

BETTER BREAD

John 6:22-71

“Yeshua” §§78

02/23/20

Part 1.	The Coming of the King
Part 2.	The Authentication of the King
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→ Better Bread	
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THE CROWD SEARCHES FOR JESUS (6:22-24)

Picture in your head the setting. Jesus is in the synagogue of Capernaum teaching, as has done many times. There, with him, are the twelve disciples. Most likely occupying the good seats are the religious leaders of the Capernaum synagogue. Then, there are the people from the town and the surrounding areas. There are some who believe that Jesus is the promised Messiah, there are some who don't, and there are still others who are on the fence. Then, to add to this already mixed group, a crowd arrives from Bethsaida. These are the ones who had just been fed by Jesus and, because of that, have come looking for him. They want him to provide for them once more. They want more bread. Jesus doesn't give them the bread they are looking for, instead, he offers them BETTER BREAD.

Jesus Offers the Crowd Better Bread (6:25-27)

When the crowd from Bethsaida arrived they did not understand how Jesus came there without them knowing it, and their question to him seemed a little awkward. You would think that this would be a great time for Jesus to get some incredible PR. How did he get to Capernaum? He walked on the water. But instead, Jesus cuts to the chase and exposes their motives for following him. They want more bread.

Jesus responds by revealing that there are two types of food. One that perishes, and one that leads to eternal life. The food that is physical, can temporarily meet their needs. But, there is another type of food. There is a spiritual food that leads to eternal life, comes from God, and can be given by Jesus.

The Crowd Wants Manna (6:28-31)

The crowd seems to understand that Jesus is referring to himself, but they don't just accept what Jesus has said or the things that he has done. They want Jesus to prove himself to them again. In fact, they have a very specific way that they want Jesus to prove himself. They want Jesus to provide bread for them just like Moses did for their fathers in the wilderness.

God the Father is the Source of True Bread (6:32-33)

Jesus continued by correcting their thinking in a few different ways. First, they somehow attributed the provision of Manna in the wilderness to Moses and not God. Secondly, he explains that the Manna was not the true bread. Meaning, the manna was simply an incomplete picture of something that was to come. God gave them manna but it was only enough to sustain their life. Now, He was offering them a better bread that came from heaven. And third, this true bread is not as they think it. It's not a thing, it's a person. The true bread that comes from Heaven is a person.

Jesus is the Bread of Life That is From Heaven (6:34-40).

I believe the statement of the crowd is an honest one. Their answer is almost exactly the same as the Samaritan woman at the well whom Jesus offered living water. Jesus now answered them in a similar fashion. He is the true bread of life. Those who come to Jesus, that is to believe in Jesus, will not only be made right with the God the Father and raised up on the last day, but they will have the ability to live a life of spiritual satisfaction.

The Religious Leaders Reject Jesus's Claim (6:41-51)

When John writes 'the Jews', he is referring to the religious leaders who are in opposition to Jesus. So in this context, it seems that the religious leaders of the synagogue of Capernaum have had enough of Jesus's claims. Specifically, his claim to have come from Heaven.

And so, they attempt to take control of the conversation, and give their answer to where Jesus came from. They claim to know Jesus's mother and father. How could he come from Heaven if his mother and father are not from Heaven? They reject Jesus, and they want the crowds to do likewise.

This is not surprising or discouraging to Jesus, but you can imagine the impact the religious leaders had on the crowd. Knowing this, Jesus turns to the Jews, the religious leaders, and he tells them the reason they don't believe and accept him is because God the Father has not called them.

Jesus Says A Hard Thing (6:52-59)

The religious leaders begin to argue even amongst themselves. They take what Jesus says literally and are blind to the point he is making. So Jesus pushes the analogy to its limit. He tells them they must eat or feed on his flesh and drink his blood.

Two Responses (6:60-71)

What Jesus taught in the synagogue of Capernaum caused the crowd who heard him speak to split into two groups. One group left Jesus, while the other, even though they still could not fully understand his message, moved closer to Jesus. This group, led by Peter, had yet to fully grasp the hard truths Jesus had just explained, but they did not leave Jesus. Why? Because they believed Jesus. They recognized him as the source of truth and life and they could not leave that.

Grace Family Needs, News and Notes

Ushers Needed: Contact Gerrie Griffin @ 760-315-1446

Grace Family Desert Trip: February 28th - March 1st @ Ocotillo Wells

Sign up at the Men's Ministry Kiosk on the patio today!

Women's Ministry Soup Social: February 29th from 4:00-6:00 PM

Sign up at the Women's Ministry Kiosk on the patio today!

3 on 3 March Madness Basketball Tournament: Sunday March 15th @1PM

Sign up online at gccramona.com