

John Chapter 6 (DDC) – April 13, 2008

- To quickly recap, last week (or rather 2 weeks ago – last week was Easter) we discussed John Chapter 5
- And in Chapter 5 Jesus is in Jerusalem doing the work of the Father.
- During his stint in Jerusalem he encounters a lame man at the pool of Bethesda and Jesus heals him.
- Because Jesus healed the man on the Sabbath the Pharisees accuse Jesus of breaking the Sabbath (which is against the Mosaic Law) and a controversy is stirred up.
- Well John spends the rest of the Chapter showing how Jesus is working in Harmony with the Father and Jesus is literally here doing the work of the Father
- And he concludes the Chapter with those evidences that testify that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the Living God.

So that brings us to Chapter 6.

But before we dig into Chapter 6... I want to start off by reading a couple verses from Isaiah Chapter 55. I wanted to look at all of Chapter 55 because of how it directly relates to John Chapter 6, but because of time we will just quickly look at the first couple verses.

- For the sake of context:
- Isaiah is termed the Messianic Prophet, and that is simply because of the amount of prophetic text that he gave us regarding the messiah.
- The book of Isaiah is broken up into 66 chapters; curiously similar to the 66 books in the Bible.
- More curious than that is the fact that the first 39 Chapters speak largely of Israel's failure to live up to God's laws.
- And the next 27 chapters speak clearly of God's redemption.
- Surprisingly similar to the 39 books of the Old Testament and the 27 books of the New Testament
- Well the verses that we are going to read are taken from Chapter 55 with is right after Chapters 53 and 54 which predict in great deal the events of the Jesus death.
- As we begin reading about Jesus being the bread of life, I want to start with one of the many things God told us through his prophets
- This section of Isaiah is termed: God's Invitation to the World
- This is what God promised to mankind.

Isa 55:1 "Come, all you who are thirsty,
come to the waters;
and you who have no money,
come, buy and eat!
Come, buy wine and milk
without money and without cost.

Isa 55:2 Why spend money on what is not bread,
and your labor on what does not satisfy?

Listen, listen to me, and eat what is good,
and your soul will delight in the richest of fare.

- The Bible talks in depth about three groups of people
 - Israelites
 - Gentile
 - Church
- Isaiah is explicit in saying “come all you who are thirsty.”
- This is God’s invitation to the whole world... to share in the redeemer that he was to bring.
- As it talks about here this redeemer that was promised was not only going to bring an eventual end to suffering... but first to satisfy that spiritual longing found in man
- To quench that thirst and that hunger that burns in our souls

-Prayer

Since we are coving quite a bit of material tonight, I'm not going to read Chapter 6 first... we are just going to walk right through it.

So verse 1 starts of by saying:

Joh 6:1a Some time after this,

- This statement is used many times through out John
- Many scholars believe Matthew Chapters 4:12 through 14:12 all occur between John Chapter 5 and John Chapter 6.
- So when it says “Some time after this” a fair amount of time that has actually gone by since the events of Chapter 5.
- And of course that begs the question: Why would John leave out so much material?
...
 - Sermon on the Mount
 - Several parables
- To answer that I would say simply that Johns had a specific purpose in mind when writing his gospel and that is that we would believe in Jesus and have life through him (as he states in John Ch20 Vs. 31)
- John is giving us a succession of events (not all the events that transpired; not even close)
- But rather he is giving us a series of events that accomplishes his purpose. That shows us who Jesus is that we might believe in him.
- He is up front with us about the fact that there are gaps in the story.
- In fact he concludes his gospel with the fact that all the world could not hold enough books to write down every good thing that Jesus did.
- So obviously John is not attempting to do that.
- It’s important to understand this because when someone asks you why some stories are in some gospels and not in the others... we need to have an answer for that.
- And the answer is simply... the Gospels were each written for a different purpose. To accomplish that purpose some similar stories were used... and some dissimilar stories used.

- So... that being said, we do know that Jesus has left Jerusalem (which is where the pool of Bethesda is located) and now is at the Sea of Galilee.
 - Let's look in our Bible atlas's
 - Sea of Galilee or the *Sea of Tiberias* is located almost 70 miles directly north of Jerusalem
- So we know many events have transpired since Chapter 5.
- And geographically speaking Jesus is about 70 miles north of where Chapter 5 took place.

Moving on it says:

Joh 6:1b Jesus crossed to the far shore of the Sea of Galilee (that is, the Sea of Tiberias), **Joh 6:2** and a great crowd of people followed him because they saw the miraculous signs he had performed on the sick.

