

John Chapter Six

Read John 6:1-14 – Jesus Feeds 5,000

v.1 “AFTER THESE THINGS JESUS WENT OVER THE SEA OF GALILEE, WHICH IS *the sea* OF TIBERIAS.”

This body of water, which interrupts the Jordan River, actually has several different names found in scripture. It is called Galilee, Tiberius, after one of the Roman emperors, the Sea of Chinneroth and in some translations the Lake of Gennesaret. Though called a sea, it is a fresh water lake about 21 kilometers, or 13 miles from north to south and only about six miles wide. It is only about 46.5 feet deep and I'm sure that varies with the seasons.

v.2 “AND A GREAT MULTITUDE FOLLOWED HIM, BECAUSE THEY SAW HIS MIRACLES WHICH HE DID ON THEM THAT WERE DISEASED.”

The previous verse says that Jesus “WENT OVER THE SEA OF GALILEE” indicating that he crossed over to the eastern shore. This area was basically uninhabited and would be a good place to go to get away from the crowds and also would be a good place to teach his disciples without interference. The crowds, however, attracted by the miracles he performed, followed him where ever he went.

v.3 “AND JESUS WENT UP INTO A MOUNTAIN, AND THERE HE SAT WITH HIS DISCIPLES.”

Jesus places himself in a position to teach, a place where he could conveniently be seen and heard and is surrounded by his disciples. Commentators indicate that this was probably a place that served as a natural pulpit, perhaps even a natural amphitheater.

v.4 “AND THE PASSOVER, A FEAST OF THE JEWS, WAS NIGH.”

We remember again that the Passover was observed in the period of time that corresponds with late March and early April on our calendar. So it is once again the time of the Jewish Passover as Israel was commanded:

Deuteronomy 16:1 “OBSERVE THE MONTH OF ABIB, AND KEEP THE PASSOVER UNTO THE **LORD** THY GOD: FOR IN THE MONTH OF ABIB THE **LORD** THY GOD BROUGHT THEE FORTH OUT OF EGYPT BY NIGHT.”

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This feast came on the fourteenth day of the month. If the feast mentioned in **John 5:1** is a Passover feast, then a year has passed since the beginning of the prior chapter and this is the third Passover since Jesus was baptized. John did not record a detailed chronology of Jesus activities and teaching as did the other gospel writers but concentrated upon the proof the Jesus was indeed divine, the Son of God.

v.5 "WHEN JESUS THEN LIFTED UP *his* EYES, AND SAW A GREAT COMPANY COME UNTO HIM, HE SAITH UNTO PHILIP, WHENCE SHALL WE BUY BREAD, THAT THESE MAY EAT?"

These people had apparently followed Jesus without any thought about how long they might be there or how they would sustain themselves. But Jesus had compassion on them, not only to heal their diseases but also to feed them as he had done for others:

Matthew 14:14-16 "AND JESUS WENT FORTH, AND SAW A GREAT MULTITUDE, AND WAS MOVED WITH COMPASSION TOWARD THEM, AND HE HEALED THEIR SICK. AND WHEN IT WAS EVENING, HIS DISCIPLES CAME TO HIM SAYING, THIS IS A DESERT PLACE, AND THE TIME IS NOW PAST; SEND THE MULTITUDE AWAY, THAT THEY MAY GO INTO THE VILLAGES, AND BUY THEMSELVES VICTUALS. BUT JESUS SAID UNTO THEM, THEY NEED NOT DEPART; GIVE YE THEM TO EAT."

But he asks the question of Philip, and he has a purpose in the asking:

v.6 "AND THIS HE SAID TO PROVE HIM: FOR HE HIMSELF KNEW WHAT HE WOULD DO."

John tells us that he did this to prove or try Philip, prove what? His faith. Would he respond as most men; or would he, through faith, suggest that Jesus had the power to solve this problem.

v.7 "PHILIP ANSWERED HIM, TWO HUNDRED PENNYWORTH OF BREAD IS NOT SUFFICIENT FOR THEM, THAT EVERY ONE OF THEM MAY TAKE A LITTLE."

Philip made a quick calculation; probably the same reaction that some of us might have and based on the number to be fed rendered an observation. He determined if they went and bought "TWO HUNDRED PENNYWORTH" of bread that it would not be enough to even give each one a little piece.

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v.8 “ONE OF HIS DISCIPLES, ANDREW, SIMON PETER’S BROTHER, SAITH UNTO HIM,”

In Mark’s record of this same occurrence, Jesus has asked them to determine how much food they had:

Mark 6:38 “HE SAITH UNTO THEM, HOW MANY LOAVES HAVE YE? GO AND SEE. AND WHEN THEY KNEW, THEY SAY FIVE, AND TWO FISHES.”

John tells us that it is Andrew that answers.

v.9 “THERE IS A LAD HERE, WHICH HATH FIVE BARLEY LOAVES, AND TWO SMALL FISHES: BUT WHAT ARE THEY AMONG SO MANY?”

They were in the wilderness, not close to or convenient to any source of food and all the food that was available was these few loaves and two small fish. Obviously this isn’t nearly enough to feed the multitude of people that has followed Jesus to this location. For comparison, in the days of the prophet Elisha:

“AND THERE CAME A MAN FROM BAALSHALISHA, AND BROUGHT THE MAN OF GOD BREAD OF THE FIRSTFRUITS, TWENTY LOAVES OF BARLEY, AND FULL EARS OF CORN IN THE HUSK THEREOF. AND HE SAID, GIVE UNTO THE PEOPLE, THAT THEY MAY EAT. AND HIS SERVITOR SAID, WHAT, SHOULD I SET THIS BEFORE AN HUNDRED MEN? HE SAID AGAIN, GIVE THE PEOPLE, THAT THEY MAY EAT: FOR THUS SAITH THE LORD, THEY SHALL EAT, AND SHALL LEAVE *thereof*.” **II Kings 4:42-43**

On that occasion they had twenty loaves of barley bread and full “EARS OF CORN”; or rather because we know they did not have what we call corn today, full heads of grain that they could use to supplement their bread. That amount wasn’t enough to feed 100 men.

v.10 “AND JESUS SAID, MAKE THE MEN SIT DOWN. NOW THERE WAS MUCH GRASS IN THE PLACE. SO THE MEN SAT DOWN, IN NUMBER ABOUT FIVE THOUSAND.”

Jesus purpose is obvious; he has the men sit down and he prepares a feast of these five small loaves of bread and two small fish. This is early spring in Israel and even though this is a “desert” place there is grass growing abundantly.

