

## John 6:1 – 51

<sup>6:1</sup> After these things Jesus went away to the other side of the Sea of Galilee (or Tiberias). <sup>2</sup> A large crowd followed him, because they saw the signs which he was performing on those who were sick. <sup>3</sup> Then Jesus went up on the mountain, and there he sat down with his disciples. <sup>4</sup> Now the Passover, the feast of the Jews, was near. <sup>5</sup> Therefore Jesus, lifting up his eyes and seeing that a large crowd was coming to him, said to Philip, 'Where are we to buy bread, so that these may eat?' <sup>6</sup> This he was saying to test him, for he himself knew what he was intending to do. <sup>7</sup> Philip answered him, 'Two hundred denarii worth of bread is not sufficient for them, for everyone to receive a little.' <sup>8</sup> One of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, said to him, <sup>9</sup> There is a lad here who has five barley loaves and two fish, but what are these for so many people?' <sup>10</sup> Jesus said, 'Have the people sit down.' Now there was much grass in the place. So the men sat down, in number about five thousand. <sup>11</sup> Jesus then took the loaves, and having given thanks, he distributed to those who were seated; likewise also of the fish as much as they wanted. <sup>12</sup> When they were filled, he said to his disciples, 'Gather up the leftover fragments so that nothing will be lost.' <sup>13</sup> So they gathered them up, and filled twelve baskets with fragments from the five barley loaves which were left over by those who had eaten. <sup>14</sup> Therefore when the people saw the sign which he had performed, they said, 'This is truly the Prophet who is to come into the world.' <sup>15</sup> So Jesus, perceiving that they were intending to come and take him by force to make him king, withdrew again to the mountain by himself alone. <sup>16</sup> Now when evening came, his disciples went down to the sea, <sup>17</sup> and after getting into a boat, they started to cross the sea to Capernaum. It had already become dark, and Jesus had not yet come to them. <sup>18</sup> The sea began to be stirred up because a strong wind was blowing. <sup>19</sup> Then, when they had rowed about three or four miles, they saw Jesus walking on the sea and drawing near to the boat; and they were frightened. <sup>20</sup> But he said to them, 'It is I; do not be afraid.' <sup>21</sup> So they were willing to receive him into the boat, and immediately the boat was at the land to which they were going. <sup>22</sup> The next day the crowd that stood on the other side of the sea saw that there was no other small boat there, except one, and that Jesus had not entered with his disciples into the boat, but that his disciples had gone away alone. <sup>23</sup> There came other small boats from Tiberias near to the place where they ate the bread after the Lord had given thanks. <sup>24</sup> So when the crowd saw that Jesus was not there, nor his disciples, they themselves got into the small boats, and came to Capernaum seeking Jesus. <sup>25</sup> When they found him on the other side of the sea, they said to him, 'Rabbi, when did you get here?' <sup>26</sup> Jesus answered them and said, 'Truly, truly, I say to you, you seek me, not because you saw signs, but because you ate of the loaves and were filled. <sup>27</sup> Do not work for the food which perishes, but for the food which endures to eternal life, which the Son of Man will give to you, for on him the Father, God, has set his seal.' <sup>28</sup> Therefore they said to him, 'What shall we do, so that we may work the works of God?' <sup>29</sup> Jesus answered and said to them, 'This is the work of God, that you believe in him whom He has sent.' <sup>30</sup> So they said to him, 'What then do you do for a sign, so that we may see, and believe you? What work do you perform?' <sup>31</sup> Our fathers ate the manna in the wilderness; as it is written, 'He gave them bread out of heaven to eat.' <sup>32</sup> Jesus then said to them, 'Truly, truly, I say to you, it is not Moses who has given you the bread out of heaven, but it is my Father who gives you the true bread out of heaven. <sup>33</sup> For the bread of God is that which comes down out of heaven, and gives life to the world.' <sup>34</sup> Then they

