

## Introduction

Before we moved to Rome, Georgia, we had decided not to have a pet. We planted a garden at our new house, and a young black cat started watching Karen water the garden. Every day it came by and watched her in the garden. It became comfortable with us and eventually came up on our porch. Because it was a black cat, we named it Shadow. We offered the cat some food, and it gladly received it. Once we started feeding the cat, he expected to be fed by us. The cat had found a home, and it was here to stay; it was our cat.

In the first part of John 6, Jesus and His disciples had crossed over to the other side of the Sea of Galilee to get some downtime. The twelve apostles had just returned from their first missionary trip and they were exhausted. The ministry demands had been so great that they had not even had time to eat. Jesus told them to come away and get some much-needed rest. Jesus had just heard from John's disciples that Herod had put him to death, and He needed some time to grieve over John's death. So, they crossed over to a place near Bethsaida to get some downtime.

While the apostles had been away on their journey, Jesus had been teaching and healing those who had any kind of illness. When the crowds that had witnessed these healings saw Him cross over, they followed Him to Bethsaida. At the same time, the Passover Feast was near and hundreds of thousands of people were making their way to Jerusalem, and some of these people would pass through the other side of the Sea of Galilee to avoid Tiberias, and the Samaritans. Jesus welcomed the crowds, and taught them, and healed those who needed healing. Then, Jesus fed them. Just like our stray cat, once we had fed him, he didn't leave us; he expected us to feed him every day. When Jesus and the disciples crossed back over the Sea of Galilee to Capernaum, the crowds followed Him. These crowds followed Jesus to the other side to be fed again. That is where we pick up our text today.

We will look at the offer that Jesus gives the crowd for the Bread of Life. Second, we will look at the response by the crowds. Third, we will look at the response by the disciples. Fourth, we will look at the response by the apostles.

## Three Responses to the Bread of Life

1. The Offer of the Bread of Life (Jn 6:22-40)
2. The Response by the Crowds (Jn 6:41-58)
3. The Response by the Disciples (Jn 6:59-66)
4. The Response by the Apostles (Jn 6:67-71)

### 1. The Offer of the Bread of Life (Jn 6:22-40)

Now that Jesus and the disciples had arrived in Capernaum, the crowds began to look for Jesus. They had seen the disciples leave in the boat without Jesus. John records that the crowd did not see any other boat, except the one that the disciples had taken. They had to be puzzled about how Jesus got there. There were other people that were part of the multitude that Jesus had fed, and they went to where Jesus had fed them, and did not find Jesus there. Since Jesus had not got into the boat with His disciples, they figured He would still be there. But they did not find Jesus, nor His disciples, so they got into small boats and went to Capernaum seeking Jesus. When they found Him, they said to Him, "Rabbi, when did You get here?" I think the two questions they wanted to know is how Jesus got there, and when He got there. They knew He got there, but the pieces were not fitting together very well.

(Jn 6:22–25) “The next day the crowd that stood on the other side of the sea saw that there was no other small boat there, except one, and that Jesus had not entered with His disciples into the boat, but *that* His disciples had gone away alone. {23} There came other small boats from Tiberias near to the place where they ate the bread after the Lord had given thanks. {24} So when the crowd saw that Jesus was not there, nor His disciples, they themselves got into the small boats, and came to Capernaum seeking Jesus. {25} When they found Him on the other side of the sea, they said to Him, “Rabbi, when did You get here?”

Jesus answered them, but He did not answer their question. Jesus said, “Truly, truly, I say to you, you seek Me, not because you saw signs, but because you ate of the loaves and were filled. Jesus was focused on His mission, to seek and to save that which was lost. These people were going to die in their sins and they needed a Savior. Jesus was looking into their hearts, and He saw that they had come for the wrong reasons. Like our cat, they had been fed, and now they had come back for more.