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John tells us that there were about 5,000 men; Mark says that he sat them down in companies, Matthew says "BESIDES WOMEN AND CHILDREN". We don't know how many women and children there were but there could have been more than 20,000 people present on this occasion.

v.11 "AND JESUS TOOK THE LOAVES; AND WHEN HE HAD GIVEN THANKS, HE DISTRIBUTED *to the disciples and the disciples* to THEM THAT WERE SET DOWN; AND LIKEWISE OF THE FISHES AS MUCH AS THEY WOULD."

Jesus gave thanks for the food, gave it to his disciples; probably the twelve and they distributed the food to the multitude. In the breaking of this bread by Jesus it was increased and multiplied. Students of scripture and history tell us that the Jews considered it stealing from God to eat without offering thanks. Jesus offered thanks and we as Christians should follow his example.

v.12 "WHEN THEY WERE FILLED, HE SAID UNTO HIS DISCIPLES, GATHER UP THE FRAGMENTS THAT REMAIN, THAT NOTHING BE LOST."

Their hunger was satisfied; everyone's hunger was satisfied. The old axiom says "waste not, want not", Jesus didn't believe in wasting and had one further lesson for those who would see and hear. He directed his disciples to gather up the fragments were left over and even what they gathered amounted to far more than the five loaves and two fishes that Jesus blessed.

v.13 "THEREFORE THEY GATHERED *them* TOGETHER, AND FILLED TWELVE BASKETS WITH THE FRAGMENTS OF THE FIVE BARLEY LOAVES, WHICH REMAINED OVER AND ABOVE UNTO THEM THAT HAD EATEN."

A miracle, a manifestation that Jesus had power to create where there was nothing. Only someone with the power of God could feed 5,000 men with five barley loaves and two fish. Of course, simply feeding 5000 people is not a miracle but the way that God chose to do it was a miracle. This further points out again to these people and to us that Jesus is God's representative who speaks for Him, the Creator and Ruler of all things.

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v.14 “THEN THESE MEN, WHEN THEY HAD SEEN THE MIRACLE THAT JESUS DID, SAID, THIS IS OF A TRUTH THAT PROPHET THAT SHOULD COME INTO THE WORLD.”

What Prophet? That Prophet, The Prophet, the one searched for in scripture; the One who was to bring salvation:

I Peter 1:10-11 “OF WHICH SALVATION THE PROPHETS HAVE INQUIRED AND SEARCHED DILIGENTLY, WHO PROPHESED OF THE GRACE *that should come* UNTO YOU: SEARCHING WHAT, OR WHAT MANNER OF TIME THE SPIRIT OF CHRIST WHICH WAS IN THEM DID SIGNIFY, WHEN IT TESTIFIED BEFOREHAND THE SUFFERINGS OF CHRIST, AND THE GLORY THAT SHOULD FOLLOW.”

That One who was promised as Shiloh:

Genesis 49:10 “THE SCEPTRE (staff of authority) SHALL NOT DEPART FROM JUDAH, NOR A LAWGIVER FROM BETWEEN HIS FEET, UNTIL SHILOH COME, AND UNTO HIM *shall* THE GATHERING OF THE PEOPLE *be.*”

The one that God promised Moses:

Deuteronomy 18:18 “I WILL RAISE THEM UP A PROPHET FROM AMONG THEIR BRETHREN, LIKE UNTO THEE, AND WILL PUT MY WORDS IN HIS MOUTH; AND HE SHALL SPEAK UNTO THEM ALL THAT I SHALL COMMAND HIM.”

Even the Samaritan woman recognized Jesus for who he was;

John 4:25 “THE WOMAN SAITH UNTO HIM, I KNOW THAT MESSIAH COMETH, WHICH IS CALLED CHRIST; WHEN HE IS COME, HE WILL TELL US ALL THINGS. **v29.** “COME, SEE A MAN, WHICH TOLD ME ALL THINGS THAT EVER I DID: IS NOT THIS THE CHRIST?”

Read John 6:15-21 – Jesus Walks on the Sea

v.15 “WHEN JESUS THEREFORE PERCEIVED THAT THEY WOULD COME AND TAKE HIM BY FORCE, TO MAKE HIM A KING, HE DEPARTED AGAIN INTO A MOUNTAIN HIMSELF ALONE.”

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These Jews were looking for a physical kingdom. They foresaw that the one God had promised them as a deliverer would sit on the throne of David, relieve them of Roman bondage. So they set about to make Jesus a King by force. But Jesus knew their hearts, knew their plans and since this wasn't God's plan he left them at this point. Jesus no doubt felt the human love of power and prestige, perhaps was even flattered by the favor shown him and perhaps even felt the human desire to yield to this temptation. But he resisted this powerful temptation (we would be better off today if some men would follow his example), sent his disciples away (**Matthew 14:22**) and went into the mountain alone. It was not unusual for Jesus when tempted, or tired, or pressed by his work to go away for a period of time to pray and commune with his Father.

v.16 "AND WHEN EVEN WAS *now* COME, HIS DISCIPLES WENT DOWN UNTO THE SEA."

In Matthew's record we find that Jesus sent his disciples away

Matthew 14:22-23 "AND STRAIGHTWAY JESUS CONSTRAINED HIS DISCIPLES TO GET INTO A SHIP, AND TO GO BEFORE HIM UNTO THE OTHER SIDE, WHILE HE SENT THE MULTITUDES AWAY. AND WHEN HE HAD SENT THE MULTITUDES AWAY, HE WENT UP INTO A MOUNTAIN APART TO PRAY: AND WHEN THE EVENING WAS COME, HE WAS THERE ALONE."

v.17 "AND ENTERED INTO A SHIP, AND WENT OVER THE SEA TOWARD CAPERNAUM. AND IT WAS NOT DARK AND JESUS WAS NOT COME TO THEM."

This was probably a fishing boat, common to this sea but large enough to carry the twelve. Mark says they were to go to Bethsaida and John says they went to Capernaum. You pass must the first to get to the second.

v.18 "AND THE SEA AROSE BY REASON OF A GREAT WIND THAT BLEW."

The Sea of Galilee, as we pointed out earlier, was only about six miles wide. It has a reputation of being treacherous and a wind of any significance could readily whip it into a froth. When the desert winds come down off the nearby mountains, we're told that this is a relatively common occurrence.

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v.19 “SO WHEN THEY HAD ROWED ABOUT FIVE AND TWENTY OR THIRTY FURLONGS, THEY SEE JESUS WALKING ON THE SEA, AND DRAWING NIGH UNTO THE SHIP: AND THEY WERE AFRAID.”

