



June 12, 2022

“When Bread Is Not Enough”

John 6

Pastor Gary Hamrick

Sometimes people look to Jesus for what he can do for them instead of simply for who he is. We often want him to “perform” for us – to meet our needs and to answer our prayers – but do we seek his face as much as we seek his hand?

**There are application questions throughout this outline, as they were part of Pastor Gary’s sermon. These questions are restated at the end in the discussion section, so you may choose to discuss them as you go through the outline or answer them with the additional questions at the end.*

1. **John 6:1-14** – *“After these things Jesus went over the Sea of Galilee, which is the Sea of Tiberias. Then a great multitude followed Him, because they saw His signs which He performed on those who were diseased. And Jesus went up on the mountain, and there He sat with His disciples. Now the Passover, a feast of the Jews, was near. Then Jesus lifted up His eyes, and seeing a great multitude coming toward Him, He said to Philip, ‘Where shall we buy bread, that these may eat?’ But this He said to test him, for He Himself knew what He would do. Philip answered Him, ‘Two hundred denarii worth of bread is not sufficient for them, that every one of them may have a little.’ One of His disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother, said to Him, ‘There is a lad here who has five barley loaves and two small fish, but what are they among so many?’ Then Jesus said, ‘Make the people sit down.’ Now there was much grass in the place. So the men sat down, in number about five thousand. And Jesus took the loaves, and when He had given thanks He distributed them to the disciples, and the disciples to those sitting down; and likewise of the fish, as much as they wanted. So when they were filled, He said to His disciples, ‘Gather up the fragments that remain, so that nothing is lost.’ Therefore they gathered them up, and filled twelve baskets with the fragments of the five barley loaves which were left over by those who had eaten. Then those men, when they had seen the sign that Jesus did, said, ‘This is truly the Prophet who is to come into the world.’”*

2. Miracle of the feeding of the five thousand
 - a. Five thousand only includes men; was more likely ten to twelve thousand
 - b. Scripture does not explain how Jesus did the miracle
 - c. Scripture records this miracle in all four gospels, but the Gospel of John is the only one that provides a “sequel” following the story

3. Brief interlude in [John 6:15-21](#)
 - a. Jesus sent his disciples back to Capernaum in a boat, while he stayed behind and withdrew from the people who were trying to make him king
 - b. When a storm arose, he performed another miracle by walking on the water to the disciples in the boat
 - c. “Immediately” after getting in the boat, they arrived at the shore (possibly another miracle)

4. [John 6:22-29](#) – *“On the following day, when the people who were standing on the other side of the sea saw that there was no other boat there, except that one which His disciples had entered, and that Jesus had not entered the boat with His disciples, but His disciples had gone away alone – however, other boats came from Tiberias, near the place where they ate bread after the Lord had given thanks – when the people therefore saw that Jesus was not there, nor His disciples, they also got into boats and came to Capernaum, seeking Jesus. And when they found Him on the other side of the sea, they said to Him, ‘Rabbi, when did You come here?’ Jesus answered them and said, ‘Most assuredly, I say to you, you seek Me, not because you saw the signs, but because you ate of the loaves and were filled. Do not labor for the food which perishes, but for the food which endures to everlasting life, which the Son of Man will give you, because God the Father has set His seal on Him.’ Then they said to Him, ‘What shall we do, that we may work the works of God?’ Jesus answered and said to them, ‘This is the work of God, that you believe in Him whom He sent.’”*
 - a. When the people realized that Jesus had left, they followed him back to Capernaum
 - b. Jesus confronted the people for seeking him only for what he could do for them
 - c. The people’s passion for Jesus was for something physical, while Jesus’ passion for them was for something spiritual
 - d. They didn’t get from Jesus what they *wanted*, and they didn’t want from Jesus what he *offered*
 - e. They went from
 1. Seekers (v. 24) to...
 2. Complainers (v. 41) to...
 3. Quarrelers (v. 52) to...
 4. Deserters (v. 66)
 - f. Considerations

- i. How many times has God worked in my life, but I did not really appreciate it because I was already looking for the next thing he could do for me?
 - ii. Do I spend more time praying for something that I want than I do praising God for what he has done?

- 5. **John 6:30-34** - *"Therefore they said to Him, 'What sign will You perform then, that we may see it and believe You? What work will You do? Our fathers ate the manna in the desert; as it is written, "He gave them bread from heaven to eat."' Then Jesus said to them, 'Most assuredly, I say to you, Moses did not give you the bread from heaven, but My Father gives you the true bread from heaven. For the bread of God is He who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world.' Then they said to Him, 'Lord, give us this bread always.'"*
 - a. The people did not understand that Jesus was speaking in spiritual terms when he referred to the *"bread of life"*

- 6. **John 6:35-40** - *"And Jesus said to them, 'I am the bread of life. He who comes to Me shall never hunger, and he who believes in Me shall never thirst. But I said to you that you have seen Me and yet do not believe. All that the Father gives Me will come to Me, and the one who comes to Me I will by no means cast out. For I have come down from heaven, not to do My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me. This is the will of the Father who sent Me, that of all He has given Me I should lose nothing, but should raise it up at the last day. And this is the will of Him who sent Me, that everyone who sees the Son and believes in Him may have everlasting life; and I will raise him up at the last day.'"*
 - a. Jesus helped the people understand that he was talking about a relationship with him

- 7. **John 6:41-42** - *"The Jews then complained about Him, because He said, 'I am the bread which came down from heaven.' And they said, 'Is not this Jesus, the son of Joseph, whose father and mother we know? How is it then that He says, "I have come down from heaven?" ' "*
 - a. The people became complainers because Jesus did not "perform" the way they wanted him to
 - b. Consideration
 - i. Is Jesus still Lord of All to me even when he does not do all that I want?

