

## John 6:41-59

*41 So the Jews grumbled about him, because he said, "I am the bread that came down from heaven." 42 They said, "Is not this Jesus, the son of Joseph, whose father and mother we know? How does he now say, 'I have come down from heaven'?"*

41,42 They grumbled about Jesus' claim to be the bread from heaven. It seems they understood what He meant but did not believe it. They couldn't see that their act of grumbling was further proof that He was indeed that bread for our spiritual sustenance. That is because Moses said God would raise up a prophet like Him to Whom they must listen (Deuteronomy 18:15). Jesus just fed the multitude like Moses did, and they grumbled just like the Jews grumbled against Moses in his day. They weren't doing what Moses commanded, "Listen to Him!"

They say they know His parents so He couldn't have come from heaven. They could not or would not believe in the virgin birth. Many people have the same problem today. Jesus keeps saying He is from above, but many refuse to believe it. They want to say He was a good man, but if they can't accept what He said, they must say He is a liar. Some people want to make Jesus out to be something other than what those who lived with Him wrote about Him. Man wants a manageable Jesus who we interpret as we wish, but Jesus chose those men to convey who He is and what He said. To change that to our liking is saying we know better than His chosen apostles. That is pretty arrogant imho.

*43 Jesus answered them, "Do not grumble among yourselves.*

43 NO GRUMBLING! This is a verse we should all take to heart. God is good. He loves us. We may not understand why He allows certain things, or understand Bible doctrine completely, but we should trust Him. We should give thanks in everything (1 Thessalonians 5:18), that is the will of our good and gracious God. Grumbling is the perfect shovel with which to dig a pity pit. Count your blessings instead!

*44 No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him. And I will raise him up on the last day.*

44 The people were trying to argue with Jesus but Jesus just went ahead and declared the truth. They weren't being drawn by God to Him. It wasn't their time. That is why they couldn't receive His words. The Holy Spirit has to draw us to Jesus. And if we come to Him and receive Him, He will raise us up from our grave like He will later call Lazarus from his tomb. That is a radical claim! He is the one who raises the dead on the last day. Our spirits will be with Him, but our bodies will be transformed and rise to meet our spirits, and all that happens at His command.

*45 It is written in the Prophets, 'And they will all be taught by God.' Everyone who has heard and learned from the Father comes to me--*

45 Jesus quoted a Scripture to back His claim. He quoted Isaiah 54:13, "They will all be taught by God." That is what we should be able to do with everything we believe. There are so many things we have an opinion that is not backed by the Word of God. Hold those opinions very loosely. Then He explained, "Everyone who listens to the Father and learns from him comes to me." Another all-encompassing claim! If you listen to and learn from God, you will come to Jesus. Anyone who hears the heart of God will find Jesus is the bread of spiritual life. "How narrow minded!" some would say. But that

is missing the word “all” (John 1:9). Everyone will decide what they will do when God draws them to Jesus!

*46 not that anyone has seen the Father except he who is from God; he has seen the Father.*

46 God is a spirit and only Jesus can see the Father as He sees us (1 Cor 13:12). Only Jesus can see all that He is. Who would say that other than Jesus?

*47 Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever believes has eternal life.*

47 Another radical claim! The word, “believe” is not used just as head knowledge, but to receive in your heart (Romans 10:13). If you do, you have entered into everlasting life. It is yours, now! Remember, it is not a ticket or permission or anything outside you. It is a state of being in Jesus and Jesus in you (John 17:21-23).

*48 I am the bread of life.*

48 He repeated the phrase in verse 35. Just in case you did not get it the first time, Jesus said He is the solution to our spiritual hunger. Without Him, our souls will die of starvation. Does Jesus have to be so radical, so exclusive? Yes! He cannot help but speak the truth. There are a lot of manmade answers to our fallen condition, but there is only one God given solution to our alienation from God.

*49 Your fathers ate the manna in the wilderness, and they died. 50 This is the bread that comes down from heaven, so that one may eat of it and not die.*

49,50 Jesus is desperately trying to get them to see that they are after the wrong thing. “Which do you want? Bread like your ancestors ate? They died in the desert. Here is the bread that you can eat that causes you to enter eternal life. Why would you prefer the temporal?”

*51 I am the living bread that came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever. And the bread that I will give for the life of the world is my flesh.*”

51 Jesus repeated the claim they were stumbling over and reiterated the claim that to believe in Him was to possess eternal life. This time instead of saying “believe”, He said, “to eat.” In the Jewish way of thinking in pictures, what Jesus is declaring is that His life perfectly demonstrates the Father. To eat His flesh is to accept what He does and says as a revelation of God. Jesus is declaring that His life is the heart of God made manifest just as the Torah is God’s heart revealed to the Jews. It was a metaphor they were familiar with, so Jesus applied it to Himself as He is the Word made flesh (John 1:14).

*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.*

52-54 Translation for our Western minds, “Receive my whole life as the manifest revelation of God and receive my words or you are spiritually dead. The Jews used the phrase “flesh and blood” to refer to the whole person, but Jesus may have a deeper meaning in mind. By referring to drinking His blood, Jesus was also pointing to the Old Testament teaching that the life of the flesh is in the blood (Leviticus 17:11). The flesh analogy is the word so then the blood would be the life of the word. That is the Spirit. In

Jesus' analogy, we need to be eating the flesh and drinking the blood. We continually need the Word and, just as importantly, we continually need the Spirit of the Word.

*<sup>55</sup> For my flesh is true food, and my blood is true drink. <sup>56</sup> Whoever feeds on my flesh and drinks my blood abides in me, and I in him.*

55,56 If you receive the life and words of Jesus as a revelation of God to you, you will remain in Christ, and Christ will remain in you.

*<sup>57</sup> 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.*

57 Verse 54 and this verse tell us that to feed is not a one-time thing. If you feed on Christ, you should continue to feed on Christ. The ones who continue to feed on Him are the ones who live. So, are you feeding on Christ? Are His life and words continually a source of spiritual nourishment for you?

*<sup>58</sup> 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." <sup>59</sup> Jesus said these things in the synagogue, as he taught at Capernaum.*

58,59 Jesus was saying, "So make up your minds for which of the two you are going to live. Are you going to follow your ancestors who died in the wilderness? Or are you going to enter into the rest of God and let my life and words live in you" (Hebrews 4:2)? It is your choice.

Questions:

- 1 What were the Jews grumbling about? Parallel?
- 2 What was Jesus command to them? Relate.
- 3 How do people find Jesus?
- 4 What are some of the exclusive claims in this passage?
- 5 What is everlasting life and when is it yours?
- 6 What is the food for our souls?
- 7 What does eat his flesh and drink his blood mean?
- 8 Relate the concept to the Lord's prayer.