As the British measured distance there are about 8 furlongs in a mile so 25 or 30 furlongs are somewhere between 3 and 4 miles. If they had gone straight across this sea they would be halfway or a little more than halfway across. Since the wind and waves were as high they were, they were probably off course and may not have known their exact location.

Then they see this person walking across the rough and windy sea as though he were out for a stroll in the park. Matthew (**14:26**) says they thought it was a ghost, he also tells us (**Matthew 14:25**) that it was the fourth watch of the night or if you've ever been a sailor between about three a.m. and daylight. John says they were afraid; Mark (**6:49**) says they cried out.

v.20 “BUT HE SAITH UNTO THEM, IT IS I; BE NOT AFRAID.”

Apparently when they heard his voice they calmed down and realized who he was.

v.21 “THEN THEY WILLINGLY RECEIVED HIM INTO THE SHIP: AND IMMEDIATELY THE SHIP WAS AT THE LAND WHITHER THEY WENT.”

John does not include the account of Peter's attempt to walk on the water, Jesus entering into the ship and stilling the storm that we find in **Matthew 14:28-33**.

Read John 6:22-27 – Jesus at Capernaum

v.22 “THE DAY FOLLOWING, WHEN THE PEOPLE WHICH STOOD ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE SEA SAW THAT THERE WAS NONE OTHER BOAT THERE, SAVE THAT ONE WHEREINTO HIS DISCIPLES WERE ENTERED, AND THAT JESUS WENT NOT WITH HIS DISCIPLES INTO THE BOAT, BUT *that* HIS DISCIPLES WERE GONE AWAY ALONE;”

Some of the people stayed and waited until the next day and went looking for Jesus. They knew that his disciples had gotten into the boat and left without him but they couldn't find him.

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v.23 “(HOWBEIT THERE CAME OTHER BOATS FROM TIBERIAS NIGH UNTO THE PLACE WHERE THEY DID EAT BREAD, AFTER THAT THE LORD HAD GIVEN THANKS.)”

Other boats come across the sea to this shore from the city of Tiberias.

v.24 “WHEN THE PEOPLE THEREFORE SAW THAT JESUS WAS NOT THERE, NEITHER HIS DISCIPLES, THEY ALSO TOOK SHIPPING, AND CAME TO CAPERNAUM, SEEKING FOR JESUS.”

The feeding of the 5000 took place on the east side of the Sea of Galilee, Tiberias is on the southwest and Capernaum is on the north end. They couldn't find Jesus in the desert place where he had been the day before so they got into the boats that came from Tiberias and went looking for him.

v.25 “AND WHEN THEY HAD FOUND HIM ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE SEA, THEY SAID UNTO HIM, RABBI, WHEN CAMEST THOU HITHER?”

This would be like someone walking up to us after loosing us in a crowd and asking, when have you been? They were curious about how he came to be there, since there were no other boats after his disciples left. They didn't understand. They do address him as “Rabbi”, “Master” or “Teacher” as Jesus was addressed regularly; but Jesus didn't answer their question.

v.26 “JESUS ANSWERED THEM AND SAID, VERILY, VERILY, I SAY UNTO YOU, YE SEEK ME, NOT BECAUSE YE SAW THE MIRACLES, BUT BECAUSE YE DID EAT OF THE LOAVES, AND WERE FILLED.”

Jesus not only didn't answer their question but upbraids them for seeking him out just because he fed them. They weren't interested in his power as God's Son to perform miracles, they weren't interested in the nature of his teaching but only as the Apostle Paul said of false brethren, they would “SERVE NOT OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, BUT THEIR OWN BELLY:” **Romans 16:18**

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The mindset that the church exists to meet the “felt needs” of the people is very prevalent in our country today. This is one of the reasons that a congregation of the Lord’s church is headed down a dangerous path when their social calendar becomes more prominent in their weekly bulletin than spiritual matters. Folks come for the social club atmosphere, food and entertainment that is frequently provided, take little or no interest in the preaching and die spiritually if they weren’t dead already. Souls are lost instead of saved and elders who shepherd such a congregation are going to stand in the day of judgement and be required to give an answer.

v.27 “LABOR NOT FOR THE MEAT WHICH PERISHETH, BUT FOR THAT MEAT WHICH ENDURETH UNTO EVERLASTING LIFE, WHICH THE SON OF MAN SHALL GIVE UNTO YOU: FOR HIM HATH GOD THE FATHER SEALED.”

Jesus takes advantage of the opportunity to teach a lesson in priorities and in what should be first in our lives. He reminds us of where our focus should be as children of God and citizens of Christ’s kingdom.

John the Baptizer declared the Deity and Authority of Jesus; and that this knowledge came from God:

John 1:32-34 “AND JOHN BARE RECORD, SAYING, I SAW THE SPIRIT DESCENDING FROM HEAVEN LIKE A DOVE, AND IT ABODE UPON HIM. AND I KNEW HIM NOT: BUT HE THAT SENT ME TO BAPTIZE WITH WATER, THE SAME SAID UNTO ME, UPON WHOM THOU SHALT SEE THE SPIRIT DESCENDING, AND REMAINING ON HIM, THE SAME IS HE WHICH BAPTIZETH WITH THE HOLY GHOST. AND I SAW, AND BARE RECORD THAT THIS IS THE SON OF GOD.”

Peter declares his identity to the gathering at Pentecost:

Acts 2:22-23 “YE MEN OF ISRAEL, HEAR THESE WORDS, JESUS OF NAZARETH, A MAN APPROVED OF GOD AMONG YOU BY MIRACLES AND WONDERS AND SIGNS, WHICH GOD DID BY HIM IN THE MIDST OF YOU, AS YE YOURSELVES ALSO KNOW. HIM BEING DELIVERED BY THE DETERMINATE COUNSEL AND FOREKNOWLEDGE OF GOD, YE HAVE TAKEN AND BY WICKED HANDS HAVE CRUCIFIED AND SLAIN:”

This is our Saviour. This is the Son of God. The church today is the called out that have committed themselves to follow his footsteps. We are to be citizens of His kingdom, faithful children in God’s family and our focus and priorities should be on things spiritual; Jesus said:

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Matthew 6:33-34 “BUT SEEK YE FIRST THE KINGDOM OF GOD, AND HIS RIGHTEOUSNESS; AND ALL THESE THINGS SHALL BE ADDED UNTO YOU. TAKE THEREFORE NO THOUGHT FOR THE MORROW: FOR THE MORROW SHALL TAKE THOUGHT FOR THE THINGS OF ITSELF. SUFFICIENT UNTO THE DAY *is* THE EVIL THEREOF.”