(Jn 6:26) “Jesus answered them and said, “Truly, truly, I say to you, you seek Me, not because you saw signs, but because you ate of the loaves and were filled.”

Then Jesus exhorted them not to work for the food which perishes, but for the food which endures to eternal life, which the Son of Man will give to you, for on Him the Father, God, has set His seal. This is a springboard. When Jesus was with the woman at the well, He asked for water, and then used water as a springboard and talked to her about living water. He is talking about food with this crowd and He moves the conversation into the food which endures to eternal life, which He can give to them. Jesus was a master at turning conversations into spiritual conversations, and we can learn from Him about how to find and use springboards in our conversations with people.

(Jn 6:27) “Do not work for the food which perishes, but for the food which endures to eternal life, which the Son of Man will give to you, for on Him the Father, God, has set His seal.”

(Jn 4:10) “Jesus answered and said to her, “If you knew the gift of God, and who it is who says to you, ‘Give Me a drink,’ you would have asked Him, and He would have given you living water.”

He tells them that the Father has set His seal on the Son of Man. A seal authenticates something. Scholars say that the feeding of the five thousand was a sign that authenticated or sealed Jesus. When Jesus was baptized by John the Baptist, a voice came out of heaven and said, “This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.” John saw the Spirit of God descend upon Jesus and remain. The Father set His seal upon Jesus as the Son of God, and He was sealed with the Holy Spirit, just as you and I are sealed with the Holy Spirit.

The point of Jesus’ answer was not about working for bread. God expects us to work and to earn our keep. The apostle Paul made that very clear to the Thessalonians, addressing the issue in both the letters that he wrote to them. Some of the Thessalonians were undisciplined and doing no work at all; they were acting like busybodies. Paul, Silas, and Timothy had set a good example for them to follow. They worked day and night with labor and hardship, and ate their own bread. They had also instructed them while they were there that if anyone refused to work, he was not to eat. They were to work in quiet fashion and eat their own bread. Furthermore, the church was to keep away from every brother that lived an unruly life and did not live according to the example that Paul and his team had set. God expects us to work for the bread that we eat.

(2 Th 3:6–12) “Now we command you, brethren, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you keep away from every brother who leads an unruly life and not according to the tradition which you received from us. {7} For you yourselves know how you ought to follow our example, because we did not act in an undisciplined manner among you, {8} nor did we eat anyone’s bread without paying for it, but with labor and hardship we *kept* working night and day so that we would not be a burden to any of you; {9} not because we do not have the right *to this*, but in order to offer ourselves as a model for you, so that you would follow our example. {10} For even when we were with you, we used to give you this order: if anyone is not willing to work, then he is not to eat, either. {11} For we hear that some among you are leading an undisciplined life, doing no work at all, but acting like busybodies. {12} Now such persons we command and exhort in the Lord Jesus Christ to work in quiet fashion and eat their own bread.”

Jesus’ point in saying this is that there is more to life than just working and eating. We are going to live eternally, and we need to work for the food which endures to eternal life. We should not be so caught up on the affairs of everyday life that we neglect our spiritual life. There are many people today that are caught up in the world and are not concerned about where they will spend an eternity. This crowd was not concerned about where they would spend eternity, and Jesus is telling them that they should prioritize this matter. We are to seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all those other things will be added. (Mt 6:33)

Upon hearing Jesus say to work for the food which endures to eternal life, the crowd responded, “What shall we do, so that we may work the works of God?” This is a great response and question that they asked. It was also a great set-up for the next thing that Jesus said.

(Jn 6:28) “Therefore they said to Him, “What shall we do, so that we may work the works of God?”

Jesus made it very clear that the work of God for them to do is believe in Him whom He has sent, which is Himself.

(Jn 6:29) “Jesus answered and said to them, “This is the work of God, that you believe in Him whom He has sent.”

