:

*What can we do to perform the works of God?" they asked. <sup>29</sup> And Jesus replied, "This is the work of God—that you believe in the One He has sent..."*

*What sign, then, are you going to do so that we may see and believe you?" they asked. "What are you going to perform? <sup>31</sup> Our ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness, just as it is written: **He gave them bread from heaven to eat.** <sup>32</sup> Jesus said to them, "Truly I tell you, Moses did not give you the bread from heaven, but my Father gives you the true bread from heaven. <sup>33</sup> For the bread of God is the one who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world. Then they said, "Sir, give us this bread always...*

And so Jesus said to them:

*I am the bread of life, no one who comes to me will ever be hungry, and no one who believes in me will ever be thirsty again...*

## Messiah Signs

Now remember this entire conversation is **coming on the heels** of one of Jesus' most famous miracles – the feeding of the 5,000...

And John has **told us** that this miracle has taken place during the Passover festival in Jerusalem (John chapter 6 verse 2)...

And so these people **were already clued in** to the miraculous manna that has come down in the Old Testament Scriptures – they are already **clued in** to the Messianic signs given in Deuteronomy & Joshua and various other places – and they are already believing that Jesus is a Messianic King!!!

And so you put **all of these factors together** and you **start to see** that these men are expecting Him to be a **Political Messiah**, who would provide all of their physical and material needs: Just like the Kings of the Old Testament!

So they that think He's a King, and so of course, **He's going to provide for them** like a King always should!

In fact, there is a text called 2<sup>nd</sup> Baruch (Barook) from the late 1<sup>st</sup> Century which actually dates somewhere within **a few decades** of John's Gospel – and that text actually prophesies:

*...that it shall come to pass that the treasury of manna shall again descend from on high and they will eat of it in those years....*

And so these men are expecting Jesus to **just keep giving them bread** – because you have all of these prophies given in the Old Testament that the Messianic age would be ushered in through **new wine, and new food, and new manna, and new bread!**

## Jesus' Concern

But Jesus is **concerned for something greater than jut food...**

**Jesus is concerned for their hearts... He is concerned for their souls** – because:

*He looked upon the crowds like sheep without a Shepherd!*

So even in their sinful seeking of false motives – Jesus seeks their hearts...

**They are seeking** the bread that **perishes** – but Jesus is offering the **bread of life!**

**What must we do?**

And of course **in His response** to them – they get **caught up** in that *phrase work* in verse 27 (do not *work* for the food that perishes; but *work* for the food of life) – and so they respond in verse 28:

*Well, what must we do to be doing the works of God...*

If you're telling us that God wants us to work for the bread – we'll work for the bread!

We'll do anything **if you are able** to give us **more manna** from heaven!

Now this is **NOT unlike** the rich young ruler who comes to Jesus in Matthew 19:

*What must I do to inherit eternal life...*

This is **NOT unlike** Acts chapter 2 where they're **cut to the heart**:

*What must we do to be saved...*

Except here the question is **not a genuine repentance** of faith – but a **manipulation and deceit** of *working the works of God* – in other words they are asking Jesus:

*Rabbi, what work must we do to get you to **reproduce the miracle** you performed?!?!'*

What must we do to get you to give us more of the Manna from heaven...

See what Jesus had intended as a reference to people's proper pursuit (do not work for the bread that perishes) – the crowd took that as literal invitation to "*Work the works of God...*"

So **they misinterpret** the word *work* and **they think that He's offering them** a way to get **more manna from heaven...**

So really they just wanted more bread...

And so Jesus responds in verse 29 – and He says:

Alright...**if all you want to get caught up** in focusing on work and **what works God “requires” of you:**

*Then this is what God requires of you* (this is the work of God):

*Faith!*

*That you believe in the One He sent!*

In other words – (the works of God – the heart of God – God's desire for you) **is that you believe in me!**

So this is **not about** working yourself up for another miracle – this is **not about** pursuing more bread that perishes....

This is about **putting your whole trust** in me – because I am the Bread of life!

I can give you what your heart is seeking most!

Satisfaction, peace, and rest!