- So Jesus at this time was attracting a large following
- That's not hard to believe.
- People are attracted to Jesus.
- Jesus has an appealing force and power that is not necessarily fully explainable.
- In fact one thing that I find particularly interesting as I look around and survey the church is that Jesus appeals to people in all walks of life.
- of all cultures.
- and of all ages
 - little children are attracted to Jesus.
 - I think there are few things more beautiful than the attraction that even a child has for Jesus.
 - And in a lot of ways probably a stronger and greater attraction than we, who have become so complex and mixed up in our thinking processes.
- Well Jesus attracts people (there is not question about that... even today), but people are attracted for different reasons.
 - Some legitimate and some less legitimate.
 - (We can perhaps discuss legitimate vs. non legitimate reasons why people are drawn to Jesus afterwards)
 - But it would be logical to assume that this is true here in Chapter 6.
- We are told these people (this large crowd) was attracted to Jesus because of the spectacular miracles that He was doing for the sick.

It goes on to say:

Joh 6:3 Then Jesus went up on a mountainside and sat down with his disciples.

- These people sought to glorify Jesus because of the miracles he had done.
- And what does Jesus do?
- He goes away. So the question becomes... Why??
- Why would Jesus leave when people were coming to see Jesus and to glorify him? Later on we will read that they even attempt to make him King by force.
- If people were glorifying Jesus, why would that not be good? Why would he go away?
- There are a number of reasons that we could give.
- Including it wasn't Jesus time, to show his humility, perhaps he was wearied from the crowd... etc.

- I would propose this reason. Jesus is to be glorified for **WHO HE IS ...** which is primary to the things he does.
- We are thankful and we love him for what he has done. But we glorify him and he is King... because of who he is.
- These people sought to glorify him because of a few simple miracles that he had done.
- Think about it... Jesus is the God of the universe wrapped in human flesh. We can't even comprehend how big that is.
- Doesn't it only make sense that he is to be glorified... but not simply because of some simple miracles.
- In other words I could see Jesus saying as he went away to the hill side "If all you think I am is some simple miracles... you are missing the point".
- One way I like to think of this is...
 - If the president came to your house for dinner. And you had spend the day preparing... cleaning ect, you had the nice dishes out....
 - And the president gave you a fine bottle of wine
 - Wouldn't it be a little weird if all you could talk about is the bottle of wine
 - And if your friends asked you why you cleaned the house and why you put on your best cloths... you answered "because he brought me a bottle of wine".
 - No you do all that because of who the president is. Because of his position.
- Do you see what I'm talking about?
- Jesus is God and thus we must glorify him, that is primary. In fact, once this world fades away... it says every knee will bow, including those who are terrified because they have rejected Jesus. Never the less their knee will bow.
- Why? Because Jesus is to be glorified for who he is. He's God.
- He's not the "traveling miracle show"
- There is an important distinction there.

Well it goes on to say:

Joh 6:4 The Jewish Passover Feast was near.

Joh 6:5 When Jesus looked up and saw a great crowd coming toward him, he said to Philip, "Where shall we buy bread for these people to eat?"

Joh 6:6 He asked this only to test him, for he already had in mind what he was going to do.

Joh 6:7 Philip answered him, "Eight months' wages^[1] would not buy enough bread for each one to have a bite!"

- So the picture here is this:
 - Jesus is in the Galilee, fleshing out his ministry (doing the work of the Father).
 - And because of the amazing signs (and maricles), a multitude of people began pursuing him and following him (which is understandable).
 - Well in response to that Jesus pulls away to a mountain side with his select followers. And as he and his followers are communing, he looks up and a great crowd of people are coming toward him.
 - They found him.
 - And Jesus does a rather curious thing here. He leans over (or at least I picture him leaning over" and he asks Philip "Where shall we buy bread for these people to eat?"

- And then the text tells us “He asked this only to test him, for he already had in mind what he was going to do. “
 - If he already knew what he was going to do... why would he ask him?
 - Why ask a question when you already know the answer?
 - Jesus does this numerous times. He asks questions when he knows the answer. Why would he do that?
 - For the same reason that I asked you that question.
 - Because he wants us to think.
 - He wanted Philip to think... “Where will we find bread for all these people?”
 - And the answer is: “No where... there is to many people.”
- ... you can almost sense a pause... as Philip was analyzing... and then Philip says:

Joh 6:7 "Eight months' wages^[1] would not buy enough bread for each one to have a bite!"