The crowd apparently understood what He meant because they responded, “What then do You do for a sign, so that we may see, and believe You? What work do You perform?” I find that difficult to understand. This is the same crowd that Jesus had miraculously fed the day before. There were close to 25,000 people that He fed with five loaves and two fish. That is considered Jesus’ biggest miracle because of how many people personally witnessed and participated in. This is the same crowd that declared that Jesus was truly the Prophet who is to come into the world, and who wanted to force Jesus to be king the day before because of the sign that He had just performed. Now they are asking for a sign to see so that they could believe Him. This same crowd had also seen that Jesus was healing all who were sick. He had been doing the work of God before their eyes. This is difficult for me to understand their fickleness.

(Jn 6:30) “So they said to Him, “What then do You do for a sign, so that we may see, and believe You? What work do You perform?”

(Jn 6:14) “Therefore when the people saw the sign which He had performed, they said, “This is truly the Prophet who is to come into the world.”

(Mt 14:14) “When He went ashore, He saw a large crowd, and felt compassion for them and healed their sick.”

Then the crowd said that their fathers ate the manna in the wilderness and that God had given them bread out of heaven to eat. It is as if they were making light of the fact that He had miraculously fed them the day before. In a span of twenty-four hours, they have now discounted the huge sign that He had performed in their midst.

(Jn 6:31) “Our fathers ate the manna in the wilderness; as it is written, ‘He gave them bread out of heaven to eat.’”

Jesus responded by saying that it was not Moses who gave them bread out of heaven, but it was His Father who gives the true bread of heaven. The bread of God is that which comes down from heaven, and gives life to the world. Jesus left them hanging, wondering about this bread of heaven that gives life to the world. Therefore, they responded, “Lord, always give us this bread.” They wanted the bread of God from heaven that gives life to the world.

(Jn 6:32-33) “Jesus then said to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, it is not Moses who has given you the bread out of heaven, but it is My Father who gives you the true bread out of heaven. {33} “For the bread of God is that which comes down out of heaven, and gives life to the world.”

(Jn 6:34) “Then they said to Him, “Lord, always give us this bread.”

Then Jesus explained to them that He is the bread of life. Those who come to Jesus will not hunger, and those who believe in Jesus will never thirst. Jesus is the Bread of Life. To eat the Bread of Life from heaven that gives eternal life, means that we believe in Jesus. The crowd of Jews are approaching a decision time. Are they going to believe in Jesus, the Bread of Life, or are they going to reject Him?

(Jn 6:35) “Jesus said to them, “I am the bread of life; he who comes to Me will not hunger, and he who believes in Me will never thirst.”

Jesus continued, saying, “But I said to you that you have seen Me, and yet do not believe.” They had seen Jesus. They had seen the healings. They had seen Him miraculously feed the multitudes. They had heard Him teach. The signs were given so that people would believe and have eternal life, but they had seen, and yet were not believing.

(Jn 6:36) “But I said to you that you have seen Me, and yet do not believe.”

Jesus said that “all that the Father gives Me will come to Me, and the one who comes to Me I will certainly not cast out.” Jesus made it clear that those who came to Him would not be cast out. Anyone who believes in Jesus and partakes of the Bread of Life, will have eternal life. Jesus continued, saying that He did not come down from heaven to do His own will, but the will of the Father who sent Him. The will of the Father was that Jesus lose nothing of what the Father has sent to Him, and that they would be raised up on the last day. The last day is also referred to as the Day of Judgment. There will be a resurrection of the dead, and those who have believed in Jesus will be raised up.

(Jn 6:37-39) “All that the Father gives Me will come to Me, and the one who comes to Me I will certainly not cast out. {38} “For I have come down from heaven, not to do My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me. {39} “This is the will of Him who sent Me, that of all that He has given Me I lose nothing, but raise it up on the last day.”

Jesus continued, saying it was the will of the Father that everyone who beholds the Son and believes in Him will have eternal life, and that He would raise him up on the last day. Anyone who believes in Jesus will have eternal life.