### **More Bread**

And so **now** they start to see what Jesus is saying to them – now they start to get that **it's about Him it's not about food** – and **so they respond** to Him in verse 30:

*Well what sign, are you going to do so that we may see and believe in you?...*

If the message is that we must believe – then give us a sign so that **we will believe!!!**

In fact may we suggest a sign Jesus – perhaps if you give us more bread we'll believe (verse 31):

*Our ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness, just as it is written: **He gave them bread from heaven to eat...***

So maybe you could give us **more bread to eat** and another sign to perform – **and then we will believe in you!**

### **Countless Signs**

Now **isn't it amazing** that after everything He has **shown to them!!!**

They still ask for another sign!!!

Don't forget why this crowd is even here seeking Him in the first place – don't forget **how the start of chapter 6 began** – John chapter 6 verse 2:

Now a huge crowd was following Him **because they saw the signs** that He was performing by healing the sick...

So think about **the significance of this – the whole reason** they got up this morning, **to get into some boats, and row across the sea** is why?!?!

Because they saw the sign of the multiplying of the fish!!!

**And now** when they hear that they have to repent and believe in Him – they ask Him for **another sign** in order for them to believe!

Even though **the only reason** they are standing there, seeking Him, is because of the signs they have seen!

Are you starting to get the picture?!?!



Those people who say to you if God would just perform a **miracle in my life** – then I would believe in Him...

No you won't!

Not according to John chapter 6!

Not according to the Bible!

And not according to Jesus!

*For Jews demand a sign says Paul and Greeks seek for wisdom, but we preach Christ crucified!*

So the only reason they're talking to Him is for a sign!

### **Signs are not enough**

It reminds me of those football players... you know the ones who make millions of dollars a year – but **refuse to play a season** because they're not getting paid enough money...

And so when you ask them: *Well how much money is going to be enough for you...*

And they throw out some **ridiculous amount** of money:

And when they get that – they're **still NOT happy!**

Because:

Discontentment and unbelief will always find a reason to not be satisfied

And that's exactly what we happening with these men here in John 6 – their unbelief was being **unveiled before them** – Jesus was calling them out – and **they do not like** what they are hearing from Jesus!

And so once they discover that Jesus is **NOT** the money making, bread producing, vending machine King they'd hoped for:

Then they start to test Jesus!

Then they start to ask for more signs from Jesus!

And they start to treat Him like a monkey!

#### **John 4 again**

And yet **once again** Jesus shows this immense amount of patience and grace – and He corrects their foolish notion of bread in verse 32 by saying this:

*Truly I tell you, **it was not Moses** that gave you the bread from heaven, but my Father gives you **the true bread** from heaven...*

And just like the woman at the well in John chapter 4 these men **still don't understand what Jesus is offering!!!**

Verse 34:

*Sir, give us this bread always...*

Remember the woman:

*Sir give me this water so that I won't have to come here ever agin!*

It's the exact same thing!

Jesus is offering to them something **SO MUCH BETTER** than physical bread... and they are **still stuck on pursuing earthly things!**

You mean you're offer to us bread that never perishes, bread that gives life, bread so I'll never be hungry again – and all I have to do is eat it...

Sir give us this bread always!!!

I mean I am amazed **at the patience of Jesus** here – in dealing with hard-hearted sinful human beings that He does!

It's amazing picture of the gospel friends – that if this is how Jesus treats His enemies... imagine how He treats us who believe...

Imagine the patience He shows to us who believe...

### **I am the Bread**

And so in the end Jesus then **drops all the metaphors**, and **all the pictures**, and **all the sign-language**... and He gives it to them straight (like He did with the woman at the well) – and He says to them:

*I am the bread of life...No one who comes to me will ever be hungry, and no one who believes in me will ever be thirsty again...*

### **Eating & Drinking**

So Jesus pictures the idea of faith in terms of eating and drinking!