- I suspect it was quiet for a second or two...
- then it says

Joh 6:8 Another of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, spoke up,

Joh 6:9 “Here is a boy with five small barley loaves and two small fish, but how far will they go among so many?”

- I can almost picture him becoming embarrassed half way through his response and trailing off with:
- “I'm sorry I said it because, you know, what's that with such a large crowd?”
- You can see the disciples minds turning and you can almost sense the silence as they sat and pondered...
- Master wants us to feed all these people. How can we feed these people?
- I personally think there was probably a bit of a pause while Jesus let them think.
- Then:

Joh 6:10a Jesus said, "Have the people sit down." There was plenty of grass in that place,

Now for the sake of picturing the scene correctly:

- We are told in verse 4 that the Passover feast is near. Which means this takes place in spring in the Galilee.
- From the descriptions that I've read and the pictures I've seen... spring time in the Galilee has to be one of the more beautiful places imaginable.
- There's grassy fields, filled with yellow daisies, and all sorts of beautiful wild flowers that would be beginning to bloom right around Passover time.
- Well in that area there is a lot of grass. We are told that Jesus went away to a mountain, so it is reasonable to assume this takes place at a base of one of the Galilean mountains. And at the base of these mountains would be large grassy hills.
- And Jesus instructs them, "Have the crowds sit down."

Joh 6:10b and the men sat down, about five thousand of them.

- 5,000 people... so we're talking about a lot of people

Joh 6:11 Jesus then took the loaves, gave thanks, and distributed to those who were seated as much as they wanted. He did the same with the fish.

- I think it is interesting that Jesus took what he had (the small amount of food that he had) and he thanks God for it.
- And then a miracle occurs.
- It was after he took what he had and prayed over it... that a miracle followed.
- If I could learn just one lesson from Chapter 6 it we would be:
 - God doesn't want us to become something... and then give him what we've become... he wants us to surrender all that we are... right now... imperfections and all.
- Jesus took the tiny amount of food that they had... and he gave thanks.
- Then a miracle occurred and he distributed the meal to all.
- And it says they ate as much as they wanted.

It goes on to say:

Joh 6:12a When they had all had enough to eat,

- The word in Greek is *glutted*, when they were stuffed

Joh 6:12b he said to his disciples, "Gather the pieces that are left over. Let nothing be wasted."

- Jesus had them gather the pieces.
- Wouldn't it have been easy to look at that bread as just free bread?
- If there was that much food, I could see my self not really worrying about wasting some of the bread. Heck it was miracle food, no one was expecting food anyway.
- What is the big deal with wasting a little of it?
- I am such a wasteful person. Ask my wife. Reading these verses really convicted me.
- Jesus is not a wasteful person.
- Being wasteful is equal to being ungrateful.
- And Jesus instructs them to gather the pieces that are left over... Let nothing be wasted.

Joh 6:13 So they gathered them and filled twelve baskets with the pieces of the five barley loaves left over by those who had eaten.

Joh 6:14 After the people saw the miraculous sign that Jesus did, they began to say, "Surely this is the Prophet who is to come into the world."

- That is a reference to the prophecy of Moses that declared in Deuteronomy Chapter 18

Deu 18:15 The LORD your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among your own brothers. You must listen to him

- They were looking for that prophet liken to Moses. And when they saw this miracle they said, "This is who Moses no doubt was talking about."
- And thus they recognized Jesus was the promised Messiah.

- In recognizing that this group of people wanted to make public acclamation.
- They wanted to take Him and to essentially force Him to be the King. To establish the Kingdom that had been prophesied about.
- Well that obviously was not according to God's plan.
- Jesus, rather than stepping in with the popular movement at this point, just slipped away (again) from them and went into the mountain alone. He did not allow them to prematurely acclaim Him as their King.

What day did God ordain to announce Jesus as King?

Chuck Smith said the following regarding the day God choose to announce himself. He said:

God had a special day to present His King to the nation. That special day we call today Palm Sunday, for it was the Sunday that preceded His crucifixion. And that was the day and the hour that God had prepared and had prophesied when His promised Redeemer would come. And that day Jesus set up carefully. Having the disciples go into the city to get the donkey that He might ride into Jerusalem on the donkey and, thus, fulfill the prophesy of Zechariah. That day He allowed the disciples to cry out that Messianic Psalm 118, "Hosanna, Hosanna, blessed is He who comes in the name of Lord. Glory to God in the highest." And He allowed them to cry out that Psalm. When the Pharisees objected, He said if they would at this time hold their peace, these very stones would cry out. That was the day He wept over Jerusalem and said, "If you had only known the things that belong to thy peace in this thy day, but they are hid from your eyes" (Luke 19:42).

