

John 21 – Irrationality of Faith or Empirical Fallacy

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John 6:41-59

Jesus Moves Indoors–Synagogue

- Jesus resumes teaching at Capernaum's synagogue
- He is now talking to Jews and *disciples* on the nature of faith in Him and the New Covenant
- He is *Bread of Heaven*



Mystery of Bethsaida. (<http://www.testimony-magazine.org/back/apr2003/bethsaida2.pdf>)

Jews Grumbled at Jesus' Claims

- First verse sets up conflict between Jesus and the Lost (Jews in this case) that exists in this life
 - Hebrew Grumbled (γογγύζω) – Speak surreptitiously or mutter promoting discontent, as in the Wilderness (Ex 16:1-3)
 - They did not grasp His metaphor of Heavenly Bread (His Flesh) nor Blood (His sacrifice) applicable to New Covenant; Salvation (Nor have they accepted Trinity)
 - They inferred cannibalistic claims as did later peoples

Eating and Drinking Metaphors

- Bodily processes are also metaphors of new life
- One must eat His body: ingest His word to grow
- One must drink Christ's blood: accept His sacrifice as sin for New Covenant

Natural Processes as Biblical Metaphors*

1. **Eating** – described in God's Word – Holy Spirit imagery
 - Body requires continuous supply of oxygen
 - Body requires continuous separation of carbon dioxide
 - Body requires a great source of energy
 - Body dies when the reserve is exhausted
2. **Drinking** – Application of God's Word to everyday life – Christ's blood shed for the New Covenant believers (John 6)
 - Body needs frequent water intake for health
 - Water is the major component of blood which carries nutrients, waste products, and other regulatory substances to every cell of the body
 - Body can die for approximately three days without water
 - After this period body's major organ system begins to malfunction until the body dies
3. **Relig** – Application of God's Word to everyday life – Christ's blood shed for the New Covenant believers (John 6)
 - Body requires continuous supply of energy for long-term growth and regulation
 - Food is the major source of all bodily metabolic products: amino, mineral, neural, regulatory substances, etc.
 - Inproper nutrition results in degenerative disease
 - Body can live for approximately six days without food by metabolizing stored glucose in the liver, carbohydrates, fat, and muscle-cell stored acids

Demand for Signs: Logic Fallacy

- The Jews mutter about knowing Jesus' parentage to discount His claim of coming from Heaven and God
 - The flesh's five senses only collect empirical data for the brain to process (*think*) into information via worldview
 - They have only empirical data of His parents and birth place; thus, they reject His claim of being Son of God
 - Demand for signs is an attempt to prove spiritual from empirical {repeatability and measurability}, impossible

Empiricism Becomes Scientism

- David Hume {18th century} and A. J. Ayers {20th century} philosophers posited all knowledge must be based on empiricism or be irrational {not provable}
 - Formed foundation of scientism: speculative worldview about ultimate reality {truth} and meaning
 - Scientism promotes pseudoscience as truth {psychology}
 - Oft confused with scientific inquiry

<https://www.aum.org/page/what-scientism>

Empiricism Shows its Irrationality

- Thus, scientism based on irrationality; i.e., denies the soul but *investigates the psyche* – Beyond empiricism
 - Concepts of good, evil, or truth (the knowable) are non-empirical concepts, unprovable by empiricism
 - Thus, empiricism violates Law of Non-Contradiction: it claims to know the unknowable; i.e., requires faith
- Soul provides context to facts to fit one's worldview:
Lost: Empirical Worldview – Saved: God's Worldview

Jews Gave Empirical Arguments

- When the Jews denied Jesus' claim of being from God Jews put forward an empirical argument: they knew His parentage and birth place; i.e., He is only human
 - Empiricism, scientism, can only look at physical data to make decisions about spiritual claims – Irrational means
 - They have trapped themselves in a self-defeating claim as they cannot know of God via empiricism

Jesus Avoids Empirical Trap

- Jews objections demand Jesus *prove* His divine claims which He cannot prove empirically: False Dilemma
 - God is spirit and truth: worshiped in spirit and truth (Jn 4:24)
 - God is unknowable to the lost mind (Jn 1:18)
 - God's truth is unknowable to the lost mind (Jn 1:18)
- Apologists who try to *prove* God rationally must fail

Empirical Arguments Fail

- Apologists try to *prove* God using these empirical arguments; the lost counter with scientism (Evolution)
 - Cosmological - Something caused universe (First Cause)
 - Teleological - Orderly universe demands intelligent god
 - Ontological - I reason thus a reasonable god made man
- If empirical arguments worked then Arminianism is true making our salvation of works; yet, denied by Jesus (1Co 1:29)

