

SEE JESUS AS BREAD FOR YOU ALL

John 6:30-40 – Pastor Richard P. Carlson

In every worship service today, all over the world, millions of people stand on the brink of eternity. There are people who are truly saved and know the assurance of salvation. Others are saved, and they need to find assurance. This message is for you, if you are truly born again, but you lack assurance. In every church today there are people whom God is calling to Himself, and who need to come to Him and believe. Sadly, there are people who claim to know Jesus, but He will say someday to them, “Depart from me, I never knew you.” (Matthew 7:21-23) This is a pivotal message of Jesus, and we must cling to every precious word of Jesus.

Let’s divide up this part of Jesus’ sermon into two parts. **Verses 30-36 is a grim picture**, as Jesus offered Himself to the multitude but corrected the crowd’s wrong thinking about Moses giving their fathers bread from heaven. In this **grim picture**, Jesus told this multitude in verse 36, “But I said to you that you have seen Me and yet (you) do not believe.” This **grim picture** is what John wrote about in John 1:11, saying, “He came to His own, and His own people did not receive Him.” This **grim picture** is of God’s gift of Jesus to the crowd, but how they had no saving faith. This **grim picture** is looking at God’s offer in Jesus from man’s unresponsive side.

Verses 37-40 is a glorious picture of God’s gift of people to Jesus and how Jesus receives them and keeps them forever. This **glorious picture** is looking at the world from the side of God’s work at Calvary and God’s achievement by sending Jesus to earth, and His **glorious**, triumphant, undefeatable victory won by the incarnation, the crucifixion, death, burial, resurrection, and ascension of Jesus. This **glorious picture** is built on the invincible victory we have in Jesus. This **glorious picture** is how Jesus defeated Satan in the wilderness, **by His holy Word**—His “**Thus says the Lord!**”--“**It is written!**” As we come to this shocking contrast between **the grim picture** and **the glorious picture**, I can’t get one song off my mind—a song inspired, I believe, from Jesus’ sermon here in John 6.

The words of “You are my all in all” are: “You are my strength when I am weak, You are the treasure that I seek, You are my all in all. Seeking you as a precious jewel, Lord to give up, I’d be a fool, Jesus, Lamb of God, holy is Your name.” **In the grim picture of John 6: 30-36**, Jesus is someone the crowd could use for bread to fill their stomachs, or to seek to make Him king over the Romans. **In the glorious picture of John 6: 37-40**, Jesus is the precious jewel, the treasure and Pearl of great price, that we seek and find eternally.

Liddie Edmunds says it for me and for us all in her awesome hymn, written in 1891, “My Faith Has Found a Resting Place.” It seems as if this woman wrote this hymn after meditating on Jesus words in John 6. “My faith has found a resting place, not in device nor creed; I trust the ever living One, His wounds for me shall plead. Enough for me that Jesus saves, This ends my fear and doubt; A sinful soul, I come to Him, He’ll never cast me out. I need no other argument, I need no other plea, It is enough that Jesus died, And that He died for me.”

Now let's go straight to Jesus' sermon given to the same crowd he fed the barley loaves and fish to. They didn't see Jesus as precious, a treasure, but as useful. What does God want us to see, to believe, and to receive from this part of His incredible Bread of Life message? There are two pictures, the grim picture in verses 30-36 and the glorious picture from verses 37-40. Let's look at both of them.

LOOK AT THE GRIM PICTURE OF GOD OFFERING THE BREAD OF HEAVEN TO THOSE RESPONDING WITHOUT SAVING FAITH. (I.)

Notice in verses 30,31 what the crowd said to Jesus, "What sign do You do, that we may see and believe You? What work do You perform? Our fathers ate the manna in the wilderness; as it is written, He gave them bread from heaven to eat." What was going on with this crowd, that they could be so crass? It was a long time since their evening meal the day before. They were hungry again. What they were saying is, "We're hungry again. You've only fed us one meal. Moses fed the children of Israel on the Exodus for 40 years. It's another day. We're hungry now!" So how did Jesus answer this crowd that longed to use Him for another meal? Jesus exposed two lies in their hearts. He twice denied that they had the story correct. He gave two corrections and made two denials before He made them a tremendous offer.

Notice the first denial in verse 32. "Jesus then said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, it was not Moses who gave you the bread from heaven, but My Father gives you the true bread from heaven." What was Jesus saying to them? He was telling them, "You're wrong if you think it was Moses who was the Giver of Bread. Moses wasn't the source of the manna. Rather, it was My Father who gives you the true bread from heaven. **Notice the second denial** is implied in verse 33. "For the bread of God is He who comes down from heaven, and gives life to the world." In other words, bread in the wilderness that came down daily wasn't mainly about physical bread, but the manna was about another kind of Bread that gives life to the world. When Satan tempted Jesus in the wilderness telling Him after fasting 40 days to turn stones into bread. Jesus answered the devil with "It is written," from Deuteronomy 8:3, saying, "And God humbled you and let you hunger and fed you with manna, which you did not know, nor did your fathers know, that He might make you know that man does not live by bread alone, but man lives by every word that comes from the mouth of the Lord." This manna, every time it came down was about God, and the Bread He would one day send from heaven to give life to the world. Jesus was saying, "The manna was about Me coming into this world." Jesus was saying, "The manna was about God, not Moses, sending Jesus down to you, (that's to you and me) sending to us the true Bread from heaven."