- That was the day God had ordained.
- Here there is a premature attempt to establish Him as King by the people. Jesus rejected this movement of the people because He was working in God's time schedule and not man's.
- It may sound trite... but if we could only learn to work in God's time schedule rather than our own.
- We constantly desire to do things prematurely. I am probably one of the guiltiest people around in this area. I want things done now.
- God never seems to work quite as fast as we would like Him to work.
- There was a time and there was an hour ordained by the Father... and Jesus was patient.

It goes on to say:

Joh 6:15 Jesus, knowing that they intended to come and make him king by force, withdrew again to a mountain by himself.

- But Jesus didn't need the approval man.
- Why would God need the approval of man?
- I love that I follow Jesus.
- I love that Jesus is God.

- There are so many things about Jesus that make me fall in love with him.
- Here we have a situation where man intended to do something that was outside of God's will. What did Jesus do?
- Jesus humbly and patiently withdraws... because man did not know what God intended.
- So what did God intend? Why were they trying to make him king by force?
- If you look through prophecy there are many prophecies about the messiah
 - a. Crowned messiah
 - b. Suffering servant
- People were looking for the crowned messiah... but not understanding why there were all these prophecies about a suffering servant.
- At that time they had conjectured that perhaps there was to be two separate messiah's. But what they didn't suspect is that there would be one messiah... that comes twice.
- Jesus knew his purpose. Jesus knew he was coming as the suffering servant.
- He knew the Father's timing.

So Jesus withdrew to a mountain side. It says:

Joh 6:16 When evening came, his disciples went down to the lake,

Joh 6:17 where they got into a boat and set off across the lake for Capernaum. By now it was dark, and Jesus had not yet joined them. (*seems kind of rude... doesn't it*)

Joh 6:18 A strong wind was blowing and the waters grew rough.

Joh 6:19 When they had rowed three or three and a half miles,^[2] they saw Jesus approaching the boat, walking on the water; and they were terrified.

- At first I wondered why they were terrified. But it goes on to say:

Joh 6:20 But he said to them, "It is I; don't be afraid."

- So I'm guessing they must not have recognized him until he said this.

So it goes on to say:

Joh 6:21 Then they were willing to take him into the boat, and immediately the boat reached the shore where they were heading.

- The word immediately is likened to quickly... or shortly thereafter.
- There is no evidence that this is a miracle... but rather, shortly after the disciples took Jesus on to the boat they arrived at their destination.

Joh 6:22 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.

Joh 6:23 Then some boats from Tiberias landed near the place where the people had eaten the bread after the Lord had given thanks.

Joh 6:24 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.

Joh 6:25 When they found him on the other side of the lake, they asked him, "Rabbi, when did you get here?"

- They knew Jesus had left alone. Yet He was there on the other side of the lake with his disciples.
- So they ask a logical question.
- Rabbi when did you get here?
- In other words, how is it possible that you are here? It doesn't make sense... your disciples went one way... and you went the other way.
- Watch how he responds:

Joh 6:26a Jesus answered, "I tell you the truth,

- He didn't tell them how He got there, He just says, "I tell you the truth..."

Joh 6:26b you are looking for me, not because you saw miraculous signs but because you ate the loaves and had your fill.

- You are seeking Me for the wrong reasons.
- You are seeking with the wrong motives.
- You are only seeking Me because you had your stomach stuffed with bread and fish, and that's not the reason to seek Me."
- Remember what we talked about before. Jesus does not wish to be the "traveling miracle show". Miracles strengthen our faith and give us insight into the heart of the father.
- But we are not to seek Jesus because of the miracles.
- I find it interesting that Jesus would not accept those who were seeking Him with wrong motivations. Why?
- I look around in today's culture and there are so many people today (me included at times) who seek Jesus with wrong motivations.
- In fact there are many pastors and prominent church leaders who encourage people to seek Jesus for the wrong reasons.
- "Seek Jesus because he can fix this material problem you have".

But Jesus says:

Joh 6:27a Do not work for food that spoils, but for food that endures to eternal life

- Jesus is saying: "Don't labor for the material things, don't spend your life striving for material things... things that will not full fill you.
- Don't believe that something material can satisfy our spirit.
- Strive for spiritual things.
- The spiritual is superior to the material, that was the constant claim that Jesus made.
- Our flesh will die. This world with fade away.
- But our spirit is eternal. And it is our spirit that hungers for fulfillment.
- Our culture constantly challenges that.
- And we in our own minds oftentimes challenge it as well.
- We play with these ideas that this or that... or this person or that person... will make me happy... or fulfill me.

