

Previously in John

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- In **Ch. 2** we saw Jesus turn **water into wine**.
- In **Ch. 3** we witnessed his dialog with **Nicodemus**.
- In **Ch. 4** we looked at Christ's conversation with the **woman at the well**.
- In **Ch. 5**, Jesus healed a man who had been **lame for thirty-eight years** – and did so on a Sabbath.

John 6 Introduction

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- In this chapter, for **the fourth time** in the NT we will read about the feeding of the 5000.
- This miracle is recorded in all four of the Gospels.
- We will then hear Christ's speak of himself as **the bread of life**, the first of his "I am" statements.
- But we will also see **many disciples turn away**.

John 6 Introduction

- Many Disciples Turn Away.

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- Many Disciples Turn Away.
- This last point forms the crux, the core and the nitty-gritty of our application of this chapter.
- We must ask ourselves the question, “How important is Jesus to us?”
- Or to reverse it, “What would it take to get us to walk away from Jesus and no longer follow him?”

John 6 Key Verses

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- John 6:66-69 (ESV)

⁶⁶ After this many of his disciples turned back and no longer walked with him. ⁶⁷ So Jesus said to the twelve, “Do you want to go away as well?” ⁶⁸ Simon Peter answered him, “Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life, ⁶⁹ and we have believed, and have come to know, that you are the Holy One of God.”

John 6 Outline

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1. Feeding the 5000 6:1-15
2. Walking on Water 6:16-21
3. The Bread of Life 6:22-59
4. Words of Eternal Life 6:60-71

1. Feeding the 5000 6:1-15

1. Feeding the 5000 6:1-15

- 6:5-6 “Where are we to buy bread ... ?” ... He said this to test him ...
- This shows us a wonderful detail regarding how Christ dealt with his disciples.
- He knew all along what his plan was.
- Before carrying it out, he asks a not-so-serious question simply to get them thinking.

1. Feeding the 5000 6:1-15

Teachers give students tests to allow them to apply what they have learned. When God tests us, he grants us opportunity to apply spiritual truth to the challenging circumstances we face ...

*– Tony Evans,
Oak Cliff Bible Fellowship*



1. Feeding the 5000 6:1-15

... With thousands of hungry people gathering, Jesus gave Philip a pop quiz he'd never forget. ¹

*– Tony Evans,
Oak Cliff Bible Fellowship*



1. Feeding the 5000 6:1-15

- 6:11-14 The end of the story, of course, is that everyone was satisfied and there was plenty left over.
- 6:15 This last verse shows us, however, that most of the people misunderstood the miracle.

1. Feeding the 5000 6:1-15

- Two Points:
- It's easy to follow Jesus when he meets our physical needs – like giving us free food!
- We don't always understand what Jesus is doing at first – and this may be part of his test for us.

Miraculous Signs in John 1 – 12

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1. Water into wine 2:1-12
2. Healing an official's son 4:46-54
3. Healing a paralytic 5:1-15
4. Feeding the 5000 6:5-14
5. Walking on water 6:16-24
6. Healing the blind man 9:1-7
7. Raising Lazarus from the dead 11:1-45

2. Walking on Water 6:16-21

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- This is, of course, another amazing sign, which John records with the goal of leading us to saving faith.
- Now on to one of Christ's important **speeches** or (as Bible teachers like to call them) **discourses**.

Discourses in John 1 – 12

Discourses in John 1 – 12 ²

1. The new birth 3:1–21
2. The water of life 4:1–42
3. The divine Son 5:19–47
4. The bread of life 6:22–65
5. The life–giving Spirit 7:1–52
6. The light of the world 8:12–59
7. The good shepherd 10:1–42

3. The Bread of Life 6:22-59

3. The Bread of Life 6:22-59

- 6:24 They ... went to Capernaum, seeking Jesus.
- 6:59 Jesus said these things in the synagogue, as he taught in Capernaum.
- This is the city where Jesus lived for most of his Galilean ministry.
- We find him in the synagogue multiple times in the Gospels, including here.

3. The Bread of Life 6:22-59



- Synagogue at Capernaum
- Visible ruins are from 400AD
- Foundation dates to time of Christ
- Photo by Sue Hardesty 2019

3. The Bread of Life 6:22-59

- 6:26, 32, 47, 53 Truly, truly = Amen, amen
- In the Greek NT, as in English, this word is brought over from Hebrew.
- In all four Gospels, Jesus tends to begin sentences with the word “Amen.”
- In John, he doubles it, which is very likely what Jesus actually said.

