



## Gospel of John 1-12 Bread and Water

### Part 1

After Jesus walks on water and crosses the sea—the crowds follow Him. He then challenges them why they follow Him and teaches about who He is why He has come.

#### A. **The Water** vv. 15-21

**1. After the feeding:** vv. 15-17 After the feeding of the 5000 the crowds want to make Jesus king. He goes off to pray and sends His disciples in a boat to Capernaum.

**2. Jesus and the storm:** vv. 18-21 John does not record Peter's walk on the water. (See Matt 14:22-38) Because of the storm they were afraid and even more so when they saw Jesus walking on the water.

**Do not be afraid:** Only God can help us to not be afraid. In Him we do not have a spirit of fear but of love, power and a sound mind. 2 Tim 1:7

**Be willing:** The disciples were 'willing' to have Jesus come with them. Are we willing to have Jesus go with us wherever we go?

#### B. **The Bread** vv. 22-40

**1. The followers:** vv. 22-25 In the previous chapter the Jewish leaders challenged Jesus on who He really was. It was the start of the their unrelenting persecution of Him. In this section which runs to the end of the chapter it is those who are following Him from town to town who question Him.

**(a) When not how:** v. 25 You would think they would have asked Jesus HOW He got across the lake.

**2. The food that abides:** vv. 26-27 It is clear that these 'followers' of Jesus were moved by their 'bellies' and not their 'hearts.' They only saw the bread and missed the sign (*Him*).

**(a) Food that does not perish:** v. 27 This sets up the entire discourse that follows regarding Jesus being the bread of life. Jesus will be that person who gives the everlasting bread/life because the Father has put His seal upon Him. This was a seal of authenticity. Jesus is the real deal.

**Life is not the reward for work. Life is always His gift!!**

**3. The work of God:** vv. 28-29 Notice that these Jewish followers ask about doing the 'works' of God while Jesus makes it clear that this is ONE work.

**(a) The law?** There are rabbinic passages in which heavenly food is taken to symbolize the Torah, the Law. The Jews may have taken Jesus' words about the food that abides to eternal life as meaning the Law.

**(b) Faith in Him:** v. 29 God does not require that we pile up merits to obtain a heavenly credit. He requires that we trust him. The "work of God" means that which God requires of us: faith in Him.

### John 6:15-40 (NKJV)

**15** Therefore when Jesus perceived that they were about to come and take Him by force to make Him king, He departed again to the mountain by Himself alone.

**16** Now when evening came, His disciples went down to the sea, **17** got into the boat, and went over the sea toward Capernaum. And it was already dark, and Jesus had not come to them. **18** Then the sea arose because a great wind was blowing. **19** So when they had rowed about three or four miles, they saw Jesus walking on the sea and drawing near the boat; and they were afraid. **20** But He said to them, "It is I; do not be afraid." **21** Then they willingly received Him into the boat, and immediately the boat was at the land where they were going.

**22** 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— **23** however, other boats came from Tiberias, near the place where they ate bread after the Lord had given thanks— **24** when the people therefore saw that Jesus was not there, nor His disciples, they also got into boats and came to Capernaum, seeking Jesus. **25** And when they found Him on the other side of the sea, they said to Him, "Rabbi, when did You come here?"

**26** 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. **27** 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."

**28** Then they said to Him, "What shall we do, that we may work the works of God?" **29** Jesus answered and said to them, "This is the work of God, that you believe in Him whom He sent."

#### 4. The bread of life vv. 30-40

**(a) Manna from heaven:** vv 30-31 These 'followers' want a sign like Moses did. Moses gave the manna for forty years. Jesus provided bread for five thousand: Moses supplied manna for a whole nation. Jesus gave them ordinary bread, bread such as they ate every day: Moses gave "bread from heaven."

**(b) Who gave the manna?** Vv 32-33 It was God who gave the 'bread' from heaven and it is God who has now given us Jesus—the true bread of heaven. V. 33 is a reflection of *John 1:1-5*.

**Daily bread?** Could there be an application of this to the Lord's prayer in *Matt 6:11* "Give us this day our daily bread."

**(c) The bread of life:** vv. 34-40 After hearing all of this news—the crowd asks for this bread. However, the bread of which Jesus speaks is not like the manna, something they could pick up and eat. It is nothing less than Himself.

***He himself is the food, the sustenance that nourishes spiritual life. It is only from this bread that we really obtain life.***

**I Am:** This is the first seven 'I Am' statements in the Gospel of John.

**I must come:** v. 35-36 This emphasizes coming out of the world or the old life and into the new life in Christ. Sadly they had seen Him but had yet to really come to Him.

**Who will come?** V. 37 We do not come to Christ because it seems a good idea to us. It never does seem a good idea to sinful people. Apart from a divine work in our hearts we remain more or less contentedly in our sins. (see *John 6:44 and 16:8*)

**He's coming down:** vv. 38-40 This thought is repeated seven times in this passage. Jesus keeps now and for the future—when we are raised with Him. Our assurance of salvation is not based on 'our holding on' but on His 'holding on.' ...until the last day!!!! Hooray!!!

**30** Therefore they said to Him, "What sign will You perform then, that we may see it and believe You? What work will You do? **31** Our fathers ate the manna in the desert; as it is written, 'He gave them bread from heaven to eat.'"

**32** 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. **33** For the bread of God is He who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world."

**34** Then they said to Him, "Lord, give us this bread always."

**35** 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. **36** But I said to you that you have seen Me and yet do not believe. **37** All that the Father gives Me will come to Me, and the one who comes to Me I will by no means cast out. **38** For I have come down from heaven, not to do My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me. **39** 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. **40** 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."