(Jn 6:40) “For this is the will of My Father, that everyone who beholds the Son and believes in Him will have eternal life, and I Myself will raise him up on the last day.”

## 2. The Response by the Crowds (Jn 6:41-58)

There are essentially three groups of people here. There is the crowd of people that have come to see Him because He had fed them the day before. There are disciples of Jesus that had been following Him, and listening to Him teach. The third group is the twelve apostles that Jesus had chosen; they are also called His disciples, but they had also been chosen as apostles.

The first response recorded is from the crowd. The same crowd that said that Jesus is the Prophet and wanted to force Him to be king are now grumbling about Jesus because He said that He was the bread that came down from heaven. Notice that John switches from using the word crowd, to the Jews. Many times when John used the term, Jews, he was referring to the Jewish leaders, i.e. the Pharisees, chief priests, and Sadducees. The Jews, the religious leaders, in Jerusalem and Judea had rejected Christ and become hostile towards Him. This crowd is from Galilee, and John said that the Jews were grumbling about Him. It is the Jews in Galilee that are now rejecting Christ. Then they looked at His natural lineage, saying, “Is not this Jesus, the son of Joseph, whose father and mother we know? How does He now say, ‘I have come down out of heaven’?” There are those today that reject that Jesus was the Son of God, that has always existed, and is part of the trinity. John the Baptist had it correctly, when He said, “He existed before me.” Jesus is the Immanuel, God in the flesh. The crowd was grumbling about this and were rejecting what Jesus had said.

(Jn 6:41–42) “Therefore the Jews were grumbling about Him, because He said, “I am the bread that came down out of heaven.” {42} They were saying, “Is not this Jesus, the son of Joseph, whose father and mother we know? How does He now say, ‘I have come down out of heaven’?”

Jesus told them not to grumble among themselves. He said that no one can come to Him unless the Father who sent Him draws him. There are some that teach that only those that God has predestined to be saved will be saved. They say that God only draws the people He has predestined and chosen to be saved. However, by sending Jesus to us, and to die for us, He is drawing all men to Himself. Jesus said that if He was lifted up, He would draw all men to Himself. Jesus was lifted up on the cross; therefore, He is drawing all men to Himself.

(Jn 6:43-44) “Jesus answered and said to them, “Do not grumble among yourselves. {44} “No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him; and I will raise him up on the last day.”

(Jn 12:32) “And I, if I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all men to Myself.”

Jesus continued, quoting the prophets (Isaiah 54:13, Jeremiah 31:34) that they will all be taught of God, and those who have heard and learned from the Father will go to Jesus. Jesus then clarified that no one has seen the Father, except the One who is from God, which is Himself. Jesus has seen the Father. Jesus again clarified what it is necessary to have eternal life, “Truly, truly, I say to you, he who believes has eternal life.” Jesus used the word believe nine times in the passage. The work of God is that we believe. If we want to do the work of God that gives eternal life, we must believe. Believing in Jesus is the key to having eternal life. God’s will is that all who come to Jesus and believe in Him will be raised up on the last day and have eternal life.

(Jn 6:45-47) “It is written in the prophets, ‘And they shall all be taught of God.’ Everyone who has heard and learned from the Father, comes to Me. {46} “Not that anyone has seen the Father, except the One who is from God; He has seen the Father. {47} “Truly, truly, I say to you, he who believes has eternal life.”

Jesus reiterated that He is the bread of life. He said that their fathers ate the manna in the wilderness and died. The bread that He was offering them, the bread that came down out of heaven, would bring eternal life to those that eat of it. He said if “anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever; and the bread also which I will give for the life of the world is My flesh.” At this point they did not understand that Jesus was going to lay His life down for the sins of the world so that we could have eternal life. They did not understand that to eat of His flesh meant that they had to believe in Christ and receive Him into their life.

