

Who is GOD? Part 1

John 6:22-40

The next day the crowd that had stayed on the opposite shore of the lake realized that only one boat had been there, and that Jesus had not entered it with his disciples, but that they had gone away alone. ²³ Then some boats from Tiberias landed near the place where the people had eaten the bread after the Lord had given thanks. ²⁴ Once the crowd realized that neither Jesus nor his disciples were there, they got into the boats and went to Capernaum in search of Jesus.

²⁵ When they found him on the other side of the lake, they asked him, "Rabbi, when did you get here?"

²⁶ Jesus answered, "Very truly I tell you, you are looking for me, not because you saw the signs I performed but because you ate the loaves and had your fill. ²⁷ Do not work for food that spoils, but for food that endures to eternal life, which the Son of Man will give you. For on him God the Father has placed his seal of approval."

²⁸ Then they asked him, "What must we do to do the works God requires?"

²⁹ Jesus answered, "The work of God is this: to believe in the one he has sent."

³⁰ So they asked him, "What sign then will you give that we may see it and believe you? What will you do? ³¹ Our ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness; as it is written: 'He gave them bread from heaven to eat.'³²"

³² Jesus said to them, "Very truly I tell you, it is not Moses who has given you the bread from heaven, but it is my Father who gives you the true bread from heaven. ³³ For the bread of God is the bread that comes down from heaven and gives life to the world."

³⁴ "Sir," they said, "always give us this bread."

³⁵ Then Jesus declared, "I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never go hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty. ³⁶ But as I told you, you have seen me and still you do not believe. ³⁷ All those the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never drive away. ³⁸ For I have come down from heaven not to do my will but to do the will of him who sent me. ³⁹ And this is the will of him who sent me, that I shall lose none of all those he has given me, but raise them up at the last day. ⁴⁰ For my Father's will is that everyone who looks to the Son and believes in him shall have eternal life, and I will raise them up at the last day."

Q) How long do you think you could last without eating?

R) The record for the known longest time without food, is held by Angus Barbieri, 384 days, who lasted this long because of morbid obesity and his Scottish heritage. He started at 207kg and ended up at 82kg!

Q) Can you find the reason why Jesus leaves the people? You may need have to look earlier on in the chapter.

Q) Why do you think Jesus left when they wanted to make him king?

The Jews had a upside down idea of what the Messiah would like. They were expecting a powerful king to lead them to victory against the Romans. Jesus shows here that he came to serve and not to be served. Instead of the great chariot they had envisioned, he would later ride in on donkey. Gods will was for him to go to the cross not an earthly throne.

Q) What criticism does Jesus bring against the people follow him?

R) In verse 26, the people were motivated by superficial desires, wanting food, rather than to follow Jesus.

Q) What does Matthew 6:33 tell us about where our priorities should lie?

R) We should seek first the kingdom of God. Our highest priority should be to advance his kingdom and serve his name before any material desires. We have a strong desire to control our lives and seek material possessions, we forget that God is sovereign above all these things.

Q) What is the promise that Jesus gives us?

R) That if seek him first and make him the priority then he will meet our needs. It's not a transactional relationship but rather a reflection of Gods divine nature and provision.

Verse 27 says, "Do not work for food that spoils, but for food that endures to eternal life [...]" Jesus is putting into perspective our strivings in this life in relation to the infinity of eternal life with him. It makes no sense to pursue gain in this world which lasts 80 years and can't be taken into the next 80 million and more to come.

Q) What does verse 28 reveal about the Jewish mentality towards relationship with God?

R) it shows that believe they can earn their salvation, work their way to rightness with God. It reflects the law-based system of the Old covenant and the immenseness of the change Jesus brought. These people have a willingness to do what is required of them to earn salvation and yet haven't realised that nothing they do will be enough.

Q) What simple solution does Jesus give for the 'works' required?

R) Believe in Jesus. Acts 16:3, "They replied, "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved—you and your household.""

Q) What is the significance of verses 30-33?

R) The people compare him to Moses, who they say provided them the gift of manna. They are asking what Jesus has brought to the table. Jesus points out that not only did Moses not provide the manna (it was God!) but that the manna was merely a temporary representation of the eternal life offered in the true bread, who is Jesus. What Jesus brings is much greater than the manna provided to their ancestors.

Q) What does v34 show about current mindset? Has there been a shift, or not?

R) They are still fixated on their physical requirements for physical bread.

Q) Why is Jesus claiming he is the bread of life such a bold claim?

Then Jesus declared, "I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never go hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty.

R)

1) It is a claim that he is essential to life

2) It is a claim to be GOD, he uses the phrase, "I AM" which is the covenant name for God revealed to Moses at the burning bush. The Jews listening would have immediately recognised this as a claim to deity. In John 8:58, this claim is what leads the Jews to attempt to stone him due to how blasphemous this statement would be from anyone who was not God.

Q) Verse 36 says "But as I told you, you have seen me and still you do not believe." Can you think of a time you've seen Gods goodness and yet struggled to trust him? (can just reflect on this if you don't want to share)

³⁷ All those the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never drive away. ³⁸ For I have come down from heaven not to do my will but to do the will of him who sent me. ³⁹ And this is the will of him who sent me, that I shall lose none of all those he has given me, but raise them up at the last day. ⁴⁰ For my

Father's will is that everyone who looks to the Son and believes in him shall have eternal life, and I will raise them up at the last day."

Q) What do you take away from verse 37-40?

R) Discuss.

Romans 8:38-39 (ESV) "For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord."

Our salvation lays in God's hands not our own.

Jesus offers eternal life and forgiveness of sins to all those who repent and believe the gospel (Mark 1:15). This is a gift freely given.

PRAY