The material food we eat, the material things we own perish with using and will perish permanently some day. They are important only as the means to sustain us during our journey here on earth. The body sustained by this physical food perishes but the spiritual food that sustains and nourishes our spirit lasts forever. Jesus was drawing this distinction for the people listening on this occasion and contrasting between things material and the food which will promote the well being of our souls and the food that provides the strength to carry out our lives in such a way that we can stand in God’s judgment approved and accepted.

This is a message that we all should share with those of our number who faithfulness is hit and miss. Dare we neglect something this important for trivial pleasures and risk losing our very souls as a result?

Read John 6:28-40 – Jesus Christ; Bread of Heaven

v.28 “THEY SAID UNTO HIM, WHAT SHALL WE DO, THAT WE MIGHT WORK THE WORKS OF GOD?”

They understood what Jesus said. He was telling them to work the works of God not the works of men; pay attention to heavenly things not material things that perish. They understood that to do what God has commanded is doing the works of God. They also understood that he was speaking of that eternal reward, everlasting life, and asked what God would require them to do to have this everlasting life.

v.29 “JESUS ANSWERED AND SAID UNTO THEM, THIS IS THE WORK OF GOD, THAT YE BELIEVE ON HIM WHOM HE HATH SENT.”

What God requires is for man to believe on Jesus Christ whom he sent to represent him:

I John 3:23 “AND THIS IS HIS COMMANDMENT, THAT WE SHOULD BELIEVE ON THE NAME OF HIS SON JESUS CHRIST, AND LOVE ONE ANOTHER, AS HE GAVE US COMMANDMENT.”

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What kind of belief are we talking about? Something that causes our souls to shudder and we do nothing about?

James 2:19 "THOU BELIEVEST THAT THERE IS ONE GOD, THOU DOEST WELL: THE DEVILS ALSO BELIEVE, AND TREMBLE."

No we must have a belief that will cause to do the other works that God requires of us; a belief that will cause us to strive to be the kind of people that God would call His people, a belief that we want to share with everyone that we have opportunity in order to bring them into the same hope that we have. A belief or faith that works:

James 2:20 "BUT WILT THOU KNOW, O VAIN MAN, THAT FAITH WITHOUT WORKS IS DEAD?"

James 2:24 "YE SEE THEN HOW THAT BY WORKS A MAN IS JUSTIFIED, AND NOT BY FAITH ONLY."

A good many people don't believe the words provided by the Holy Spirit and penned by James; some of our own brethren who have departed from The Faith don't believe it and a whole lot more of those who profess to be our brethren live like they don't believe it.

v.30 "THEY SAID THEREFORE UNTO HIM, WHAT SIGN SHOWEST THOU THEN, THAT WE MAY SEE, AND BELIEVE THEE? WHAT DOEST THOU WORK?"

They were still looking for evidence, a sign, some proof that Jesus was who he said he was. I must admit that I don't understand these people. They followed him to the east side of Galilee, into some of the most deserted area of Palestine because of the miracles they saw in Jerusalem. They had seen him feed 5000 men plus women and children with five small barley loaves and two fish. They continue to ask him for a sign, a miracle that they might believe while refusing to believe the signs and miracles they had already seen. Paul declared to the Corinthian brethren:

I Corinthians 1:22-23 "FOR THE JEWS REQUIRE A SIGN, AND THE GREEKS SEEK AFTER WISDOM: BUT WE PREACH CHRIST CRUCIFIED, UNTO THE JEWS A STUMBLINGBLOCK, AND UNTO THE GREEKS FOOLISHNESS."

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v31. “OUR FATHERS DID EAT MANNA IN THE DESERT; AS IT IS WRITTEN, HE GAVE THEM BREAD FROM HEAVEN TO EAT.”

Apparently they discounted the feeding of the people as a sign; they said “So What.” God fed our fathers manna in the wilderness, bread out of heaven, that was a greater sign than feeding 5000 men.

Exodus 16:15 “AND WHEN THE CHILDREN OF ISRAEL SAW *it*, THEY SAID ONE TO ANOTHER, IT *is* MANNA: FOR THEY WIST NOT WHAT IS *was*. AND MOSES SAID UNTO THEM, THIS *is* THE BREAD WHICH THE LORD HATH GIVEN YOU TO EAT.”

This miracle was given as a sign to their fathers that they might believe in God. The same sign was given to them by Jesus in that he fed so many with so little but they refused to believe. Nehemiah recorded the obstinacy of their fathers in these words:

Nehemiah 9:15-17 “AND GAVEST THEM BREAD FROM HEAVEN FOR THEIR HUNGER, AND BROUGHTEST FORTH WATER FOR THEM OUT OF THE ROCK FOR THEIR THIRST, AND PROMISEDST THEM THAT THEY SHOULD GO IN TO POSSESS THE LAND WHICH THOU HADST SWORN TO GIVE THEM. BUT THEY AND OUR FATHERS DEALT PROUDLY, AND HARDENED THEIR NECKS, AND HEARKENED NOT TO THY COMMANDMENTS, AND REFUSED TO OBEY, NEITHER WERE MINDFUL OF THY WONDERS THAT THOU DIDST AMONG THEM; BUT HARDENED THEIR NECKS, AND IN THEIR REBELLION APPOINTED A CAPTAIN TO RETURN TO THEIR BONDAGE: BUT THOU *art* A GOD READY TO PARDON, GRACIOUS AND MERCIFUL, SLOW TO ANGER, AND OF GREAT KINDNESS, AND FORSookeST THEM NOT.”

v.32 “THEN JESUS SAID UNTO THEM, VERILY, VERILY, I SAY UNTO YOU, MOSES GAVE YOU NOT THAT BREAD FROM HEAVEN; BUT MY FATHER GIVETH YOU THE TRUE BREAD FROM HEAVEN.”

Jesus takes advantage of their focus on the miracle in the desert where God provided for the hunger of the Israelite nation during their wandering. First of all Moses did not give them the bread that they ate but rather God did. Then he contrasts the physical food that they are referring to; and that he gave them on the mountain to the spiritual food that will sustain us forever; that will provide for us eternal life. Then he tells them what we all know; this bread comes from God.

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v.33 “FOR THE BREAD OF GOD IS HE WHICH COMETH DOWN FROM HEAVEN, AND GIVETH LIFE UNTO THE WORLD.”

Jesus then follows with the facts that He represents the true bread that would strengthen their (and our) souls and give to them (us) eternal life as the Holy Spirit testifies through the record of the New Testament:

John 14:6 “JESUS SAITH UNTO HIM, I AM THE WAY, THE TRUTH, AND THE LIFE: NO MAN COMETH UNTO THE FATHER, BUT BY ME.”