Though these arguments are true in faith, they do not prove God's existence empirically

Christ's Reply Changes Focus

- Jesus' reply moves proof of God from Himself (sinless flesh) and man (sinful flesh) to the Father
 - This is John's focus throughout his gospel
 - God *calls* whom He wills to come to Christ
 - Christ will raise all who come to eternal life
 - Man has **no** part in his salvation (Ro 9:14-21)
- Thus, Jesus teaches Election, destroying Arminianism

Mistakenly labeled free will which does not exist, not even for God; all wills are bound by person's nature and thus not free to make any possible choice with each decision

Jesus Answers from Isaiah

- Jesus' answers, and interprets, from Isaiah that all (all who are saved) shall be taught by God; thus, Jews had their answer but could not understand the answer for it was foolishness to them (Spiritually discerned)
 - God teaches whom He wills and that person comes to God on recognition of the truth (salvation), Abba, Dad (Ro 8:15-17; Ga 4:6-7)
 - One does not see the Father by empiricism but by Faith (Jn 14:8-9)

Definition of Faith

- "Now faith is the assurance of things *hoped* for, the conviction of things *not seen*" (He 11:1)
- Hope that is seen is not hope but fact; thus, hope and truth must be apprehended by faith (Ro 8:23-25)
- Underpinnings of universe beyond empiricism {Energy} (He 11:3)
- Thus, we walk by *faith* and not by sight {Empiricism} (2Co 5:7)

All Who Believe in Bread of Life

- Messiah puts *bread* into context
 - All believers have eternal life {salvation}
 - Jesus is the *bread of life*; i.e., source of eternal life
- Destroys their argument of "What is it?" {Manna}
 - All who ate manna died - No efficacy to save the flesh
 - All who accept Messiah as God's *bread*, live - Efficacy to save the soul with promise of a new future body (1Co 15)

Christ's Flesh is the Bread

- Christ makes the bold statement that all who *eat* {metaphorically} His flesh will live (all flesh must die)
 - Jesus has been speaking in spiritual {metaphor} terms
 - To suddenly force Him to speak in empirical terms violates His purpose - To crucify the flesh (Ro 6:10)
 - Jews who perceived His imagery empirically became disgusted by their *ad absentiam* fallacy of cannibalism

Christ Challenges Their Unbelief

- Rather than backing down from His position because of their disgust, Christ challenges their unbelief by adding that they must also drink His blood (Metaphor)
 - Accepting the reality of historical Christ who died is not enough for salvation - Remains empirical
 - Must also accept efficacy of His blood for sin ushering in New Covenant - Spiritual truth only conveyed by Spirit and revealed to those whom God has called

Christ Repeats Thrice

- Christ repeats this concept three times in quick succession driving home its importance to Jews
 - Eat His Flesh - Meditate on the words He received from the Father and gives to man heralding eternal life
 - Drink His Blood - Accept His sacrifice for sin that was illustrated by 1400 years of animal sacrifice
 - If they had understood their Bible they would have accepted this truth but it was *hidden* from them (vs 51:36-39)

Hidden in Plain Sight (Ro 11:7-9), 2Co 3:13

- God hid His truth in plain sight from the Jews; even all the lost because they cannot discern spiritual truth
 - Lost only accepts empirical proof of God unless God opens their eyes, as He once did ours, to *hear* His truth
 - Veil of empiricism hides the truth from their mind as they reject the spiritual; lies outside their worldview
 - Only God can remove the veil which He does via the foolishness (to the lost mind) of preaching by men (1Co 1:21)

Empiricism Requires Faith

- Empiricism as a means of discerning truth violates Law of Non-Contradiction
 - Empiricism rests upon unprovable assumptions
 - Assumptions require faith which empiricism denies
- Empiricism as means of discovering material processes (Science) rests on unprovable assumptions, the seen resting on unseen, which proves truth of Bible (He 11:3)

Lost Man Lives by Faith

- Though lost man denies God, and the One He sent, he stills lives by faith though it is based on empiricism (Ro 1:18-23)
 - Secular humanism is based on man's sufficiency
 - Gnosticism is based on man's supremacy of knowledge
 - Pantheism is based on observable aspects of creation
 - Christendom is based on turning God's spiritual gospel into an empirical gospel acceptable to the lost

Belief is Unprovable-Irrational

- Ancient man understood the concept of faith though it was twisted by his sinful mind to empiricism
 - Modern man rejects faith, though he lives by faith, making him even less knowledgeable than ancient man
 - Existence of God is unprovable empirically - Irrational
 - One is called of God hears the truth of Messiah
- Next lesson contrasts two apostles response to Christ