

Words of Eternal Life

John 6:22-71

Introduction

The Gift or the Giver?

John 6:52-71

⁵² The Jews then disputed among themselves, saying, "How can this man give us his flesh to eat?" ⁵³ So Jesus said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you. ⁵⁴ Whoever feeds on my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day. ⁵⁵ For my flesh is true food, and my blood is true drink. ⁵⁶ Whoever feeds on my flesh and drinks my blood abides in me, and I in him. ⁵⁷ As the living Father sent me, and I live because of the Father, so whoever feeds on me, he also will live because of me. ⁵⁸ This is the bread that came down from heaven, not like the bread the fathers ate, and died. Whoever feeds on this bread will live forever." ⁵⁹ Jesus said these things in the synagogue, as he taught at Capernaum.

⁶⁰ When many of his disciples heard it, they said, "This is a hard saying; who can listen to it?" ⁶¹ But Jesus, knowing in himself that his disciples were grumbling about this, said to them, "Do you take offense at this? ⁶² Then what if you were to see the Son of Man ascending to where he was before? ⁶³ It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh is no help at all. The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life. ⁶⁴ But there are some of you who do not believe." (For Jesus knew from the beginning who those were who did not believe, and who it was who would betray him.) ⁶⁵ And he said, "This is why I told you that no one can come to me unless it is granted him by the Father."

⁶⁶ After this many of his disciples turned back and no longer walked with him. ⁶⁷ So Jesus said to the twelve, "Do you want to go away as well?" ⁶⁸ Simon Peter answered him, "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life, ⁶⁹ and we have believed, and have come to know, that you are the Holy One of God." ⁷⁰ Jesus answered them, "Did I not choose you, the twelve? And yet one of you is a devil." ⁷¹ He spoke of Judas the son of Simon Iscariot, for he, one of the twelve, was going to betray him.

I. Background (Vss. 1-51)

Jesus Feeds the Five Thousand (Vss. 1-15) – Note the need for daily provision in the 1st century

Jesus Walks on the Water (Vss. 16-21)

The Crowd Seeks Jesus (Vss. 22-51)

II. True Bread (Vss. 52-59)

"Whoever feeds on me..." (Vs. 54)

"Whoever feeds on me..." (Vs. 56)

"Whoever feeds on this bread..." (Vs. 58)

Jesus is calling the crowd away from the bread that perishes and to the True Bread that gives life!
The Bread of Heaven! He is calling them to Himself!

III. True Life (Vss. 60-71)

"To whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life." (Vs. 68)

Conclusion

In this morning's passage, Jesus has called us away from the world that is perishing to Himself. He has also reminded us that in order for Him to give us life, He had to die. For, unless a grain of wheat falls into the ground and dies, it will not bear any fruit. But because Jesus died, was buried, and rose again, His death bears much fruit among us. Our eternal life comes from Jesus giving His life, and if we do not eat of the true bread, that is, trust him, we will not know eternal life.