said to him, ‘Lord, always give us this bread.’ <sup>35</sup> Jesus said to them, ‘I am the bread of life; he who comes to me will not hunger, and he who believes in me will never thirst. <sup>36</sup> But I said to you that you have seen me, and yet do not believe. <sup>37</sup> All that the Father gives me will come to me, and the one who comes to me I will certainly not cast out. <sup>38</sup> For I have come down from heaven, not to do my own will, but the will of him who sent me. <sup>39</sup> This is the will of him who sent me, that of all that He has given me I lose nothing, but raise it up on the last day. <sup>40</sup> For this is the will of my Father, that everyone who beholds the Son and believes in him will have eternal life, and I myself will raise him up on the last day.’ <sup>41</sup> Therefore the Jews were grumbling about him, because he said, ‘I am the bread that came down out of heaven.’ <sup>42</sup> They were saying, ‘Is not this Jesus, the son of Joseph, whose father and mother we know? How does he now say, ‘I have come down out of heaven’?’ <sup>43</sup> Jesus answered and said to them, ‘Do not grumble among yourselves. <sup>44</sup> No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him; and I will raise him up on the last day. <sup>45</sup> It is written in the prophets, ‘And they shall all be taught of God.’ Everyone who has heard and learned from the Father, comes to me. <sup>46</sup> Not that anyone has seen the Father, except the one who is from God; he has seen the Father. <sup>47</sup> Truly, truly, I say to you, he who believes has eternal life. <sup>48</sup> I am the bread of life. <sup>49</sup> Your fathers ate the manna in the wilderness, and they died. <sup>50</sup> This is the bread which comes down out of heaven, so that one may eat of it and not die. <sup>51</sup> I am the living bread that came down out of heaven; if anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever; and the bread also which I will give for the life of the world is my flesh.’

**Cultural Background: Israel’s Independence Day**

<b>First Passover / Exodus</b>	<b>Passover / Exodus Symbolism</b>
God delivered Israel through water (Exodus 14)	Jesus comes over water, helps disciples through water (John 6:16 – 21)
God gave manna to Israel for them to eat (Exodus 16)	Jesus gives himself to Israel for them to ‘eat’ (John 6:22 – 51)
God was bringing them out of slavery and into the Promised Land	Jesus is bringing them out of what and into what?

John 6:45: It is written in the prophets, ‘And they shall all be taught of God.’ This comes from Isaiah 54:13. Isaiah 53 – 55 as a whole is about the impact of the Suffering Messiah.

Isaiah 55:1 ‘Ho! Every one who thirsts, come to the waters;  
 And you who have no money come, buy and eat.  
 Come, buy wine and milk  
 Without money and without cost.  
<sup>2</sup> Why do you spend money for what is not bread,  
 And your wages for what does not satisfy?  
 Listen carefully to Me, and eat what is good,  
 And delight yourself in abundance.  
<sup>3</sup> Incline your ear and come to Me.  
 Listen, that you may live;  
 And I will make an everlasting covenant with you

## Questions

1. Let's get the big picture first.
  - a. Remember that in 5:31 – 47, Jesus' last claim was that the Scriptures of the Old Testament testify to him. This passage demonstrates one of the ways in which the Scriptures do that. Note that it is near Passover (6:4). Jesus is doing something to remind people of the first Passover/Exodus from Egypt. But he's taking it deeper. Read through 6:1 – 51 and look at the comparison between the first Passover/Exodus and the new one that Jesus is bringing about. Who is the equivalent enemy? What is the equivalent of the Promised Land?
  - b. What does this mean for you?
  - c. Why did Jesus do the miracle of bread in 6:1 – 15, and then teach on being 'the bread of life' in 6:23 – 51?
  - d. Why does Jesus not do the miracle again?
  - e. How does someone internalize (eat) Jesus?
2. Focus on 6:1 – 15.
  - a. What is Jesus doing to help the disciples understand how to minister to other people?
  - b. If you were one of the disciples, what would you have thought and felt before and after the miracle?
  - c. How does the miracle you've just shared in represent ministry to others?
  - d. In what way does Jesus press beyond an appeal to the stomach into something deeper?
  - e. Who is responding to Jesus that way now, in your life?