Paul writes that our salvation was planned before the world began:

II Timothy 1:10 “BUT IS NOW MADE MANIFEST BY THE APPEARING OF OUR SAVIOUR JESUS CHRIST, WHO HATH ABOLISHED DEATH, AND HATH BROUGHT LIFE AND IMMORTALITY TO LIGHT THROUGH THE GOSPEL:”

v.34 “THEN SAID THEY UNTO HIM, LORD, EVERMORE GIVE US THIS BREAD.”

When these people heard about this bread they had the same reaction as the Samaritan women at the well:

John 4:15 “THE WOMAN SAITH UNTO HIM, SIR, GIVE ME THIS WATER, THAT I THIRST NOT, NEITHER COME HITHER TO DRAW.”

Both interpreted his meaning to be physical rather than spiritual; satisfying their earthly requirements not their heavenly needs. She asked for water that she might never need to return to the well; they asked for bread to perpetuate their physical lives without effort. Neither of them had any conception of Jesus' true meaning; that they should give up all of their fleshly pursuits, deny self and live the kind of life that true followers of Jesus will live.

v.35 “AND JESUS SAID UNTO THEM, I AM THE BREAD OF LIFE: HE THAT COMETH TO ME SHALL NEVER HUNGER; AND HE THAT BELIEVETH ON ME SHALL NEVER THIRST.”

Again, just as Jesus declared himself to the woman at the well he declares himself to those that had come to him:

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John 4:14 “BUT WHOSOEVER DRINKETH OF THE WATER THAT I SHALL GIVE HIM SHALL NEVER THIRST; BUT THE WATER THAT I SHALL GIVE HIM SHALL BE IN HIM A WELL OF WATER SPRINGING UP UNTO EVERLASTING LIFE.”

He adds in this discourse that “**HE THAT BELIEVETH ON ME**” should enjoy these blessings. That those who believe on him with an earnest, living, faith; who come to Jesus, trust in him, are led by him, does his will as He did the Father’s will, shall have all the needs of his soul satisfied. This is an important lesson for his followers and us today; we must sit down and count the cost before we make the commitment. Many people don’t, and that’s part of the reason they fall by the wayside. But once we make the commitment to Christ and his church, we need to live that commitment to the fullest of our ability every day that we draw breath.

v.36 “BUT I SAID UNTO YOU, THAT YE ALSO HAVE SEEN ME, AND BELIEVE NOT.”

Their problem is that they saw His power manifested but yet failed to believe. If we go back a few verses, we can see the their real purpose:

John 6:26 “JESUS ANSWERED THEM AND SAID, VERILY, VERILY, I SAY UNTO YOU, YE SEEK ME, NOT BECAUSE YE SAW THE MIRACLES, BUT BECAUSE YE DID EAT OF THE LOAVES, AND WERE FILLED.”

v.37 “ALL THAT THE FATHER GIVETH ME SHALL COME TO ME; AND HIM THAT COMETH TO ME I WILL IN NO WISE CAST OUT.”

Jesus says that God will give those to him that come to Him. How do we come to Christ?

John 12:32 “AND I, IF I BE LIFTED UP FROM THE EARTH, WILL DRAW ALL *men* UNTO ME.”

How is the drawing done?

I Corinthians 1:18 “FOR THE PREACHING OF THE CROSS IS TO THEM THAT PERISH FOOLISHNESS; BUT UNTO US WHICH ARE SAVED IT IS THE POWER OF GOD....**v21** “FOR AFTER THAT IN THE WISDOM OF GOD THE WORLD BY WISDOM KNEW NOT GOD, IT PLEASD GOD BY THE FOOLISHNESS OF PREACHING TO SAVE THEM THAT BELIEVE.”

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Those that are drawn by the gospel through the foolishness of preaching have a sure foundation. They are sealed as children of God and He knows who they are:

II Timothy 2:19 “NEVERTHELESS THE FOUNDATION OF GOD STANDETH SURE, HAVING THIS SEAL. THE LORD KNOWETH THEM THAT ARE HIS. AND, LET EVERY ONE THAT NAMETH THE NAME OF CHRIST DEPART FROM INIQUITY.”

Just as in the days of Jesus when those disciples came, heard, and departed from him; there will be those that will depart today as well. Not only will they depart, they will take as many with them as they can and work to destroy the faith of those who refuse to follow them.

Matthew 24:24 “FOR THERE SHALL ARISE FALSE CHRISTS, AND FALSE PROPHETS, AND SHALL SHEW GREAT SIGNS AND WONDERS; INSOMUCH THAT, IF *it were* POSSIBLE, THEY SHALL DECEIVE THE VERY ELECT.”

John also describes them in his first epistle as anti-Christ's or those opposed or the opposite in nature to Christ.

I John 2:19 “THEY WENT OUT FROM US, BUT THEY WERE NOT OF US; FOR IF THEY HAD BEEN OF US, THEY WOULD *no doubt* HAVE CONTINUED WITH US: BUT *they went out*, THAT THEY MIGHT BE MADE MANIFEST THAT THEY WERE NOT ALL OF US.”

One of the major problems we have today with these false teachers is that they will not go out from us; but continue within physical congregations of the church and work to make them as denominationally minded as they are. The recent activity at the Southern Hills congregation is but a living example right here in our midst. Out false brethren would have taken the entire congregation if they would have followed them.

v.38 “FOR I CAME DOWN FROM HEAVEN, NOT TO DO MINE OWN WILL, BUT THE WILL OF HIM THAT SENT ME.”

Jesus openly declares here to them that He came down from heaven. He uses plainer words perhaps than He has used before. He also tells them that he is not doing and will not do his own will; but the will of God who sent him as we studied in:

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John 5:30 "I CAN OF MINE OWN SELF DO NOTHING; AS I HEAR, I JUDGE: AND MY JUDGMENT IS JUST; BECAUSE I SEEK NOT MINE OWN WILL, BUT THE WILL OF THE FATHER WHICH HATH SENT ME."

v.39 "AND THIS IS THE FATHER'S WILL WHICH HATH SENT ME, THAT OF ALL WHICH HE HATH GIVEN ME I SHOULD LOSE NOTHING, BUT SHOULD RAISE IT UP AGAIN AT THE LAST DAY."

It is God's will that Jesus should save all men and will save all those that believe in Him and follow Him. He says of those who are truly following Him:

John 10:27-28 "MY SHEEP HEAR MY VOICE, AND I KNOW THEM, AND THEY FOLLOW ME: AND I GIVE UNTO THEM ETERNAL LIFE; AND THEY SHALL NEVER PERISH, NEITHER SHALL ANY *man* PLUCK THEM OUT OF MY HAND."

v.40 "AND THIS IS THE WILL OF HIM THAT SENT ME, THAT EVERY ONE WHICH SEETH THE SON, AND BELIEVETH ON HIM, MAY HAVE EVERLASTING LIFE: AND I WILL RAISE HIM UP AT THE LAST DAY."

