

"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. 36 But I said unto you, That ye also have seen me, and believe not. 37 All that the Father giveth me shall come to me; and him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out. 38 For I came down from heaven, not to do mine own will, but the will of him that sent me. 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. 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. 41 The Jews then murmured at him, because he said, I am the bread which came down from heaven. 42 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? 43 Jesus therefore answered and said unto them, Murmur not among yourselves. 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. 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. 46 Not that any man hath seen the Father, save he which is of God, he hath seen the Father. 47 Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me hath everlasting life." (Joh 6:35-47)

Introduction: The Lord is speaking to the multitude in a metaphor, a figure of speech. The hunger and thirst of the body is compared to the yearnings of the soul toward God. Not all have that hunger and thirst, and these words will be nonsense to them, so it is true that those are blessed who hunger and thirst after righteousness, for they shall be filled. Where there is no hunger, there is no work of the Holy Spirit. Let us observe the following things:

- I. The Horrible Blindness of Israel: vs. 36. "Ye have seen me and believe not."
 - A. What more could He have done to convince them. Every possible manifestation to the senses of the body had been done, but they remained hardened in unbelief.
 - B. Thus is fulfilled the Scriptures:
 1. "1 ¶ And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins; 2 Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience: 3 Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others." (Eph 2:1-3)
 2. "25 In meekness instructing those that oppose themselves; if God peradventure will give them repentance to the acknowledging of the truth; 26 And that they may recover themselves out of the snare of the devil, who are taken captive by him at his will." (2Ti 2:25-26)
 3. "But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned." (1Co 2:14)
 - C. Jesus had said the same thing back in chapter 5: "37 And the Father himself, which hath sent me, hath borne witness of me. Ye have neither heard his voice at any time, nor seen his shape. 38 And ye have not his word abiding in you: for whom he hath sent, him ye believe not. 39 Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me. 40 And ye will not come to me, that ye might have life. 41 I receive not honor from men. 42 But I know you, that ye have not the love of God in you." (John 5:37-42)
 1. They had not been taught of God
 2. The proof was in both the Person of Christ and the Scriptures
 3. They had a vain hope in the Scriptures because they did not see Christ, but sought honor from each other; so they read the Scriptures in order to impress each other.
 4. They would not come to Christ, that they might have life. They did not have the love of God in them.
 - D. How black was the darkness that was in them, for their very light was darkness!!!
- II. But Christ speaks of a Heavenly Instruction that is given by God to the Children of Light. Verse 45
 - A. "31 Behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel, and with the house of Judah: 32 Not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day

that I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt; which my covenant they brake, although I was an husband unto them, saith the LORD: 33 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. 34 And they shall teach no more every man his neighbor, 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." (Jer 31:31-34)

- B. This was fulfilled at the coming of Christ, and applies not only to Israel but to the world: "7 For if that first covenant had been faultless, then should no place have been sought for the second. 8 For finding fault with them, he saith, Behold, the days come, saith the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah: 9 Not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day when I took them by the hand to lead them out of the land of Egypt; because they continued not in my covenant, and I regarded them not, saith the Lord. 10 For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, saith the Lord; I will put my laws into their mind, and write them in their hearts: and I will be to them a God, and they shall be to me a people: 11 And they shall not teach every man his neighbor, and every man his brother, saying, Know the Lord: for all shall know me, from the least to the greatest. 12 For I will be merciful to their unrighteousness, and their sins and their iniquities will I remember no more. 13 In that he saith, A new covenant, he hath made the first old. Now that which decayeth and waxeth old is ready to vanish away." (Heb 8:7-13)
- C. Just think of this: the most astounding educational endeavor in the history of the world began at the resurrection of Jesus Christ as He sent his apostles out to disciple the world. This heavenly instruction is the work of God Himself, who had pledged to educate and train His people. This is the chief gift of grace to the people of God, and without it we would be lost indeed.
1. Expressed in Titus 2: "For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, 12 Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world; 13 Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Savior Jesus Christ; 14 Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works. 15 These things speak, and exhort, and rebuke with all authority. Let no man despise thee." (Tit 2:8-15)
 2. Confirmed by Paul to Timothy: "But if I tarry long, that thou mayest know how thou oughtest to behave thyself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth." (1Ti 3:15)