- Satan is constantly holding up to us the glitter and glory of the material realm and saying, "Look, wouldn't you like this?"
- But God tells us, "Don't strive, don't labor for the meat which perishes, but for that which is life eternal, for the spiritual things, that which endures to everlasting life."

Joh 6:27b, which the Son of Man will give you. On him God the Father has placed his seal of approval."

Joh 6:28 Then they asked him, "What must we do to do the works God requires?"

- Did you catch their question? Lets read it again.
- In other words: "that sounds great... but what must we do?"
- They are asking the question that I've asked, and I'm sure you've asked.
- The question that people oftentimes asks when they become conscious of the spiritual dimension.
- What can I do to obtain this approval from God?
- We remember the rich young ruler that came and fell before Jesus and said, "What good thing must I do to inherit the Kingdom of Heaven?"
- Master, what shall I do?"
- I am constantly looking for some work that I might do for God so that I might feel worthy of his love... and his gift.
- Think about that... what work does God require of us?

Joh 6:29a Jesus answered, "The work of God is this:

- Are you ready

Joh 6:29b "The work of God is this: to believe in the one he has sent."

- Isn't that interesting?
- What work can you do to be pleasing to God?
- The work you can do is believe and trust in Jesus.
- That's what pleases the Father.
- This is the work of God, that you believe in the one he has sent.

Joh 6:30 So they asked him, "What miraculous sign then will you give that we may see it and believe you? What will you do?"

Joh 6:31 Our forefathers ate the manna in the desert; as it is written: 'He gave them bread from heaven to eat.'^[3] "

- In other words – the manna from heaven is how they knew... what sign will you give us so we know you are who you say.
- Funny they ask that... considering they were following him because of all the miracles.

Joh 6:32 Jesus said to them, "I tell you the truth, 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."

- They felt Moses had given their forefathers the manna in the desert as a sign that he was from God.
- But Jesus corrects them, He says, Moses didn't give you the manna,
- My Father sent it... can't you see that.
- Jesus is saying... it was my Father who gave you the manna... and it is my Father who is now giving to you the true bread from heaven.
- Your fathers ate of that manna and they died. True it was a blessing, but it was only a material blessing.
- But now the father is giving you the true bread from heaven.
- What is this true bread? What is this bread that will satisfy my soul?

And Jesus goes on to say:

Joh 6:33 For the bread of God is he who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world."

- Gives life. Remember John Chapter 3.
- This is the bread of God that gives life to our spirit which is dead because of sin.
- The bread of God is that which will nourish the spirit.
- That which will bring fulfillment and peace to our carnal existence.
- It says he came down from heaven and gives His life unto the world.

They responded:

Joh 6:34 "Sir," they said, "from now on give us this bread."

Joh 6:35 Then Jesus declared, "I am the bread of life. He who comes to me will never go hungry, and he who believes in me will never be thirsty."

- These people had just eaten the day before and were stuffed, but they were hungry again.
- They had eaten of the bread of this world. And though you can eat today and you can be so stuffed,
- and trust me I've eaten (those who know me know I love to eat)... but it's not long until we're hungry again. It just doesn't satisfy.
- But Jesus said, "I'm the bread of God, I come down from heaven. If you eat of Me, you'll never hunger again. And if you believe in Me you'll never thirst again."
- Like the food of this world there is that area of man's life that seems to never be satisfied,
- that always is crying out for more, more, and more... give me this. I need that.
- And though a person pursues after the pleasures, the excitements, the thrills of the world,
- If there is one thing that is true... once we acquire what we desire... it isn't long before we're thirsting again.
- But Jesus said, "I'm the bread of heaven. God has sent Me. And if you eat of Me you'll never hunger again, and if you believe in Me you'll never thirst again."
- That hunger of the soul will be quenched

- That thirst of the spirit will be satisfied.
- Such that we can say... the words that are unthinkable to this world... the words that Paul wrote when he reflected upon his life....
- He said to live is Christ and to die is gain.
- In other words the material world means nothing.
- Why? Because his spirit was fulfilled and satisfied with the bread of life.

And then Jesus reassures us. It says:

Joh 6:36 But as I told you, you have seen me and still you do not believe.

Joh 6:37 All that the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never drive away.