Notice the words clearly in verse 32. Jesus gave them the offer of Himself as true Bread. Jesus said, "Truly, truly, I say to you, it was not Moses who gave you the bread from heaven, but My Father gives you, who? Gives you the true bread from heaven." Notice the word you to these crass, curious, stubborn unbelieving people. I am standing here teaching you that My Father sent Me to you. Verse 33 makes it plainer. "For the bread of God is He, Me who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world." The Bread of heaven is a gift from heaven, and that's why we know this was an offer. It is such a broad offer—it is the gift of the Bread of Life to

the world. If this crowd had heard Jesus' word to Nicodemus, it the same offer of John 3:16, "**For God so loved the world...**" This is our testimony to the lost, that God is offering the Bread of God, His Son, freely to the world. This was Owen Brasington's message last Sunday night from Isaiah 55:1. "Ho, everyone, Come everyone who is thirsty, come to the waters (the living Water) and he who has no money, come, buy, and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price." This is a prophecy of Jesus making this offer to this crowd and to us today.

What is saving faith? It is coming to Jesus, the Bread of Life. Come, see, believe, receive, eat, drink. This coming is not coming to church or going from here to there. It is coming to Jesus in our hearts. For the world, and many in church, they are missing it. How did the crowd respond to Jesus in v.34? "Sir, give us this bread always." (They just meant – keep miraculously feeding us bread to eat always.) This is nearly a duplicate of the woman at the well, who at first missed it like this crowd. Jesus said to her, "Whoever drinks of the living water that I will give will never be thirsty again. The water that I will give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life." The woman said to Jesus, "Sir, give me this water, so that I will not be thirsty or have to come here to draw water."

Now Jesus became explicit, clear, and what He told the crowd in His offer is unmistakable. We read in verse 35, "Jesus said to them, "I AM the Bread of Life; whoever comes to Me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in Me shall never thirst." Jesus was saying to this crowd and to all of us, "I Am everything you hunger and thirst for—I Am what you long for. Each of us were created to be filled with Jesus. We were created for Jesus, and He came incarnate to supply our every longing. As we sing, "All of You is more than enough for all of me, For every thirst and every need You satisfy me with Your love and all I have in You is more than enough." As John Piper said it and helped me so much, "Every desire we ever have is an echo of our longing for Jesus. When Jesus said, "Whoever comes to me shall not hunger and whoever believes in me with never thirst," that doesn't mean you will never again have aching spiritual hunger, No! It only means that when we come to Jesus, as often as our spiritual hunger pangs inside us, now we know where to go to be satisfied." Beloved, when we come to Jesus, the search for meaning and hope and peace and joy and love is over. Jesus is the spring bubbling over into eternal life and He is ever springing in our souls. Desires for hunger and thirst are every day, but in Jesus, those aches are filled every moment of every day.

So, Jesus' offer of saving faith in v. 35 is saying, "This coming to Me and finding satisfaction in Me means you will be satisfied with nothing else. This coming isn't about geography—going to find Jesus in a church, or Israel. Never! This is about coming with our open hearts to Jesus. Come, be satisfied with Me! This believing in Me means we will never thirst. Coming and believing are inseparable, what happens in new birth, being born again. Saving faith is more than having right doctrine, believing the fact that Jesus died for our sins, important as that it, and it's more than having a good statement of faith, helpful as that is. Saving faith is eating Jesus, the Bread of Life, drinking Jesus, the Living Water, coming to Jesus, so as not to hunger, believing in Jesus so as not to thirst, and receiving Jesus so as never

to be truly lonely again, because we have invited Jesus into our hearts—and what do we receive, His Bread, His Living Water, Savior, Lord, yes, Jesus, knowing You is more than enough. The same parallel of v. 35 coming and believing is found in John 1:12, “For as many as received Him, to them gave He the power to be called the sons of God, even to those who believe in His Name. Saving faith is resting and enjoying and being satisfied with all that God is in Jesus our Lord. This fight of faith, this daily battle of faith is letting our satisfaction with Jesus win the battle over our lusts, our addiction to television, victory over pornography, victory over gossip, bitterness, drugs, gender lies, and over our sin of pride.