(Jn 6:48-52) “I am the bread of life. {49} “Your fathers ate the manna in the wilderness, and they died. {50} “This is the bread which comes down out of heaven, so that one may eat of it and not die. {51} “I am the living bread that came down out of heaven; if anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever; and the bread also which I will give for the life of the world is My flesh.” {52} Then the Jews *began* to argue with one another, saying, “How can this man give us *His* flesh to eat?”

When we take the Lord’s Supper, we are remembering that Jesus gave up His body and life for our sins. He died so that we can live. The bread that we eat is merely symbolic of His flesh; it is not literally His flesh. We eat of His flesh by believing in Jesus and receiving Him into our lives. Jesus then spoke about His blood as the true drink. He said that those who eat His flesh and drink My blood abide in Him, and He in them. The blood was to establish a new covenant with us, and a payment for our sins. When we believe and come into a covenant relationship with God, we have eternal life and will abide with Him, and He with us.

(Jn 6:53-57) “So Jesus said to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink His blood, you have no life in yourselves. {54} “He who eats My flesh and drinks My blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day. {55} “For My flesh is true food, and My blood is true drink. {56} “He who eats My flesh and drinks My blood abides in Me, and I in him. {57} “As the living Father sent Me, and I live because of the Father, so he who eats Me, he also will live because of Me.”

Jesus again made a contrast to the manna eaten in the wilderness and His bread. They eat the manna and died, but the bread which came down out of heaven, which is Jesus, give eternal life. Those who eat that bread will live forever.

(Jn 6:58) “This is the bread which came down out of heaven; not as the fathers ate and died; he who eats this bread will live forever.”

The first response was by the crowds. They grumbled at His words (vs 41, 43). They rejected His statement that He had come down from heaven (vs 36). They said they know His mother and father, and that He did not come down from heaven (vs 42). They argued about how He could give anyone His flesh (vs 52). They did not do the work of God, which was to believe in Jesus, whom the Father had sent. They had seen Jesus, and yet did not believe (vs 36). Even though they had seen the healings, eaten the loaves that He multiplied to feed 25,000 people, and initially believed that He was the Prophet, and wanted to force Him to be king, they did not believe that He had come down from heaven, and that He was the bread of life.

### 3. The Response by the Disciples (Jn 6:59-66)

The second response was by the disciples. Jesus had been saying these things in the synagogue in Capernaum. He was publicly teaching in the synagogue in Capernaum.

(Jn 6:59) “These things He said in the synagogue as He taught in Capernaum.”

There are two groups of disciples. John records that many of His disciples heard this, they said, “This is a difficult statement; who can listen to it?” Not all His disciples said this, but many of His disciples said this. There are probably not 25,000 people at the synagogue in Capernaum, like there were on the other side of the Sea of Galilee, but there were probably a lot of people there. Jesus had many people that were following His teachings, and were His “disciples.” This statement separated His true disciples from those who were not really His disciples.

(Jn 6:60) “Therefore many of His disciples, when they heard *this* said, “This is a difficult statement; who can listen to it?”

In 1 Corinthians 15:6, after Jesus was raised from the dead, He appeared to more than five hundred brethren at one time, and scholars believe that this was in Galilee. Not all the disciples rejected Jesus because of this statement, but the response of many of the disciples was to reject Jesus and the message He was teaching.

(1 Co 15:6) “After that He appeared to more than five hundred brethren at one time, most of whom remain until now, but some have fallen asleep;”

Jesus was conscious or aware that many of His disciples were grumbling about this, and He said to them, “Does this cause you to stumble?” The Greek word that is used is *skandalizo* (Strong’s G4624), which means to entrap. The root word is *skandalon*, which means to bait a trap. The Word Study of the New Testament says that it is the trigger of a trap on which the bait is placed, and which, when touched by the animal, springs and causes it to close, causing entrapment. The NASB uses the word *stumble*, but when someone stumbles they can get up again. An animal that is snared with a trap will die; it is fatal, so *stumble* does not capture the full impact of the word. The KJV and ESV translate it as *offend*. Again, *offend* does not suggest a fatal consequence. If someone does not partake of Jesus, the Bread of Life, which means to believe in Jesus, the consequences are fatal. It is only by believing that we have eternal life with God.