It is God's will that all would come to Jesus and obey his teachings that they should not perish but have eternal life. These Jesus will raise up in the last day to a heavenly reward. On the other hand God has given us the ability to see, hear and believe and those that refuse damn themselves by their own behavior.

Read John 6:41-51 – Jesus the Bread of Life

v.41 "THE JEWS THEN MURMURED AT HIM, BECAUSE HE SAID, I AM THE BREAD WHICH CAME DOWN FROM HEAVEN."

These Jews did not believe. I think they did understand his meaning, at least partially, but the context tells us that they found what he said to be something that they were not willing to accept; even with the miracles that he had performed as a testimony to his deity.

v42. "AND THEY SAID, IS NOT THIS JESUS, THE SON OF JOSEPH, WHOSE FATHER AND MOTHER WE KNOW? HOW IS IT THEN THAT HE SAITH, I CAME DOWN FROM HEAVEN?"

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These people knew of Jesus earthly family and that he was born into this family by natural means (his conception was a miracle, his birth was not). So they mumble and grumble and refuse to believe him when he says he came down from heaven, or that he is the bread of life.

v.43 “JESUS THEREFORE ANSWERED AND SAID UNTO THEM, MURMUR NOT AMONG YOURSELVES.”

Jesus knows their hearts and minds, rebukes them for murmuring and then goes into another session of teaching concerning his origin and purpose.

v.44 “NO MAN CAN COME TO ME, EXCEPT THE FATHER WHICH HATH SENT ME DRAW HIM: AND I WILL RAISE HIM UP AT THE LAST DAY.”

As Jesus begins to repeat some of his earlier teaching let's look at the two elements involved in our accepting God's commandments. We're told here that none can come to Jesus unless they are taught and drawn by the Father. Is God so helpless that He cannot induce our obedience? Or is it that God has given us the capability to refuse and allows us to do that? We must come to God of our own free will; in the Revelation John tells us plainly:

Revelation 22:17 “AND THE SPIRIT AND THE BRIDE SAY COME. AND LET HIM THAT HEARETH SAY, COME. AND LET HIM THAT IS ATHIRST COME. AND WHOSOEVER WILL, LET HIM TAKE THE WATER OF LIFE FREELY.”

And many will refuse:

John 5:40 “AND YE WILL NOT COME TO ME, THAT YE MIGHT HAVE LIFE.”

Just as those in Jerusalem of old times:

Luke 13:34 “O JERUSALEM, JERUSALEM, WHICH KILLEST THE PROPHETS, AND STONEST THEM THAT ARE SENT UNTO THEE; HOW OFTEN WOULD I HAVE GATHERED THY CHILDREN TOGETHER, AS A HEN *doth* gather HER BROOD UNDER *her* WINGS, AND YE WOULD NOT!”

John Chapter Six

God draws us through the gospel and if we will, we can be converted then we also follow him through the gospel. But if we refuse; God does not in some mysterious way induce us to do what is right but allows us to follow our own wishes and desires. Contrary to denominational teaching we are not moved by the spirit except through the influence of the Word of God on our hearts and minds.

v.45 "IT IS WRITTEN IN THE PROPHETS, AND THEY SHALL BE ALL TAUGHT OF GOD. EVERY MAN THEREFORE THAT HATH HEARD, AND HATH LEARNED OF THE FATHER COMETH UNTO ME."

God had been preparing the world since the days of Adam's sin to receive His Son. He does this by teaching men who have the obligation to teach others:

Isaiah 54:13 "AND ALL THY CHILDREN *shall be* TAUGHT OF THE **LORD**; AND GREAT *shall be* THE PEACE OF THY CHILDREN."

Speaking in prophecy of the new covenant with Israel:

Jeremiah 31:33-34 "BUT THIS *shall be* THE COVENANT THAT I WILL MAKE WITH THE HOUSE OF ISRAEL, AFTER THOSE DAYS, SAITH THE **LORD**, I WILL PUT MY LAW IN THEIR INWARD PARTS, AND WRITE IT IN THEIR HEARTS; AND WILL BE THEIR GOD, AND THEY SHALL BE MY PEOPLE. AND THEY SHALL TEACH NO MORE EVERY MAN HIS NEIGHBOUR, AND EVERY MAN HIS BROTHER, SAYING, KNOW THE **LORD**: FOR THEY SHALL ALL KNOW ME, FROM THE LEAST OF THEM UNTO THE GREATEST OF THEM, SAITH THE **LORD**: FOR I WILL FORGIVE THEIR INIQUITY, AND I WILL REMEMBER THEIR SIN NO MORE."

Hebrews 8:10 quotes parts of the same prophecy made by Jeremiah. Jesus also said:

John 5:46 "FOR HAD YE BELIEVED MOSES, YE WOULD HAVE BELIEVED ME: FOR HE WROTE OF ME."

Those people who heard and accepted the teachings of Moses and the prophets were prepared to receive Jesus. God drew them by the teaching he gave them.

v.46 "NOT THAT ANY MAN HATH SEEN THE FATHER, SAVE HE WHICH IS OF GOD, HE HATH SEEN THE FATHER."

John Chapter Six

God draws people to him through Jesus Christ and through his servants, his teachers, and the prophets that he had sent into the world to teach his word. After God's revelation was complete; there is nothing miraculous, nothing spectacular, just his people teaching other people His Word. There are no special nudges, no emotional high or spiritual experience, just honest people believing God and leading others to do so as well.

v.47 "VERILY, VERILY, I SAY UNTO YOU, HE THAT BELIEVETH ON ME HATH EVERLASTING LIFE."

Jesus repeats his prior teaching to try to help them understand.

John 6:40 "AND THIS IS THE WILL OF HIM THAT SENT ME, THAT EVERY ONE WHICH SEETH THE SON, AND BELIEVETH ON HIM, MAY HAVE EVERLASTING LIFE; AND I WILL RAISE HIM UP AT THE LAST DAY."

v.48 "I AM THE BREAD OF LIFE."

Just as bread is the staff of physical life, the means and support for our physical bodies; Jesus is the means and support of life for our spiritual bodies:

John 6:33 "FOR THE BREAD OF GOD IS HE WHICH COMETH DOWN FROM HEAVEN, AND GIVETH LIFE UNTO THE WORLD."