- 8. **John 6:43-52** - *"Jesus therefore answered and said to them, 'Do not murmur among yourselves. No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him; and I will raise him up at the last day. It is written in the prophets, "And they shall all be taught by God." Therefore everyone who has heard and learned from the Father comes to Me. Not that anyone has seen the Father, except He who is*

from God; He has seen the Father. Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me has everlasting life. I am the bread of life. Your fathers ate the manna in the wilderness, and are dead. This is the bread which comes down from heaven, that one may eat of it and not die. I am the living bread which came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever; and the bread that I shall give is My flesh, which I shall give for the life of the world.’ The Jews therefore quarreled among themselves, saying, ‘How can this Man give us His flesh to eat?’”

- a. Jesus explained that he can satisfy human need in a way physical bread cannot
- b. The people became quarrelers because they did not like Jesus’ answer

9. **John 6:53-59** – *“Then Jesus said to them, ‘Most assuredly, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink His blood, you have no life in you. Whoever eats My flesh and drinks My blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day. For My flesh is food indeed, and My blood is drink indeed. He who eats My flesh and drinks My blood abides in Me, and I in him. As the living Father sent Me, and I live because of the Father, so he who feeds on Me will live because of Me. This is the bread which came down from heaven – not as your fathers ate the manna, and are dead. He who eats this bread will live forever.’ These things He said in the synagogue as He taught in Capernaum.”*

- a. People have debated for centuries what is meant by this passage
- b. The Roman Catholic church has a literal view
 - i. They believe in the doctrine of transubstantiation, where the Communion elements literally become the flesh and blood of Jesus
- c. Protestants do not believe Jesus was speaking literally
 - i. When Jesus used dramatic terms like “*eat the flesh*,” it is indicative of the seriousness of the topic, but is not meant to be understood as literal
- d. Jesus clarified the concept in the next verses, explaining that it was spiritual instruction rather than physical/literal
 - i. **John 6:60-63** – *“Therefore many of His disciples, when they heard this, said, ‘This is a hard saying; who can understand it?’ When Jesus knew in Himself that His disciples complained about this, He said to them, ‘Does this offend you? What then if you should see the Son of Man ascend where He was before? It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing. The words that I speak to you are spirit, and they are life.’”*

10. **John 6:64-66** – *[Jesus said] “ ‘But there are some of you who do not believe.’ For Jesus knew from the beginning who they were who did not believe, and who would betray Him. And He said, ‘Therefore I have said to you that no one can come to Me unless it has been granted to him by My Father.’ From that time many of His disciples went back and walked with Him no more.”*

- a. Some of the people became deserters rather than accept Jesus as Lord
 - b. Considerations
 - i. Do I pursue Jesus for who he is or only for what he can give me?
 - ii. Do I draw near to him to seek his face or to seek his hand?
11. [John 6:67-71](#) – *“Then Jesus said to the twelve, ‘Do you also want to go away?’ But Simon Peter answered Him, ‘Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. Also we have come to believe and know that You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.’ Jesus answered them, ‘Did I not choose you, the twelve, and one of you is a devil?’ He spoke of Judas Iscariot, the son of Simon, for it was he who would betray Him, being one of the twelve.”*
- a. Considerations
 - i. Am I convinced that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the living God?
 - ii. Am I committed to following Jesus because I know that there are no other options for eternal life besides him?
 - b. [Isaiah 45:5a](#) – *“I am the LORD, and there is no other; There is no God besides Me.”*
 - c. “You may never know that Jesus is all you need, until Jesus is all you have.”
– Corrie Ten Boom

Discussion Questions

1. Read [John 6:1-14](#) and [22-29](#) to provide a foundation for your Bible study time.
2. What were the people seeking when they followed Jesus back to Capernaum? Why did Jesus confront them? (See #4a, 4b, 4c, and 4d above)
3. Do you ever fail to appreciate how God has worked in your life because you were already looking for the next thing he could do for you? Do you spend more time praying for something that you want than you do praising God for what he has done?
4. Read [John 6:41-42](#). Why did the people complain? Is Jesus still Lord of All to you even when he does not do all that you want? (See #7a-i above)
5. Read [John 6:53-59](#). What did Jesus mean when he discussed eating his flesh and drinking his blood? Did he mean those things literally? How do we know? (See #9c and 9d above)
6. Read [John 6:64-66](#). Why did some of Jesus’ followers desert him? (See #10a above)

7. Do you pursue Jesus for who he is or only for what he can give you? Do you draw near to Jesus to seek his face or to seek his hand?
8. Read [John 6:67-71](#). What is the significance of Simon Peter's statement, "*Lord, to whom shall we go?*" (See #11 above)
9. Are you convinced that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the living God? Are you committed to following Jesus because you know that there are no other options for eternal life besides him?
10. Close your meeting by allowing the Holy Spirit to lead your time of prayer.

* Unless noted, all Scriptures quoted are from the New King James Version (NKJV)