(Jn 6:61) “But Jesus, conscious that His disciples grumbled at this, said to them, “Does this cause you to stumble?”

Then Jesus asked them a second question, “What then if you see the Son of Man ascending to where He was before?” After Jesus died and was raised from the dead, Luke recorded in Acts 1 that Jesus went about for forty days presenting Himself alive with many convincing proofs. He spoke to His apostles and disciples about the kingdom of God. Then He was lifted up and a cloud received Him out of their sight. We don’t know how many people saw Jesus ascending, but a few verses later we read that were 120 people gathered in the upper room. I believe that some of these disciples listening to Jesus in the synagogue in Capernaum did see the Son of Man ascending to where He was before.

(Jn 6:62) “What then if you see the Son of Man ascending to where He was before?”

(Ac 1:3–15) “To these He also presented Himself alive after His suffering, by many convincing proofs, appearing to them over *a period of* forty days and speaking of the things concerning the kingdom of God.... {9} And after He had said these things, He was lifted up while they were looking on, and a cloud received Him out of their sight.... {15} At this time Peter stood up in the midst of the brethren (a gathering of about one hundred and twenty persons was there together), and said,”

After those two questions, Jesus told the disciples that it is the Spirit who gives life, and that the flesh profits nothing. He told them that the words that He spoke to them are spirit and are life. Jesus spoke spiritual words or spiritual things to the people, and the result was to give them life. What Jesus was telling them was intended to give them life.

(Jn 6:63) “It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing; the words that I have spoken to you are spirit and are life.”

Jesus said that some of them do not believe, and Jesus knew from the beginning who they were who did not believe. He also knew from the beginning that Judas Iscariot would betray Him. Jesus knows the hearts and minds of everyone; He is omniscient. In John 5, we saw that Jesus was given all judgment, and only God can judge the souls of men, because God knows every thought, motive, action, and word that we have done. Jesus and the Father are one, and Jesus knew which disciples were truly His disciples, and which were not. Then Jesus said that no one could come to Him unless it had been granted him from the Father. As a result, many of His disciples withdrew and were not walking with Him anymore.

(Jn 6:64-66) “But there are some of you who do not believe.” For Jesus knew from the beginning who they were who did not believe, and who it was that would betray Him. {65} And He was saying, “For this reason I have said to you, that no one can come to Me unless it has been granted him from the Father.” {66} As a result of this many of His disciples withdrew and were not walking with Him anymore.”

#### 4. The Response by the Apostles (Jn 6:67-71)

After many of the disciples withdrew and left, Jesus turned to the twelve apostles and asked them if they also wanted to go away. As I thought about that, I thought about someone deciding to leave a church. If the pastor stood up and said to the rest of the congregation, “Do any of you also want to leave?”, that would be unthinkable. We try to gather people to the church, not to ask them if they want to leave. Yet, this is what Jesus did. He asked them if they wanted to go away. Jesus was not about numbers; He was about transformed lives that came through believing in Him, the Bread of Life.



(Jn 6:67) “So Jesus said to the twelve, “You do not want to go away also, do you?”

Peter was typically the first one to answer, and he usually answered on behalf of the group, and he answered Jesus, saying, “Lord, to whom shall WE go? You have words of eternal life. We have believed and have come to know that You are the Holy One of God.”

(Jn 6:68-69) “Simon Peter answered Him, “Lord, to whom shall we go? You have words of eternal life. {69} “We have believed and have come to know that You are the Holy One of God.”

