

(41) So the Jews grumbled about Him, because He said, “I am the bread that came down from heaven.” They said, “Is not this Jesus, the son of Joseph, whose father and mother we know? How does He now say, ‘I have come down from heaven?’”

(43) Jesus answered them, “Do not grumble among yourselves. No one can come to me unless the Father who sent Me draws him. And I will raise him up on the last day. It is written in the Prophets, ‘And they will all be taught by God.’ Everyone who has heard and learned from the Father comes to me – not that anyone has seen the Father except He who is from God; He has seen the Father. Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever believes has eternal life.

(48) “I am the bread of life. Your fathers ate the manna in the wilderness, and they died. This is the bread that comes down from heaven, so that one may eat of it and not die. I am the living bread that came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever. And the bread that I will give for the life of the world is my flesh.”

(52) The Jews then disputed among themselves, saying, “How can this man give us His flesh to eat?” So Jesus said to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink His blood, you have no life in you. Whoever feeds on My flesh and drinks My blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day. For My flesh is true food, and My blood is true drink. Whoever feeds on My flesh and drinks My blood abides in Me, and I in him. As the living Father sent Me, and I live because of the Father, so whoever feeds on Me, he also will live because of Me. This is the bread that came down from heaven, not like the bread the fathers ate, and died. Whoever feeds on this bread will live forever.” Jesus said these things in the synagogue, as He taught at Capernaum.

(60) When many of His disciples heard it, they said, “This is a hard saying; who can listen to it?” But Jesus, knowing in Himself that His disciples were grumbling about this, said to them, “Do you take offense at this? Then what if you were to see the Son of Man ascending to where He was before? It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh is no help at all. The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life. But there are some of you who do not believe.” (For Jesus knew from the beginning who those were who did not believe, and who it was who would betray Him.) And He said, “This is why I told you that no one came to Me unless it is granted him by the Father.”

(66) After this many of His disciples turned back and no longer walked with Him. So Jesus said to the twelve, “Do you want to go away as well?” Simon Peter answered Him, “Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life, and we have believed, and have come to know, that you are the Holy One of God.” Jesus answered them, “Did I not choose you, the twelve? And yet one of you is a devil.” He spoke of Judas the son of Simon Iscariot, for he, one of the twelve, was going to betray Him.

Think on these things:

- 1) Now let's remember our context: Jesus fed the 5,000[+] yesterday, walked on water during the night to get to His disciples in the boat, which finally landed near Capernaum. Yesterday's crowd finds Him today at the Capernaum synagogue. Jesus mildly rebukes them for really only wanting Him to feed them again. He then declares to them that He is the Bread of Life --- and they take offense. What causes them to object (vs. 41-42)?

2) How does Jesus explain that people come to believe in Him and receive eternal life (vs.43-45)?

3) Consider these Bible passages: Isaiah 53:1-12; Matthew 26:26-29; and 1 Corinthians 15:1-9. When you then read John 6:48-51, what does “the bread that I will give for the life of the world is My flesh” point to?

4) Verses 51-59 are the crux of the crisis in today’s lesson. Do you take them literally or figuratively? Please explain your opinion. Are you surprised by the crowd’s response? What clarification does Jesus give in v. 63?

Literal or figurative? _____

Jesus’ clarification? _____

Recall also Jesus’ discussion at the Last Supper with His disciples (Matthew 26:26-29).

5) Remember, the crowd Jesus is speaking to numbers in the thousands. He is in His second year of public ministry and at the peak of His popularity. Why did most of them decide to suddenly walk away from Him (vs. 60, 66)? What did Jesus teach us in Matthew 7:13-14?

Why did they walk away? _____

Matthew 7:13-14? _____

6) How can anyone come to Jesus --- God’s Bread of Life ---to receive eternal life (v. 65)?

7) After most of the crowd walked away from Him at the synagogue due to His teaching this day, Jesus next questioned His 12 disciples. Why did they decide to stay (vs. 67-69)?

People and situations I want to pray for this week: