



PITWM VERSE BY VERSE

JOHN 6:53-54, 60-71

LESSON: JESUS' HARD SAYING

— January 24, 2021

INTRODUCTION:

6:48 I am that bread of life. Jesus had told the Jewish leaders this very thing in verse 35. Christ identifies Himself as the *"Bread of Life."* He says, *"I Am"* just as He said in 6:20 *"It is I."* This Life spoken of is spiritual, not physical. He is our Bread of Life meaning for Everlasting and Eternal Life. To partake of this life means to go through Him to be fully satisfied. He says I AM...

6:49 Your fathers did eat manna in the wilderness, and are dead. Jesus makes it clear that their father's ate manna in the wilderness, but they are not alive now. This means that Moses' manna was not eternal. ¹It did not bring eternal life to those who ate it. Jesus is Life. When you partake of Jesus, ye shall never die. This analogy is a contrast between the earthly and spiritual

6:50 This is the bread which cometh down from heaven, that a man may eat thereof, and not die. So, the manna (bread) they ate in the wilderness in Moses' time was sent continuously by God for a temporary means, but they also died. This only came to provide physical food temporarily. Manna showed us that...

1. It fed the physical appetite.
2. It was a witness of God's power.
3. It provided a type or preview for the *"True Bread"* to come from heaven and give spiritual life.

Jesus talks about Himself as the Bread coming down from heaven will provide spiritual food eternally. He, the *"Bread of Life"* completely changes our lives forever. Once man eats of Him, they will not die.

6:51 I am the living bread which came down from heaven: if any man eat of this bread, he shall live for ever: and the bread that I will give is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world.

"Bread" was their primary means of survival and it symbolized the staple food source in many people's lives. It is physical and temporary. The physical bread passes through our bodies.

In verse 35 He says **I am that bread of life**. When you come to Him, you won't hunger. When you believe on Him, you won't thirst after Him, and because you come and believe, you won't be cast out, you will be filled.

In verse 48 He says **I am that bread of life** because in verse 47 He says ...he who believes in "Me" has everlasting life. Why? – Because *"I am the Bread of Life."*

So now, **verse 51** He's really going to blow their minds. Jesus lets them know that ***"I am the living bread which came down from heaven."***

- *"Living"*, because He is the Word made flesh.
- *"Living"*, because Jesus is our Spiritual bread living forever in us as we partake; take part of Him.
- This Bread is not just for temporary survival, but continuously living in us. Just as He's Alive, He's alive in our spirit because ***"if any man eat of this bread, he shall live forever:"*** We are able to partake because He was made flesh and gave His flesh for the life of the world. His flesh had

¹ <http://www.lovetheLord.com/books/john/18.html>
<http://www.pitwm.net/pitwm-sunday-school.html>



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to die! When we accept Him by faith, we will live eternally with Him.

6:51b In I Corinthians 11:24, 26 we use the symbol of the bread to remember what Jesus has done for us. *"Take eat: this is my body, which is broken for you: this do in remembrance of Me, For as often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do shew the Lord's death till He come."* Him being our source; our bread; our Word we eat of; the living eternal source of life is available to those who receive all of Him. He said...**the bread that I will give is my flesh.** He's talking about the cross. So, He gave His flesh which is the bread *that came down from heaven,— given for the life of the world.* He came to give life and give it more abundantly! One who feeds on His Word receives eternal life through Him because for 1) He says ***I am the living bread...*** 2) The Father had commissioned, authorized, and stamped His seal of approval upon the work of the Son (6:27). The Father sealed His authenticity upon Jesus as **the Son of man.** He has the authority to give everlasting life. He's the only One who could. Our spirit will live forever.

6:52 **The Jews therefore strove among themselves, saying, How can this man give us his flesh to eat?—** For the Jewish leaders, this was a struggle to hear. Just like Nicodemus couldn't understand about being "Born Again", they couldn't figure out how Jesus was to give His flesh to eat, so they began to argue, fuss, and debate. It was perplexing to them!

I. TEACHING AND RESPONSE JOHN 6:53-54, 60-61

6:53 **Then Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except ye eat the flesh of the Son of man, and drink his blood, ye have no life in you.** So, to cut down all this arguing Jesus began to explain *"Truly, truly (I tell you a true thing) if you don't eat of the flesh of the Son of man (that is, receive Him) and drink His blood, you can't have His life (eternal life) dwelling within."* This reminds me of the time Jesus wanted to wash the feet of the disciples, but Peter didn't want Jesus to wash his feet. So, Jesus says *"What I do thou knowest not now, but thou shall know hereafter."* So, to Peter He was saying whatever I'm saying or doing right now, Peter it's important—Trust Me! But Jesus makes it even plainer—*"If I wash not your feet, you'll have no part in me."* So, to those listening, He's saying *"Except ye eat the flesh of the Son of man, and drink his blood, ye have no life in you."* Just as the washing of the feet had an important meaning, eating the flesh of the Son of Man and drinking the blood has an important meaning. The feet dealt with servitude, while the flesh and blood dealt with eternal Life. Everything that Jesus says or do has meaning, *"just do whatever he tells you to do"* as Mary His mother says.

6:54 **Whoso eateth my flesh, and drinketh my blood, hath eternal life; and I will raise him up at the last day.** This is made clear as Jesus tells them that eating His flesh and drinking His blood was meant to receive Christ into his heart; into his innermost being. We would have eternal life; raised to live forever with Him. However, **this offer is conditional**—He says *"Whoso"*— then *"I will."* He's not making you do anything, but if you will, then He will do the rest!

6:60 **Many of his disciples, when they had heard this, said, this is an hard saying; who can hear it?—** Jesus' message was to the synagogue crowd in Capernaum (6:59) and many of His disciples and followers were present to hear His teachings, but had difficulty accepting what He said. Men are often offended by Christ, but His disciples called it a hard saying. Mind you, these disciples or followers were not *"the twelve."* The words *"hard saying"* means *rough and harsh.* The words were clearly heard, not quite understood, and yet unbelievable. So, what offended them? Oh yeah, the part about eating His flesh and drinking His blood. So, many of His disciples had a problem. Yeah, their hearts weren't in all the way. They had a hard

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time receiving this one. If they couldn't understand it, how could they tell it? Nobody would want to listen.

6:61 When Jesus knew within himself that his disciples murmured at it, he said unto them, Doth this offend you?— Since Jesus knows everything, He knew within Himself that something was wrong with His disciples. They murmured at what He had said. Jesus asked them point blank: *"Does this offend you?"* They might have been thinking cannibalism, but Christ meant that a man is to spiritually receive Christ into their life. He must allow Christ to become the very nourishment, and consumption of their life. Revelation 3:20 says *"Behold, I stand at the door, and knock, if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him and will sup with him, and he with me."*

II. EXPLANATION AND ALIENATION JOHN 6:62-66

6:62 What and if ye shall see the Son of man ascend up where he was before?— Well, the lesson shifts because if they thought what Jesus said before was a hard saying, this question will lead to men being offended by the ascension and exaltation of Christ. If a man accepts the ascension and exaltation of Christ, he has to surrender the control of his life to Christ. He can no longer control his own life, and do the things he wishes. Therefore, if they see the Son of man (Jesus) ascend up to where He was before, things will have to change. Two things:

1. Jesus referred to Himself as the *"Son of Man."* If a man accepted Christ as the *"Son of Man,"* he would have to pattern his life after Christ by relying on the Spirit of God, living for Christ.
2. Jesus says *"ascend up where he was before"* points to the fact and truth that Jesus is eternal; preexistent. Therefore, a man is to believe and surrender himself to Jesus Christ as his Lord.

6:63 It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing: the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life. This is another explanation to show that men are offended by the teaching that the Spirit quickens and the flesh profits nothing. A person is dead spiritually while alive physically (in the body), that's why Jesus told Nicodemus in John 3:6 *"That which is born of the flesh is flesh and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit."* The flesh can't do what the Spirit does. A person who has been born again by God's Spirit is made alive spiritually; dead to sin and alive unto righteousness.

1. The flesh cannot quicken and make a man alive. The flesh cannot profit a man. Men do not like to accept or think about the zero value of the flesh. They do everything they can to keep its youth, attractiveness, and stamina. We use cosmetics, clothing, and activities to appear young, attractive, and physically capable. But, before too long, before we even imagine, the flesh proves unprofitable. It ages, deteriorates, and surrenders to the process of decay. The seed of corruption wins, and man dies. The flesh proves its zero value eternally. Once a man dies, his flesh is gone forever, never to return. 1 Corinthians 15:50a says *"Flesh and Blood cannot enter the Kingdom of God."*
2. Only the Spirit can quicken a man and make him alive, giving eternal life. How? By receiving the Words that Jesus Christ spoke. They are Spirit and Life and when one receives these Words in his heart by faith, they will begin to live. He suddenly comes alive to that one-time experience of the Spirit of God entering his life.

6:64 But there are some of you that believe not. For Jesus knew from the beginning who they were that believed not, and who should betray him. So, there were some counterfeit disciples among them. They had a heart problem, that is, they didn't believe.

3. There are some of you who do not believe. They did not accept Jesus' Words; therefore, they did

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not have the Spirit of God abiding in them, nor did they have life. They were only existing, not living abundantly and eternally. They didn't have the knowledge, and unswerving assurance of living forever.

6:65 And he said, Therefore said I unto you, that no man can come unto me, except it were given unto him of my Father. Few think they are lost and doomed. They really think they've done alright. So, when Jesus says that no man can come to Him except it was given to Him of the Father, this greatly disturbed many of them. Many may think they are good by themselves, and that they have enough good inside them to be acceptable to God, but, that's not true. It will not happen unless the Father draws you. John 6:44 says, *"No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him..."*

6:66 From that time many of his disciples went back, and walked no more with him. Therefore, many of the disciples/ followers forsook Jesus by going back from whence they came. It was too much for them and they walked away from Him after hearing His statement; alienating themselves from Jesus; going back to their normal jobs. They found out that following Jesus cost too much. Jesus said:

- He is the Bread of Life.
- They were to eat His body and drink His blood.
- The Son of man will ascend up where he was before.
- The flesh profits nothing; it's the spirit that quickens.
- You can't come to Him unless it was given to Him of the Father.

Some follow for hype and miracles. This seemed to be the fact about these disciples because when it got hard, they alienated Jesus.

III. QUESTIONS AND UNDERSTANDING JOHN 6:67-71

6:67 Then said Jesus unto the twelve, Will ye also go away?— Now, Jesus confronts His hand-picked twelve, by asking them point blank, *"Will ye also go away?"*

6:68 Then Simon Peter answered him, Lord, to whom shall we go? thou hast the words of eternal life. Peter spoke for all of them. First of all, he called Him "Lord" and basically said *"where we gon go?"* One true thing is that they believed Him. It wasn't about hype or miracles, for then Peter declared that Jesus was the only One that had the Words of eternal life. No one else was proclaiming it or can give it.

6:69 And we believe and are sure that thou art that Christ, the Son of the living God. These chosen twelve believed. Peter said, *"And we believe."* Believe what? - *"That Jesus was the Christ, the Son of the Living God sent by the Father."*

6:70 Jesus answered them, Have not I chosen you twelve, and one of you is a devil?— Jesus speaks truth because He had chosen these twelve and He does know that one is a devil.

6:71 He spake of Judas Iscariot the son of Simon: for he it was that should betray him, being one of the twelve. This is none other than *"Judas Iscariot the son of Simon"*

1. Judas was a chosen man; chosen not only to be saved, but to be a minister of Christ, yet a betrayer. So, mixed in this group of chosen is a professional follower and hypocrite.
2. Judas was called a devil; a false accuser; an adversary; an enemy.

Matthew 7:21 says *"Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven."*



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SUMMARY:

Jesus began to explain *"Truly, truly (I tell you a true thing) if you don't eat of the flesh of the Son of man (receive Him) and drink His blood, you can't have His life (eternal life) dwelling within."* Whoso eats Jesus' flesh, and drinks His blood, has eternal life, and Jesus will raise him up at the last day. His message was to the synagogue crowd in Capernaum (6:59) and many of His disciples and followers were present to hear His teachings, but had difficulty accepting what He said. They called it a hard saying. Since Jesus knows everything, He knew within Himself that something was wrong with His disciples. He knew they had murmured at what He had said, and He asked them point blank: *"Does this offend you?"* **(6:53-54; 60-61).**

Well, the lesson shifts because if they thought what Jesus said before was a hard saying, this question will lead to men being offended by the ascension and exaltation of Christ. Therefore, if they see the Son of man (Jesus) ascend up to where He was before, things will have to change. The flesh cannot profit a man. It is the spirit that quickens; and the words that Jesus spoke were spirit, and life. But there were some that didn't believe. Jesus knew from the beginning who didn't believe, and who would betray Him. So, when Jesus says that no man can come to Him except it was given to Him of the Father, this greatly disturbed many of them, and they walked away from Him, for it was too much for them after hearing His statement; alienating themselves **(6:62-66).**

Now, Jesus confronts His hand-picked twelve, by asking them point blank, *"Will ye also go away?"* Peter made the statement *"whom shall we go? thou hast the words of eternal life."* Peter spoke for all of the twelve. These chosen twelve believed that Jesus was the Christ, the Son of the Living God sent by the Father. Jesus speaks truth because He had chosen these twelve and He does know that one is a devil. He spoke of one of the twelve, being Judas Iscariot the son of Simon, for it was he that should betray Jesus, **(6:67-71).**

APPLICATION:

²When human reasoning collides against God's declaration, our fallible (*imperfect*; weak) reasoning must submit to God's infallible (*unfailing, foolproof, reliable*) truth!

²<https://www.bibleversestudy.com/johngospel/john6-no-one-can-come-to-me-unless-the-father.htm#:~:text=Until%20then,%20when%20human%20reasoning%20collides%20against%20God's,we%20evangelize%20and%20potentially%20get%20in%20God's%20way?>