Have you ever noticed that throughout Scripture the concept of **faith** is so often described in terms of **eating and drinking**

John 7:37:

*Let anyone who is thirsty come to me and drink! For anyone who believes in me, as Scripture has promised, will have rivers of living water flowing out from within him...*

1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 11:26:

*For as often as you **eat this bread and drink this cup**, you proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.*

Psalm 34:8:

*O Taste and see that the LORD is Good...*

And of course, here in John 6:

*He who comes to me will never be hungry, and He who believes in me will never thirst –  
Eating and drinking*

And I think that one of the reasons for this metaphor of eating and drinking **as a sign of faith** – is because:

Eating and drinking are among the basic necessities of life!

**That when we eat and when we drink** physical water & physical bread – then we are performing **that basic act** required for life!

If you don't eat – you die!

If you don't drink – you die!

Because the act itself (of *eating and drinking*) is required of us **in order to have life!**

And so Jesus (by using that metaphor) is **tapping into** the **basic picture** of what it means to have *faith!*

Come to me and eat!

And again that coming to Jesus **is believing** in Jesus – if you believe in Jesus, you’ve come to Him – if you come to Him, you’ve believed (that’s just 2 ways to say the same thing)...

### **Flesh and Blood**

And this is why He will **go on to say a little later on** in John 6 that:

*Unless you eat my flesh and drink my blood, you do not have life in me...*

Because apparently Jesus **did not think** that believing in Him simply meant *assenting to some verbal formula...*

*Well just believe this and be saved – repeat after me...*

No believing in Jesus was **going to be costly** – believing in Jesus was **going to hurt** – it was **going to cost them** their life – because almost everyone else around at this time in history **believed in something else** – they didn’t believe that Jesus was the Christ – they **didn’t believe** that Jesus was the King:

At least **not in the way** that He was claiming to be King!

And so this **eating and drinking** metaphor is a sign of having visible faith in the Messiah!

That if you were going to believe in Him – it was going to cost you your life!

### **Come or Die**

But Jesus is saying something like this:

*You need me... more than you need food!*

*You need Christ (the bread of life) more than you need food (the source of life) ...*

If you don’t eat and drink of Christ – if you don’t trust in my death – if you don’t come to me by faith:

You'll die!

You'll die like a starving person who dies without food in the desert!

So He redirects their attention away from **them-selves** and onto **Him-self!**

And in so doing He demonstrates **the fundamental reality** that He is demonstrating in John's Gospel:

- Jesus is the wine that never runs out!
- Jesus is the water that never dries up!
- Jesus is the bread that never disappoints!
- He is the Rock of life that always sustains!
- And He is the Manna in the wilderness that always gives life!

I love how Charles Simeon describes this concept of faith here in John – he says this:

*Faith in Christ is not a mere assent to the truth of His Messiahship, but a humble betrothal in Him as Saviour of the world... We must feel our need of Him; we must see the suitableness and sufficiency of His salvation. We must **actually go to Him** as the appointed Saviour and seek acceptance with God through Him alone. We must **renounce every other hope** and make Him all our salvation and all our desire...*

And friends that's what Jesus is saying **when He says to them:**

*This is the work of God, that you believe in Him!*

The way you get forgiveness of sin – the way you get a relationship with God – the way you get communion with God **is through faith in Jesus** Christ so that you can, eat, and drink, and come, and live!

Saint Augustine said that:

*When you believe in Christ you have eaten of Christ!*

Believing is Eating!

David Schrock – another pastor and theologian said it like this – I love the picture he gives here:

*Faith is not a decision of the mind, or an agreement of the will, but a longing of the soul and hunger of the stomach. Faith is coming to Jesus hungry for Him... [For] there is in Scripture a spiritual hunger that only Jesus satisfies...*

Jesus is the bread of life – so **do not labour** for the food that perishes...

Why would you labour for bread... when you have the bread of life standing right there in front of you...offering you life itself!

## Conclusion

Let me finish here today with this...

I heard a story this week about a man who one day found himself stranded in the desert one day...

Needless to say, this man was extremely hungry, and he was searching for a fountain or a spring of water that he **knew was somewhere within the desert!**

And so as he was **on his way there** (in search of this spring) he discovers a bag **that he supposed a traveller had dropped** many years ago...