3. The Bread of Life 6:22-59

- 6:26-27 you are seeking me ... because you ate your fill of the loaves.
- Jesus knows that their faith is not authentic.
- 6:28-29 The “work” needed is simply to trust in Jesus Christ and him alone.
- 6:32-33 Jesus is the life-giving bread that comes down to earth from the Father in heaven.

3. The Bread of Life 6:22-59

- 6:35 I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me shall not hunger; and whoever believes in me shall never thirst.
- This is similar to what Jesus said to the Samaritan woman about the living water that only he could give.
- In this case he is the life-giving bread.
- This is the first of seven “I am” sayings in John.

“I am” Sayings in John

“I am” Sayings in John

1. I am the bread of life 6:35, 48, 51
2. I am the light of the world 8:12, 9:5
3. I am the gate 10:7, 9
4. I am the good shepherd 10:11, 14
5. I am the resurrection and the life 11:25
6. I am the way, the truth and the life 14:6
7. I am the true vine 15:1

3. The Bread of Life 6:22-59

- It might be helpful to underline or highlight the following verses:

- 6:29
- 6:33
- 6:35
- 6:40
- 6:47-48
- 6:51
- 6:53
- 6:54 – see parallel with 6:40

3. The Bread of Life 6:22-59

- We receive eternal life, not by literally eating Jesus, which is what seemed to confuse his listeners.
- We receive Christ by faith, by believing his words.
- Yet just as without food we cannot live, without Jesus cannot experience eternal life.
- He is that important.

3. The Bread of Life 6:22-59

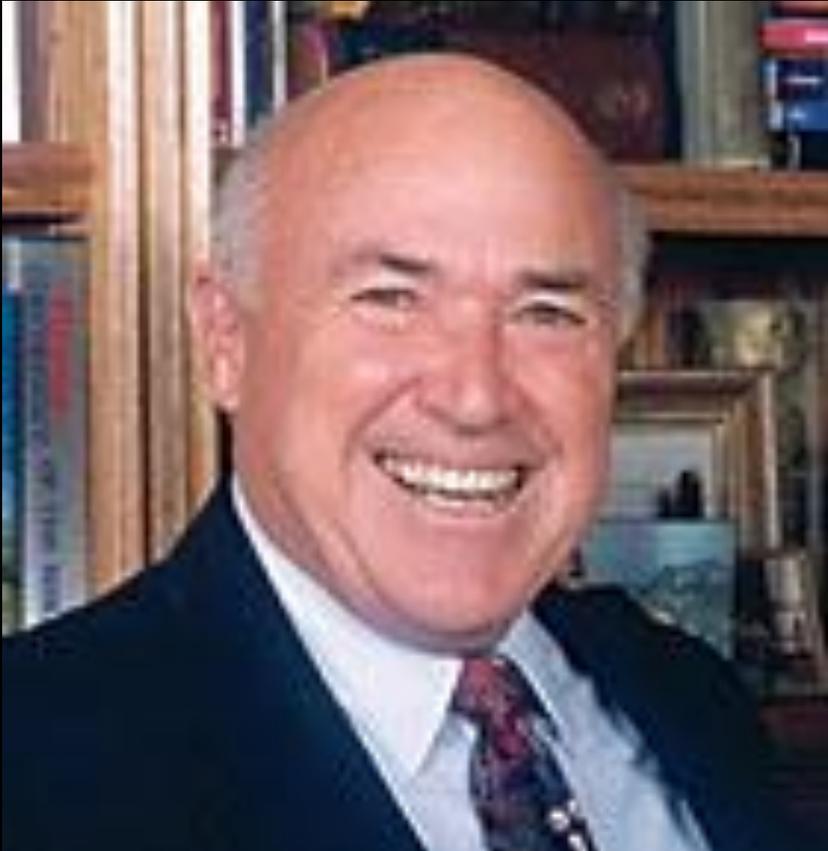
- How important is Jesus to us?
- As important as food to the life of our bodies.
- This is why we act out the eating of the bread and wine of communion.
- There is nothing magical in the bread.
- It symbolizes the body and blood of Christ, and because of Christ's death we receive eternal life.

4. Words of Eternal Life 6:60-71

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- 6:63-64 Again, this discourse is about our need to believe the words of Jesus.
- 6:68-69 Peter gets it.
- Bottom line is that we have no real options – it's life through Christ or no life at all.