III. We see then the Heritage of Faith: the promise to those who believe.

- A. The Lord Jesus said that this instruction was promised by the prophets and he cites Is. 54 in particular. Bible writers do not proof text, but use references to point to passages that speak to the subject; but these passages must be studied, for sometimes it is not apparent that they do indeed speak to the subject. That is true of this passage.
- B. "11 O thou afflicted, tossed with tempest, and not comforted, behold, I will lay thy stones with fair colors, and lay thy foundations with sapphires. 12 And I will make thy windows of agates, and thy gates of carbuncles, and all thy borders of pleasant stones. 13 And all thy children shall be taught of the LORD; and great shall be the peace of thy children. 14 In righteousness shalt thou be established: thou shalt be far from oppression; for thou shalt not fear: and from terror; for it shall not come near thee. 15 Behold, they shall surely gather together, but not by me: whosoever shall gather together against thee shall fall for thy sake. 16 Behold, I have created the smith that bloweth the coals in the fire, and that bringeth forth an instrument for his work; and I have created the waster to destroy. 17 No weapon that is formed against thee shall prosper; and every tongue that shall rise against thee in judgment thou shalt condemn. This is the heritage of the servants of the LORD, and their righteousness is of me, saith the LORD." (Isa 54:11-17)
1. This is the result of the coming of the suffering Savior of Is. 53 and is the fruit of His death on the Cross and His victory over sin and death.

2. In Christ, God kept His promise to Israel, and this is expressed in earthly terms, just as Jesus used hunger and thirst as a figure for the longing of the awakened soul; so the Lord used the rebuilding figure as a symbol for the blessings of Messiah
 3. Jesus summed all these blessing in the phrase "everlasting life." The more is figured by the less. Just as the lesser blessing of meat and drink are symbols of the satisfaction of the soul in God; so the building of Jerusalem is a figure of the building of the kingdom of God.
- C. We can break out these blessings by comparing John 6 with Isaiah 54, as the Lord intended for us to do.
1. The blessing will come when the soul turns to Christ. Vs. 45. Those taught of God come to Christ.
 2. The chief blessing is everlasting life: the life of the kingdom of God is born into those taught of God, and they shall never perish. This is what Christ means in John 6: "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. 58 This is that bread which came down from heaven: not as your fathers did eat manna, and are dead: he that eateth of this bread shall live forever." (Joh 6:57-58)
 3. Jesus Christ is the Bread by which everlasting life is received: as hunger and thirst are appetites of the body satisfied by meat and drink, so Christ is the satisfaction of the soul's longing for God. The figure is completed when we understand that coming to Christ and believing in Him is compared to the eating and drinking of physical food and water. He is the bread of life and our souls feed on Him when we believe the words of the Gospel.
 4. This education by God that brings men to Christ is so powerful that they triumph over all the world, the flesh, and the devil. Isaiah completes the passage with these words:
 - a. "16 Behold, I have created the smith that bloweth the coals in the fire, and that bringeth forth an instrument for his work; and I have created the waster to destroy. 17 No weapon that is formed against thee shall prosper; and every tongue that shall rise against thee in judgment thou shalt condemn. This is the heritage of the servants of the LORD, and their righteousness is of me, saith the LORD." (Isa 54:16-17)
 - b. Paul put it in NT perspective in Romans 8: "35 Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? 36 As it is written, For thy sake we are killed all the day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter. 37 Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us. 38 For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, 39 Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord." (Ro 8:35-39)

Application

1. Those who forsake the church are dropout in the teaching of the Lord and cannot pass the final examination.
2. Those who seek to cheat the system and gain their degree by chicanery and fraud will be found out. There are party schools that pretend to be institutions of the learning of Christ, but they are frauds.
3. There are schools where elementary education can be gained, but there comes a time when the people of God must seek more advanced learning, that they be not children forever, tossed about by every wind of doctrine.
4. We must become good students in the school of Christ, and so the words of Proverbs 2 will be fulfilled in us:

"1 My son, if thou wilt receive my words, and hide my commandments with thee; 2 So that thou incline thine ear unto wisdom, and apply thine heart to understanding; 3 Yea, if thou criest after knowledge, and liftest up thy voice for understanding; 4 If thou seekest her as silver, and searchest for her as for hid treasures; 5 Then shalt thou understand the fear of the LORD, and find the knowledge of God." (Pr 2:1-5)

May God bless you: Amen and Amen.