- What a comforting word
- Whoever comes to me I will never drive away.
- Satan says to us, "Look, there's no sense in you going to God. He doesn't want anything to do with you; you're a failure. Your life is a mess. He won't open the door for you."
- And he plants unbelief in our hearts,
- The sad fact is, If I believe that God won't receive me, then God won't receive me because I won't come to him.
- But Jesus said, "Whoever comes to me I will never drive away."
- Think about what he's saying. "Whoever comes to me I will never drive away."
- What encouraging words.

He goes on to say:

Joh 6:38 For I have come down from heaven not to do my will but to do the will of him who sent me.

- The works that I do, I do not of myself, but the Father who dwells with in me.

Joh 6:39a And this is the will of him who sent me,

- Ok... that's the kind of statement that should peak our attention.

He goes on to say:

Joh 6:39 And this is the will of him who sent me, that I shall lose none of all that he has given me, but raise them up at the last day.

Joh 6:40 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 him up at the last day."

- Some will receive and some won't receive.
- Those who receive and believe... it is the Father's will that they be raised up in the last day and that they shall have eternal life.

Joh 6:41 At this the Jews began to grumble about him because he said, "I am the bread that came down from heaven."

Joh 6:42a They said, "Is this not Jesus, the son of Joseph

- Isn't this that guy that lived over there...
- You can almost hear people saying yeah I was his neighbor... or
- My buddy is best friends with his brother.

They go on to say:

Joh 6:42b "Is this not Jesus, the son of Joseph whose father and mother we know? How can he now say, 'I came down from heaven'?"

- How typical it is for us claim that we know something because we happen to have come in to proximity with it.
- In our arrogance we claim allsorts of knowledge.
- I can think of many times my wife has come to me with something and because I have a little knowledge on the subject I speak as though I was an authority on it.
- One of our fallen flaws... is that we claim to know that which we don't know
- Jesus knew this and says in Mark 6:4

Mar 6:4 Jesus said to them, "Only in his hometown, among his relatives and in his own house is a prophet without honor."

(Prophet – someone God is using to speak to the world)

- Often we turn our brains off when we think we have the answer.
- Often we quit thinking when we think we know something or someone.
- And that is what Jesus is talking about.
- Reason with God. Think. Never assume.

It goes on to say:

Joh 6:43 "Stop grumbling among yourselves," Jesus answered.

Joh 6:44 "No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him, and I will raise him up at the last day.

- Here's an interesting statement by Jesus, one that we need to take note of.
- No man can come to Jesus unless the Father draws him.
- Now first I would say that takes the pressure off of me and my witnessing.
- Because I sometimes get discouraged when I witness to a person and I can lay what in my mind seems so logical and so clear. And nothing happens.
- It says no man can come except the Father draw him.
- Well we might say, "That's not fair."
- And I would counter, did the Father draw you? -- Yes
- It would appear there are the two sides to the coin.
- You can't come unless the Father draws you
- and I believe that the scriptures show that the father draws all people.
- But He doesn't necessarily draw all people... **all** the time.

- But the door is open for all men.
- My personal belief is that if we truly want someone to come to Christ... if we truly want someone to be saved... we must pray that the father draws them.
- How we in our arrogance like to take control. "We can save this person".
- We must pray that the father draws them.
- And why must we pray?
- Because it says here anyone who comes can receive eternal life. But no one comes unless the father draws them.
- Pray... Pray... Pray

Joh 6:45 It is written in the Prophets: "They will all be taught by God."^[4] Everyone who listens to the Father and learns from him comes to me.

- This verse makes quotes Isaiah 54:13
- In other words... if we lay aside ourselves and listen to the Father... if we listen to God... what will he say?
- What will the God of the universe say?
- He will teach us of Jesus.
- He will lay it upon our hearts.

Joh 6:46 No one has seen the Father except the one who is from God; only he has seen the Father.

Joh 6:47 I tell you the truth, he who believes has everlasting life.

- Now... take notice of the radical claims that Jesus is making concerning Himself.
- He said "I am the bread that comes down from heaven"

He goes on to say:

Joh 6:48 I am the bread of life.

Joh 6:49 Your forefathers ate the manna in the desert, yet they died.

Joh 6:50 But here is the bread that comes down from heaven, which a man may eat and not die.

- We eat of him and we receive life
- We eat of him and we thirst no more
- We eat of him and we hunger no more

He goes on to say:

Joh 6:51 I am the living bread that came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever. This bread is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world."

- In Matthew Chapter 26 it says:
- He took the bread and He broke it, and He said, "Take, eat; this is My body broken for you"
- "The bread is My flesh that I will give for the life of the world." (long pause)

Well it says:

Joh 6:52 Then the Jews began to argue sharply among themselves, "How can this man give us his flesh to eat?" (*practical question*)

Joh 6:53a Jesus said to them,

- You having trouble guys? I'm going to make it a little harder.

Joh 6:53b "I tell you the truth, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you.

- You're dead;
- Unless you drink of me...
- Unless you eat of me...
- you're dead
- Dead in your trespasses... dead in sin
- Apart from Jesus you have no life in you
- You may be physically alive... but like an animal your spirit is dead
- He made this even more difficult for those who were listening.
- He said not only must you eat of me but apart from me.... apart from Jesus... you have no life

Joh 6:54 Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day.

Joh 6:55 For my flesh is real food and my blood is real drink.

- So graphic (pause)
- And it says Jesus took the cup and He said, "Take, drink; this is the blood of the new covenant which is shed for the remission of sin" ([Matthew 26:27-28](#)).
- "Eat of My flesh, drink of My blood, partake of Me, that you might have life. For My flesh is meat indeed My blood is drink indeed." (pause)
- And on the cross his flesh was broken
- And on the cross his blood was spilt... for us. (pause)
- Our life is derived through his death.
- And in communion we eat the bread and we drink the wine as remembrance that our life comes from eating of his flesh and drinking of his blood.

He goes on to say:

Joh 6:56 Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood remains in me, and I in him. (*can we lose our salvation?*)

Joh 6:57 Just as the living Father sent me and I live because of the Father, so the one who feeds on me will live because of me.

Joh 6:58 This is the bread that came down from heaven. Your forefathers ate manna and died, but he who feeds on this bread will live forever."

Joh 6:59 He said this while teaching in the synagogue in Capernaum.

- Verse 59 gives us a little context so we can place when these things were happening within the other gospels.

Well Jesus's followers respond:

Joh 6:60 On hearing it, many of his disciples said, "This is a hard teaching. Who can accept it?"

Joh 6:61 Aware that his disciples were grumbling about this, Jesus said to them, "Does this offend you? (*Jesus wasn't afraid to be confrontational*)

Joh 6:62 What if you see the Son of Man ascend to where he was before!

- What he is really saying here is, what if you don't see the kingdom established right now?
- What if you aren't part of all the glory that you've been expecting?
- What if the father has a different plan?
- What if you see Me ascending up and going back to the Father?

Jesus goes on to say:

Joh 6:63a The Spirit gives life; the flesh counts for nothing.

- This is such an important point. And Jesus states it so plainly.
- He is drawing attention to the fact that they had eaten of the bread, and that's why they came. Their stomachs were filled.
- He is saying don't seek that bread which perishes, but that bread which is everlasting life.
- Which brings us back to that thought, "It is the Spirit that makes alive, the flesh profits nothing."
- I suggest you underline "The flesh profits nothing."

Joh 6:63b The words I have spoken to you are spirit^[5] and they are life.

- There is power in the word of God.
- That is something I hold so much more true today than I did even 5 years ago.
- There is power in the word of God.
- The word of God is alive and sharper than any two edged sword.
- The word of God is Spirit and the word of God is life.

Joh 6:64 Yet there are some of you who do not believe." For Jesus had known from the beginning which of them did not believe and who would betray him.

Joh 6:65 He went on to say, "This is why I told you that no one can come to me unless the Father has enabled him."

- Again Jesus is declaring the only way you can come is that the Father draws you. You can't come unless the Father draws you.

Their response to Jesus:

Joh 6:66 From this time many of his disciples turned back and no longer followed him.

- They couldn't handle it.
- It was too much.
- As soon as he starts talking about the denial of the flesh
- and that spiritual things are primary and the flesh counting as nothing, it was too much for some people. (pause)
- God through his prophets had promised a messiah and has described that messiah as both a suffering servant and a concurring King.
- Two things that in a lot of ways seem diametrically opposite.
- We started tonight talking about the fact that people are drawn to Jesus.
- Some for legitimate reasons and some for less than legitimate reasons.
- Well many of these people were drawn to Jesus because they thought he was going to establish His Kingdom right now.
- He was going to be that concurring King right now
- They wanted him to throw off the Roman yolk.
- And usher in the age of abundance where everyone would eat and drink and be full
- They wanted that kingdom and material prosperity
- But Jesus denounced it as secondary.
- Secondary in importance and it will come second in time.
- The primary thing is the spiritual Kingdom. Partaking of Jesus. The spiritual birth.
- Finding the life imparted to man through Jesus Christ.

Joh 6:67 "You do not want to leave too, do you?" Jesus asked the Twelve.

Joh 6:68 Simon Peter answered him, "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life.

- "To whom shall we go?"
- I love Peter's response.
- "To whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life."
- "To whom shall we go?" (pause)
- There was a period in my life where I was blessed financially
- Some stuff happened such that I could obtain many of the things that I had wanted for many years.
- So despite my wife's counsel, I blew a bunch of money (and I'm talking about a bunch of money) and I bought several things that I had wanted for years but thought I would never be able to afford.
- I remember being so excited.
- I've told this story to several of you so I won't go into a lot of detail
- I was expecting at least some level of satisfaction in acquiring
- And while I did experience some level of happiness at first
- it subsided... and I found emptiness.
- That itch that I thought would be scratched... still itched
- and I began to feel anxiety over my new possessions.
- and then some of the things didn't work right and I found myself angry

- All in all a few months later I distinctly remember sitting in my basement looking at some of the things I had bought and just sighing.
- And this stark reality that nothing I can ever obtain in this world will ever satisfy me.
- No material thing is worth pursuing.
- Nothing.
-
- But as I sat there I knew one thing does fulfill my soul.
- One thing does satisfy that appetite that I have for fulfillment. (pause)
- Peter said “Whom shall we go? It is you who have the words of eternal life.”
- There is no where else to turn.
- Our time spent looking, pursuing, longing, dreaming... for the material things of this world will leave us empty.
- Just look at what happens to people when they win the lottery, and they find out that the thing they thought would make them happy provides them no lasting fulfillment.
- Have you seen what happens to the vast majority of people when they win the lottery?
- Everything from drugs to bankruptcy to suicide.
- Why? Because not only did winning all that money not bring fulfillment but they lost the hope that they could find fulfillment through that means
- My prayer is that God engrains that on our hearts.
- It is truth. And I pray that he engrains it on our hearts.
- So that we understand fulfillment only comes through him.
- Everything material is just chasing after the wind.

Joh 6:69 We believe and know that you are the Holy One of God."

Joh 6:70 Then Jesus replied, "Have I not chosen you, the Twelve? Yet one of you is a devil!"

Joh 6:71 (He meant Judas, the son of Simon Iscariot, who, though one of the Twelve, was later to betray him.)

- This is the end of Chapter 6.
- In reading this, it may seem like a bit of a tone change... or deviation from the rest of Chapter 6
- But if you notice how John starts Chapter 7, it's evident that this is not a poor chapter break but rather this is a part of the same stream of thought.
- And as you dig into it I think this actually ties really well into the events of Chapter 6
- Here Jesus is telling us that he has chosen all 12 of them. And then he goes on to say “Yet one of you is a devil”.
- Which more literally means “one of you has sided with the devil”
- And it is easy to focus on the word devil... man Judas sided with the devil.
- But I think what should stand out to us is that he chose all 12.
- So... why would he choose Judas if he knew that eventually he would betray Jesus?
- In fact... why would God create Judas if He knew that Judas would betray Jesus?
- This brings us to the subject of predestination... which is a big subject.

- And beyond what we are discussing here.
- But think about this:
 - Jesus is talking to twelve guys
 - And John makes a point of saying that Jesus choose all 12 of them
- And I think it is important to see that Jesus choose Judas
 - And John accentuates it by saying that not only that... but Judas sided with the devil
- But the option of choosing Jesus was open to Judas
- God knew what Judas was going to do before he created the world
- Yet God chose to create Judas
- And Jesus chose Judas
- The Bible is filled with examples where we are asked to choose
- From basic sins to choosing Jesus
- Thus I would conclude God has given us freedom of choice
- This chapter talks about the fact that we can choose Jesus (and life)... or not
- And when we choose him... in return he completes a good work in us
- When we choose him and eat of him and drink of him
- He breaths life into our spirit
- He breaths fulfillment into our lives
- And I think John ends this with the atypical example
- Who would God not chose if he was not going to choose someone... Judas
- I think it hammers home the point that is made in verse 6:37
- "...whoever comes to me I will never drive away.."

It's a matter of you choosing Jesus

End

- I'm going to end with this
- I heard Chuck Smith say something rather curious when preparing for tonight
- He was talking about winning the battle against the flesh and he said
- "Don't battle the flesh, feed the spirt"
- Not to say we don't resist the flesh
- But if we want to overcome the flesh... feed the spirit
- How do we feed the spirit
- By believing, trusting and following Jesus