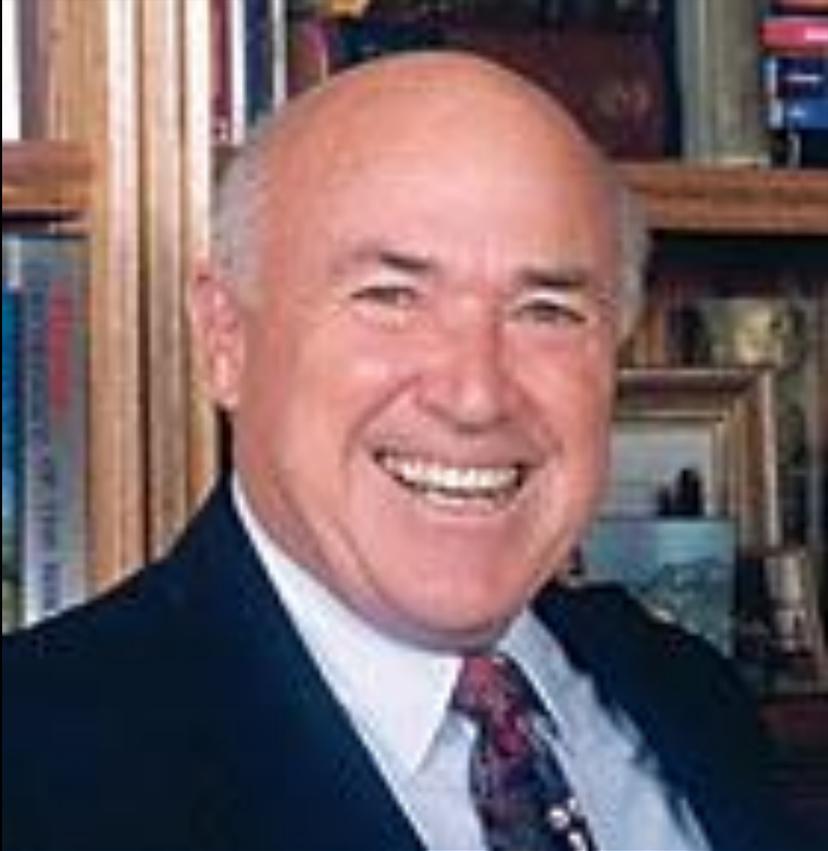
4. Words of Eternal Life 6:60-71



Sometimes we don't understand everything God is saying and doing ... But where else can we go? We have already learned that the world has nothing for us. It can't solve our problems ...

*– Chuck Smith (1927 – 2013)
Calvary Chapel Costa Mesa*

4. Words of Eternal Life 6:60-71



... There is really nothing to go back to. So we trust the One who has the words of eternal life.³

*– Chuck Smith (1927 – 2013)
Calvary Chapel Costa Mesa*

4. Words of Eternal Life 6:60-71

- We must ask ourselves the question, “How important is Jesus to us?”
- I hope the answer you give is, “All important.”
- Or to reverse it, “What would it take to get us to walk away from Jesus and no longer follow him?”
- I hope the answer you give is, “I need to follow Jesus no matter what. Nothing can make me leave him.”

4. Words of Eternal Life 6:60-71

- We are not looking for an emotional commitment like the one Peter made just before he denied Christ.
- We are looking for real commitment that stems from the realization that Jesus is our only hope.
- We are saved by faith and we live by faith.
- There is no real alternative except death and eternal separation from God.

John 6 What We Just Read

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John 6 Key Points

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1. It's easy to follow Jesus when he meets our physical needs – like giving us free food!
2. It can be harder to follow him when he says and does things that we do not understand.
3. We receive eternal life only when we devour his words, knowing that he is the bread of life.
4. There is no alternative. It is life through faith in Christ or no life at all. Which do you choose?

John 6 A Prayer

John 6 A Prayer

- Dear God and Father,
- We thank you for sending Jesus, the bread of life and the bread that came down from heaven.
- We understand that we will live through him or we will not live at all.
- At this moment we express our total faith and trust in him and him alone.

John 6 A Prayer

- It is through his death and resurrection – through the giving of his body and the shedding of his blood – that we are saved.
- Help us please, by the power of your Holy Spirit to remain faithful unto death to that commitment.
- We have no other hope aside from Jesus Christ,
- Amen

John 6 References

1. Evans, Tony. *The Tony Evans Bible Commentary*. B&H Publishing Group. Kindle Edition.
2. For discourses and signs in John, See Carson, D. A. *The Gospel according to John* (The Pillar New Testament Commentary (PNTC)). Eerdmans Publishing Co – Kindle Edition.
3. Chuck Smith, *The Word for Today Study Bible*. Nashville: Nelson, 2005.