Don’t mistake coming to Jesus as a decision we make and then go on living in sin. No, never! Saving faith is more than saying a prayer and going about our own business, saying we are eternally secure. No, being born again is the miracle from heaven of coming, eating, drinking, believing, receiving Jesus, and having His new birth. How many people decide one day to follow Jesus, mark the day, declare Jesus is their Savior but never really come to Him, believe Him, or ever treasure Him as their all in all? Oh, hear Jesus today in v. 35. “I am the Bread of Life. Whoever comes to Me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in Me shall never thirst.” Finally, Jesus ends this grim picture for this crowd by declaring to them, in v. 36, “But I said to you that you have seen Me and yet you do not believe.” As the Prophet Isa. 6:9,10, “Seeing, they did not see or perceive. Hearing they did not understand with their hearts so they could turn, repent, and be healed.” So here the crowd stood, feeling hungry in their stomachs, but not coming to Jesus. People sometimes say in church, “Hurry, Pastor, I need to eat, and they keep missing the satisfaction of coming to really know Jesus and find satisfaction in Him. Secondly,

LOOK AT THE GLORIOUS PICTURE OF GOD GIVING THE SON GIFTS OF PEOPLE WHOM HE RECEIVES AND KEEPS FOREVER. (1.)

This is found here in verses 37-40. Now that we recognize what saving faith is, coming to Jesus so as never to hunger and believing in Him so as never to thirst, now we need to learn that God’s plan of salvation, His Gospel is mighty and how He works His salvation is miraculous, marvelous, and it will move us to unshakable assurance. In these four verses, Jesus makes five declarations that will bring us to tears if we will fully take them in for our own. Here are these five declarations!

God gives people that are His own to Jesus. (1) This is mighty, mysterious, momentous, and it thrills me. We read in verse 37, that Jesus declared, “**All that the Father gives Me** will come to Me. Here is God the Father giving a people to Jesus. This comes up again in verse 39. “And this is the will of Him who sent Me, that I should lose nothing of **all that He has given Me.**” As we continue in messages to come in John 6, this is clear in verse 44. “No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him.” In verse 65, Jesus adds, “No one can come to Me unless it is granted him by the Father.” Think of it—God gave you and me as His own to Jesus. It’s mysterious, but true so let these declarations build.

Because God gave us who are His own people to Jesus, we came to Jesus. (2)

Notice in verse 37, “All that the Father gives Me, **will come to Me.** Since coming

and believing are the same, back in verse 35, we read, “will believe in Me. Coming and believing are coupled here in verse 35. “I am the Bread of Life; whoever comes to Me (those given to Jesus by the Father) shall not hunger, and whoever believes in Me (whom the Father has given to Jesus, shall never thirst. All that the Father gives to Jesus come to Jesus and believe in Jesus. We all were spiritually dead people walking in blindness, who once were blind, but now we see, who once were bound, but now we’re free. But when God opened our eyes to Jesus and the truth of the Gospel that Jesus died for us, like Saul of Tarsus, every born-again believer has said, “Who are You, Lord? What do you want me to do?” Not one of us just got smart and came to Jesus on own. In John 15:16, Jesus said to His disciples, “You did not choose Me, but I chose you.” I remember 75 years ago when I came to Jesus, but I came to Him because all the Father gave Jesus come to Jesus, and God the Father gave me to Jesus. This makes me shout, cry, and love my Father so much more. As believers, we are the Bride of Christ whom the Father gave to Him. Are you a Christian? This is how you came. Beloved, you may never have known this before, but today you know how you got saved. Glory!

All those given to Jesus and who come to Jesus are eternally kept by Jesus. (3)

Truly born-again believers will never be lost. Notice in the last part of v. 37, “And whoever comes to Me, **I will never cast out.**” Now we have gone past the unique and sovereign work of the Father who gives us as believers to the Son, and because we are given to the Son, we come to the Son. But this keeping power is the Son’s work. What a ferocious love this is—Omnipotent Jesus says, “I am almighty, and I will never lose you, my child.” Jesus has us, He’s got us, and He says to us in John 10:27-28, “My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me. I give to them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of My hand. Notice in verse 39-40, “And this is the will of Him who sent Me, that I should lose nothing of all that He has given Me. v. 40—should have eternal life.

Jesus will raise up those who are His on the last day. (4) Notice a tiny difference in v. 39/40—it/him. In verse 39, we read, “And this is the will of Him who sent Me, that *I* should lose **nothing** of all that He has given Me, **but I will raise it up** on the last day.” Verse 40, “*I* will raise him/her up on the last day--same as v.44/54. This is God telling us He will lose **no thing** of all of us given to Him—even our body which He has promised to redeem. God knows our DNA. He won’t lose any part of our essence. God really cares about our body as well as our soul and spirit. This makes me weep for joy—we lost significant people last year, some bodies buried to decay, others cremated to ashes—the bodies lost to us—but never to Jesus—He loses nothing—**it up** and He loses no one—**him up**. Jesus’ work—I.

The foundation of what God gives and who comes/believes and who keeps and who raises us up on the last day is His own sovereign will.

Let me read it to you in verse 38, 39, 40. God wants every one of us as believers to leave here today with unshakable confidence and assurance—because all this is His will—nothing is deeper in the universe. When we belong to Jesus, we are not in and out of Him. We are secured by His will. You ask, “How do I know I am one of His that He gives to the Son?” We know we are those the Father gave to the Son if we come. Have you?