Then Jesus contrasts what they are thinking with the real "BREAD OF LIFE."

v.49 "YOUR FATHERS DID EAT MANNA IN THE WILDERNESS, AND ARE DEAD."

God gave them bread (manna) in the wilderness but it did not sustain their lives beyond this physical world; it was not life giving on an eternal basis.

v.50 "THIS IS THE BREAD WHICH COMETH DOWN FROM HEAVEN, THAT A MAN MAY EAT THEREOF, AND NOT DIE."

Those who partake of the bread of heaven represented by Christ shall never die or be separated from God.

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v.51 “I AM THE LIVING BREAD WHICH CAME DOWN FROM HEAVEN: IF ANY MAN EAT OF THIS BREAD, HE SHALL LIVE FOR EVER: AND THE BREAD THAT I WILL GIVE IS MY FLESH, WHICH I WILL GIVE FOR THE LIFE OF THE WORLD.”

Jesus himself possessed spiritual and eternal life and could impart that to others. He did this by offering his body as a living sacrifice:

Hebrews 10:10 “BY THE WHICH WILL WE ARE SANCTIFIED THROUGH THE OFFERING OF THE BODY OF JESUS CHRIST ONCE *for all*.”

Read John 6:52-59 – The Lord’s Supper in Parable

v.52 “THE JEWS THEREFORE STROVE AMONG THEMSELVES, SAYING, HOW CAN THIS MAN GIVE US *his* FLESH TO EAT?”

Because these people were worldly minded they could not conceive of a situation where they could eat of the body of Jesus.

v.53 “THEN JESUS SAID UNTO THEM, VERILY, VERILY, I SAY UNTO YOU, EXCEPT YE EAT THE FLESH OF THE SON OF MAN, AND DRINK HIS BLOOD, YE HAVE NO LIFE IN YOU.”

He insists upon this eating and drinking; how do we do that?

Matthew 26:26-28 “AND AS THEY WERE EATING, JESUS TOOK BREAD, AND BLESSED *it*, AND BRAKE *it*, AND GAVE *it* TO THE DISCIPLES, AND SAID, TAKE, EAT; THIS IS MY BODY. AND HE TOOK THE CUP, AND GAVE THANKS, AND GAVE *it* TO THEM, SAYING, DRINK YE ALL OF IT; FOR THIS IS MY BLOOD OF THE NEW TESTAMENT, WHICH IS SHED FOR MANY FOR THE REMISSION OF SINS.”

And if we don’t eat of his flesh and drink of his blood symbolically; therefore partake of the Lord’s Supper, as prescribed, when prescribed, then we have no life in us. This is another indicator of the kind of faithfulness to His worship that God requires.

v.54 “WHOSO EATETH MY FLESH, AND DRINKETH MY BLOOD, HATH ETERNAL LIFE; AND I WILL RAISE HIM UP AT THE LAST DAY.”

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The one who makes the ways of God his ways, follows the teachings of Jesus and his apostles, follows the example He has provided has eternal life and Jesus will raise him up to the enjoyment of eternal life in the last day. Part of that faithfulness is careful attendance and attention to worship, part of which is the Lord's Supper.

v.55 "FOR MY FLESH IS MEAT INDEED, AND MY BLOOD IS DRINK INDEED."

This expression is provided to emphasize the trueness of Jesus statement.

v.56 "HE THAT EATETH MY FLESH, AND DRINKETH MY BLOOD, DWELLETH IN ME, AND I IN HIM."

All of us that live in Jesus have Him living in us. How do we do that? John tells us in a later writing:

I John 4:15-16 "WHOSOEVER SHALL CONFESS THAT JESUS IS THE SON OF GOD, GOD DWELLETH IN HIM, AND HE IN GOD. AND WE HAVE KNOWN AND BELIEVED THE LOVE THAT GOD HATH TO US. GOD IS LOVE; AND HE THAT DWELLETH IN LOVE DWELLETH IN GOD, AND GOD IN HIM."

How do we confess Him? And how does he dwell in us?

I John 3:24 "AND HE THAT KEEPETH HIS COMMANDMENTS DWELLETH IN HIM, AND HE IN HIM. AND HEREBY WE KNOW THAT HE ABIDETH IN US, BY THE SPIRIT WHICH HE HATH GIVEN US."

We dwell in God by keeping his commandments, and He dwells in us through His word.

v.57 "AS THE LIVING FATHER HATH SENT ME, AND I LIVE BY THE FATHER: SO HE THAT EATETH ME, EVEN HE SHALL LIVE BY ME."

Jesus received his life through the Father, and we receive our life through Jesus.

v.58 "THIS IS THE BREAD WHICH CAME DOWN FROM HEAVEN: NOT AS YOUR FATHERS DID EAT MANNA, AND ARE DEAD: HE THAT EATETH OF THIS BREAD SHALL LIVE FOR EVER."

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Jesus here contrasts the bread of which he is speaking with the bread fed to their fathers in the wilderness; declares that they ate and eventually died whereas those who eat of the bread of life shall live forever.

v.59 “THESE THINGS SAID HE IN THE SYNAGOGUE, AS HE TAUGHT IN CAPERNAUM.”

John says that these are things which Jesus taught in the synagogue in Capernaum. Apparently Jesus is making this city his home and the wording here would also almost lead us to believe that John’s record here is of teaching that was done over a period of time rather than at one setting just after his feeding the 5000 on the mountain side.

Read John 6:60-65 – Given of My Father

v.60 “MANY THEREFORE OF HIS DISCIPLES, WHEN THEY HAD HEARD *this*, SAID, THIS IS AN HARD SAYING; WHO CAN HEAR IT?”

In these few verses we have recorded a great falling away. Many who heard him and claimed to be his disciples, or followed him as disciples were dissatisfied with his teaching and fell by the wayside.

v.61 WHEN JESUS KNEW IN HIMSELF THAT HIS DISCIPLES MURMURED AT IT, HE SAID UNTO THEM, DOTH THIS OFFEND YOU?”

Along with the other Jews, Jesus disciples expected the Messiah to create and rule an earthly kingdom after the fashion of David’s. Even down to the very end of his time on earth the mother of Zebedee’s children (Salome) and James and John, her sons, came to him to ask that one of them sit on his right hand and the other on his left when he came into his kingdom (**Matthew 20:20-21**). These are the same people that were ready to take him by force on the mountain at the Sea of Galilee and make him their king. They did not expect a crucified Saviour. They didn’t understand his teaching, were offended at him and murmured among themselves. Consequently when their expectations were not met they rejected him.

v.62 “*What* AND IF YE SHALL SEE THE SON OF MAN ASCEND UP WHERE HE WAS BEFORE?”

