

John 6:32–35

³² Then Jesus said to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, Moses did not give you the bread from heaven, but My Father gives you the true bread from heaven.

³³ For the bread of God is He who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world.”

³⁴ Then they said to Him, “Lord, give us this bread always.”

³⁵ And Jesus said to them, “I am the bread of life. He who comes to Me shall never hunger, and he who believes in Me shall never thirst.

“I AM the Bread of Life” **John 6:32-35**

INTRO:

The Apostle John included in his book the events and discussions he recorded for a specific purpose. ***“Many other signs Jesus also performed in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; but these have been written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing you may have life in His name.”*** John 20:30–31 John included this passage to teach us something about Who Jesus was and is. He also wanted us to understand the truth which seemed to continually escape the crowds chasing Him around Palestine. These verses tell us that Jesus is the I am who is the bread of life. We will see this in two ways.

I. Who Is The Bread from Heaven? (32-33)

II. Obtaining this Bread (v.34-35)

I. Who Is the Bread from Heaven? (32-33)

“Then Jesus said to them, ‘Truly, truly, I say to you, Moses did not give you the bread from heaven, but 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.’” John 6:32-33

A. As when the crowd who ate the loaves asked Jesus how He got to Capernaum, Jesus corrected what their heart said. We do not read Moses’ name in **verse 31**. However, the unnamed **“he”** refers not to the living God, but to Moses.

1. Jesus enlarged the category they were thinking in. While they thought that Moses, the great Law giver and leader, was the one who announced God’s solution to the problem of food, it was really God who provided it. In **Exodus 16:11-12**, the LORD God made it clear Who provided the manna.

“And the LORD spoke to Moses, saying, ‘I have heard the complaints of the children of Israel. Speak to them, saying, “At twilight you shall eat meat, and in the morning, you shall be filled with bread. And you shall know that I am the LORD your God.”’”

2. Not only did they get the source of this manna wrong, they also confused the type with the fulfillment. The true bread from heaven is the Lord Jesus who came down to heaven to give life to the world.

C. They also did not recognize there were two breads here, **(1)** the miracle manna given to Israel in the wilderness, and **(2)** the true bread from God, the fulfillment of the shadow. There were also two kinds of life. The first life was the physical life God sustained in the wilderness. The second kind of life was eternal life.

D. Jesus is completely clear in **verse 32**.

“For the bread of God is He who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world.”

The Lord Jesus was the One the manna in the wilderness foreshadowed *and* He also was the One to Whom the miracle of the loaves pointed.

II. Obtaining this Bread (v.34-35)

“Then they said to Him, ‘Lord, give us this bread always.’ And Jesus said to them, ‘I am the bread of life. He who comes to Me shall never hunger, and he who believes in Me shall never thirst.’” John 6:34-35

A. The seekers after Jesus replied, ***“Then they said to Him, ‘Lord, give us this bread always.’”*** While their willingness to have this bread was laudable, they really had no idea what the words meant. They realized the bread Jesus referred to was greater than the manna Moses presented to their forefathers. That is why they challenged the Lord to give them this bread.

1. The woman Jesus confronted in **John 4** responded in a similar way. In **4:10** the Lord Jesus replied to the woman’s surprise.

“Jesus answered and said to her, ‘If you knew the gift of God, and who it is who says to you, ‘Give Me a drink,’ you would have asked Him, and He would have given you living water.”

2. After the Lord discussed this further in the verses in between, in **4:15**, ***“The woman said to Him, ‘Sir, give me this water, that I may not thirst, nor come here to draw.”*** The crowd thought in a physical way like the woman at the well did. Both confused the nature of the bread and water and the nature of the lives which would be strengthened. They thought only of physical existence, while Jesus spoke of spiritual life.

B. Jesus was very clear in **John 6:35**.

“And Jesus said to them, ‘I am the bread of life. He who comes to Me shall never hunger, and he who believes in Me shall never thirst.’”

1. The significance of the claim is in its structure. “I Am” is emphatic. It takes us back to God’s calling of Moses in **Exodus 3:14**.

“And God said to Moses, ‘I AM WHO I AM.’ And He said, ‘Thus you shall say to the children of Israel, ‘I AM has sent me to you.’”

Jesus began His statement with a claim of deity. This is the first of seven formal “I Am” statements with the words “I Am” and a predicate.

2. Jesus claimed to be the bread from heaven, the bread from God, and now He claims that He is the bread of life. This last claim includes the divine name to make clear His claim to be God.

C. He is God. He is also the One who is the only the sustenance for eternal life. If we were to survey this crowd of seekers and ask them what is the one staple they had to have to live, they would reply bread. Jesus insisted no one could have eternal life, if they did not have Him. We cannot be saved and not have Him.

1. The Apostle John made this abundantly clear in **1 John 5:10-12**.

“He who believes in the Son of God has the witness in himself; he who does not believe God has made Him a liar, because he has not believed the testimony that God has given of His Son. And this is the testimony: that God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life.”

2. To receive the bread of life, they had to come to Him.

“He who comes to Me shall never hunger, and he who believes in Me shall never thirst.”

D. This language is repeated several times in the rest of **John 6**. The coming Jesus referred to did not involve physical action. Rather, it involved a spiritual moving away from all they were relying on for their acceptance before God and the Lord Jesus by faith.

1. For example we read in **6:37**,

“All that the Father gives Me will come to Me, and the one who comes to Me I will by no means cast out.”

2. Coming to Him and believing in Him are parallel truths. We come to Him through believing in Him. They still do not understand.

What do we take from this?

When we come to texts like this, we need to ask why it is here.

1. The original audience was the searching crowd. These people needed to get their eyes off the free meal and to focus on the Son who could give them eternal life.

2. Another part of the original audience was probably the disciples and eavesdroppers. Although John did not mention them yet in this account, they were there to hear this discussion. These people also needed their thinking challenged. The people who crowded around Jesus did not always understand who He was. The disciples sometimes could be as obtuse as the rest of the crowd.

3. John also was led of the Holy Spirit to put this in his book for us. Do we understand Who the Son of God is? Knowing the incarnate Son of God, coming to Him by faith, and living our

lives in Him is more important than eating. If you do not have life eternal, you have nothing. Have we come to Him? Do we believe Him?

Not only is Jesus Christ, the incarnate word, important, His written word is the bread of our spiritual diet once we come to put our faith in Him.

We close by thinking about two passages of scripture. First, in **Matthew 4:2-4**. *“And after [Jesus] had fasted forty days and forty nights, He then became hungry. And the tempter came and said to Him, ‘If You are the Son of God, command that these stones become bread.’ But [Jesus] answered and said, ‘It is written, ‘Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that proceeds out of the mouth of God.’”* This is a quote from **Deuteronomy 8:3**. This is the very lesson Israel was supposed to learn from the provision of manna.

Second, think about **2 Timothy 3:16-17**, *“All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; so that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.”*

Hymn #274 Break Thou the Bread of Life