And so he runs up to the bag, and he gets to the bag, and **he opens it with eagerness** but to his **bitter disappointment** the bag was filled with diamonds, and jewellery, and money and cash...

Which ultimately **continued to leave him** in that **constant state** of hunger and thirst...

## The World & Soda

Now I'm pretty sure we understand what that story's communicating...

That when a person is hungry – when a person is thirsty... there's **no amount** of fun, riches, money, or entertainment, no amount of jewellery, or clothing, family, riches or any other thing **that can ultimately satisfy!**

Only food will do to the hunger within!

And Jesus stands here in John 6 **as the bread of life** reaching out to each and everyone of us this morning – and what He offers to us is:

So much better than food!

So much better than bread!

So much better than sex!

And money – and clothing & life!

### **Soft-Drink**

What Jesus is offering is **water in the desert** to quench our thirsty souls when the world offers to you **sweet sugary soft-drink!**

You know that feeling you get when someone offers you some Coke **on a hot Summery day** – and you **have that moment** of temptation where you think to yourself:

Man that looks good!

And there's that **moment of deception** that when you drink of it – it will ultimately satisfy your thirst!

And then after about 30 seconds you realize – something not right!!!

And Our world is **constantly offering** to us sweet, sugary soda in the desert of sin:

Here you wanna have more Sex to satisfy – take this and drink!

You want more money – take and drink!



You want more likes on Facebook– take and drink!

You want a spouse to fulfill you – take and drink!

Take all of these **sweet sugary drinks** in the desert of lie and drink!

And you know what’s crazy about sin – is that when you take that first sip:

It actually tastes good!

It’s tastes sweet!

And sometimes tastes better than water!

Until about 30 seconds in and you realize:

Something’s not right here!

This sin is **NOT satisfying me** like I thought that it would!

That’s what sin does – it **promises satisfaction** but never delivers!!!

And so in the end Jesus comes along in John chapter 6 and He says:

I have a remedy for your greatest solution – I have water for your deepest thirst – I have bread that never perishes – I have grace that is always sufficient!

Eat, drink, and believe in me, and be satisfied!

Jesus can really do that friends – He can **really change** people’s affections from this world’s goods to Himself...

And I pray that you would read John chapter 6, and you would see the **sweetest words of Jesus** to these men – that **you too** would come to the river of life – come to the manna from heaven – come to the table of God – and you would:

Eat, and drink, believe, and be satisfied!

Because you've come to the one who can safely bring you home...

God the Father has set His seal upon Jesus – which is **Jesus' way of saying:**

I'm good – I'm safe – I'm trustworthy – I can safely deliver you from death – He's tender – He's kind – And He will always give you **what your heart needs** – and **NOT** what your hearts **always wants!**

*Jesus Christ is the bread of life so do not live for the bread that perishes but live for the King!*

Let's pray.

## **John 6:22-35**

### **Discussion Questions**

**[Read John 6:22-35]**

**Main Point:** *Do not live for the bread that perishes but live for the Bread of Life!*

**Q1. [Read John 6:22-24].** What does John say these people are focused on most? – What does Jesus say that they were focused on? **[Verse 26].** – What does this tell us about people who sometimes look really interested in knowing Jesus? **[Read 1 Samuel 16:17].**

**Q2.** Why does Jesus rebuke these men in verse 25? – How is verse 27 the remedy to their false seeking?

**Q3.** What is a biblical way to view God's earthly gifts? **[See Genesis 1:31; Ecclesiastes 2:24; 1 Timothy 4:4; 6:17; James 1:17].** – What are some ways we tend to skew God's gifts? – How do we stop ourselves from going too far into one of two extremes:

1. **Hedonism** (sinfully indulging in God's gifts)?
2. **Asceticism** (shutting out God's gifts)?

**Q4. [Read verses 27-34].** In your own words explain what you think is happening here? – What is the main focus of Jesus in this section? – What does this tell us about people who are seeking for miracles/signs?

**Q5.** What are some places people go to seek satisfaction and pleasure in life? – Why don't these places ever satisfy us?

**Q6.** How often does Jesus mention life in this discourse? – What does it mean that Jesus is the bread of life? – How do you eat the bread of life?