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Jesus knew that he would return to the Father from which he came. He asked this question to let them know that they would see this happen and ask them what they would think about it. We know that what he described did indeed happen:

Mark 16:19 “SO THEN AFTER THE LORD HAD SPOKEN UNTO THEM, HE WAS RECEIVED UP INTO HEAVEN, AND SAT ON THE RIGHT HAND OF GOD.”

Acts 1:9 “AND WHEN HE HAD SPOKEN THESE THINGS, WHILE THEY BEHELD, HE WAS TAKEN UP; AND A CLOUD RECEIVED HIM OUT OF THEIR SIGHT.”

And we serve a risen Saviour; one who sits on the right hand of God today.

v.63 “IT IS THE SPIRIT THAT QUICKENETH; THE FLESH PROFITETH NOTHING: THE WORDS THAT I SPEAK UNTO YOU, *they* ARE SPIRIT, AND *they* ARE LIFE.”

Paul, by inspiration writes:

II Corinthians 3:6 “WHO ALSO HATH MADE US ABLE MINISTERS OF THE NEW TESTAMENT; NOT OF THE LETTER, BUT OF THE SPIRIT: FOR THE LETTER KILLETH, BUT THE SPIRIT GIVETH LIFE.”

But his disciples were also carnally minded and didn't understand the difference between the spiritual and the physical. They were thinking and expecting that these rewards and blessings would be given to them in the physical realm. Physical life and physical blessings are but temporal and temporary; the spiritual blessings that we enjoy as children of God are heavenly and permanent; lasting through eternity. It is in Christ that the Spirit of God dwells.

Romans 8:2 “FOR THE LAW OF THE SPIRIT OF LIFE IN CHRIST JESUS HATH MADE ME FREE FROM THE LAW OF SIN AND DEATH.”

Free from the law of sin and death and prepared for that wondrous day:

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I Thessalonians 4:16 “FOR THE LORD HIMSELF SHALL DESCEND FROM HEAVEN WITH A SHOUT, WITH THE VOICE OF THE ARCHANGEL, AND WITH THE TRUMP OF GOD: AND THE DEAD IN CHRIST SHALL RISE FIRST.”

v.64 “BUT THERE ARE SOME OF YOU THAT BELIEVE NOT. FOR JESUS KNEW FROM THE BEGINNING WHO THEY WERE THAT BELIEVED NOT, AND WHO SHOULD BETRAY HIM.”

Jesus did many wondrous works; far more, as John tells us, than have been recorded for our benefit. Those who heard him could read of him in the law and prophets. He validated, certified and proved his origin, deity and power through his these miracles performed in their presence; yet they would not believe.

v.65 “AND HE SAID, THEREFORE SAID I UNTO YOU, THAT NO MAN CAN COME UNTO ME, EXCEPT IT WERE GIVEN UNTO HIM OF MY FATHER.”

He returns to the same thoughts as found in verses 44 and 45:

John 6:44-45 “NO MAN CAN COME TO ME, EXCEPT THE FATHER WHICH HATH SENT ME DRAW HIM: AND I WILL RAISE HIM UP AT THE LAST DAY. IT IS WRITTEN IN THE PROPHETS, AND THEY SHALL BE ALL TAUGHT OF GOD. EVERY MAN THEREFORE THAT HATH HEARD, AND HATH LEARNED OF THE FATHER, COMETH UNTO ME.”

But this class or group of people were not drawn, not drawn close enough, or were not drawn for the right reasons to stay with Jesus when they did not understand the aspects of an eternal abode with God. They are still holding to their expectations that the Messiah would be someone who would remove them from Roman slavery and provide them their political freedom.

Read John 6:66-71 – “To Whom Shall We Go?”

v.66 “FROM THAT *time* MANY OF HIS DISCIPLES WENT BACK, AND WALKED NO MORE WITH HIM.”

There were a great many people who followed him, learning his teaching, believing in him but whose faith was not strong enough to lead them to accept the teaching that did not provide a kingdom that met their expectations.

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v.67 “THEN SAID JESUS UNTO THE TWELVE, WILL YE ALSO GO AWAY?”

Now that is a fairly typical human reaction isn't it. A large number of disciples are leaving him, as He knew they would. This apparently puts Jesus into a feeling of sadness, or perhaps even rejection. The human being in a state of despondency would be expected to ask, Well, are you going to leave me too??

v.68 “THEN SIMON PETER ANSWERED HIM, LORD, TO WHOM SHALL WE GO? THOU HAST THE WORDS OF ETERNAL LIFE.”

Truer words were never spoken by man. And it's Peter who speaks out, as usual, but with words of profound truth. He knew that no other could bring the promises of eternal life. He understood Jesus teaching on this fundamental foundation of faith. Only the words of Jesus can give us eternal life; as the old song reminds us so beautifully “Where could I go but to the Lord?”

v.69 “AND WE BELIEVE AND ARE SURE THAT THOU ARE THAT CHRIST, THE SON OF THE LIVING GOD.”

Here we have explicit language again used and recorded at the direction of the Holy Spirit referring to “THAT CHRIST.” They were looking for someone specific, that Christ, that Prophet, that One who would be the fulfillment of prophecy.

John 6:14 “THEN THOSE MEN, WHEN THEY HAD SEEN THE MIRACLE THAT JESUS DID, THIS IS OF A TRUTH THAT PROPHET THAT SHOULD COME INTO THE WORLD.”

v.70 “JESUS ANSWERED THEM, HAVE I NOT CHOSEN YOU TWELVE, AND ONE OF YOU IS A DEVIL?”

Just as Peter confesses him, assures him that he had the confidence of the twelve; Jesus reassures them as well, reminding them that He chose them from the countryside and various walks of life that they had been pursuing. These twelve were, of course, the twelve that became apostles; those special ambassadors of Jesus; the same twelve that we read about in:

Luke 6:13 “AND WHEN IT WAS DAY, HE CALLED *unto him* HIS DISCIPLES: AND OF THEM HE CHOSE TWELVE, WHOM ALSO HE NAMED APOSTLES.”

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And he knew one of them was a devil, or would allow the devil to process and own him.

v.71 “HE SPAKE OF JUDAS ISCARIOT *the son* OF SIMON: FOR HE IT WAS THAT SHOULD BETRAY HIM, BEING ONE OF THE TWELVE.”

At the time that Jesus is speaking his disciples did not even know who would betray him nor did the twelve understand that he would be betrayed. But John writing some 60 years later records for us that Jesus betrayal was planned by God and that Jesus knew from the beginning who would turn against him.