I believe that the reason that Jesus asked them if they wanted to leave is to get them to reaffirm their faith in Him. Peter was a true believer. He believed that Jesus was the Messiah, the Holy One of God. Peter believed that Jesus had words of eternal life. Peter had seen the water turned to wine and believed. Peter had seen the multitudes fed and healed. Peter had heard Jesus’ teachings, and understood that Jesus was proclaiming the gospel, which led to eternal life for those who believed.

Jesus responded to Peter and the rest of the apostles, saying, “Did I Myself not choose you, the twelve, and yet one of you is a devil?” Jesus knew in advance that Judas Iscariot would betray Him. He knew that Judas was not a true believer. We do not have any mention of a response from Judas or anyone else after Jesus said that. Later on, at the Last Supper, when Jesus said that one of them would betray Him, they wanted to know who it was, but they did not ask that question this time.

(Jn 6:70-71) “Jesus answered them, “Did I Myself not choose you, the twelve, and yet one of you is a devil?” {71} Now He meant Judas the son of Simon Iscariot, for he, one of the twelve, was going to betray Him.”

## **Conclusion and Applications**

When Jesus saw the multitudes come from the other side of the Sea of Galilee to Capernaum, He told them that they had come, not because they had seen signs, but because they had eaten of the loaves and were filled. John said that the signs were given so that people would believe and have eternal life. Jesus had done His biggest miracle, and yet the sign had not caused them to believe and have eternal life. Jesus knows the hearts of all men, and He knew that they came just to be fed again. Jesus told them not to work for food that perishes, but for food that endures to eternal life. Our first application is about our priorities. Are you working primarily for the food that perishes, fleshly and worldly pursuits? Or, are you seeking first the kingdom of God, and pursuing eternal things? God expects us to work, but He does not want us so consumed with working for the food that perishes that we do not work for the food that endures to eternal life. What are the priorities in your life? How do you spend your time and energy? Where do you invest your resources?

Jesus challenged them with a difficult concept, that He is the Bread of Life that came down from heaven, and that they must partake of His flesh to have eternal life. To partake of His flesh means to believe in Jesus. Our second application is for us to examine ourselves to see if we believe in Christ. There were people in the multitudes that had witnessed the signs that Jesus had been doing, and experienced His provision, but had never believed and placed their trust in Christ. Do you believe that Jesus is God’s Son, and that He died and rose again? Have you placed your trust in Christ as your Savior? If not, and you believe, but have not placed your faith

in Christ, let me encourage you receive Christ today. Tell Jesus that you believe that He is the Son of God, that He came and died for our sins, and was raised from the dead. Ask Him to come into your life, and confess Him as the Lord or Master of your life. It is God's will for you to believe and to have eternal life with Him.

Our third application is about offenses. Be free of any and all offenses so that you follow Jesus. Some people got offended by what Jesus said, and they turned away. I have seen many people get offended at something the pastor said. I have seen many people get offended at what some people in the church have done. Very often, just like Jesus' disciples were offended and left, those offended in the church stop going to church. I was sharing with a man a few weeks ago that used to be a deacon in his church, and he does not attend any longer. He was offended by someone in the church. I told him that people can and will offend, but we must always keep our eyes on God. I told him that he needs to go to church, and be part of a church family. Have you been offended? God wants you to get free from that trap and pursue Him with all your heart.

Our fourth application comes from the response of the apostles. Jesus knew that eleven of them were true believers, and yet He asked them if they wanted to leave. I think it was a time for them to rededicate their lives to Him and reaffirm their vows to Him. This morning, I ask you a question, "Do you want to leave Christ?" Or do you believe that Jesus has words of eternal life and that He is the Holy One of God. Be like Peter and tell Jesus that you believe that He is the Holy One of God. Tell Him that you believe Him and want to follow and love Him with all your heart.

### **Closing Prayer**

Father God, thank You for this passage. Jesus, we believe that You are the Bread of Life that came down from heaven, and then ascended. We do believe that You are the Holy One, and that you have words that bring eternal life. Help us to work for the bread that endures to eternal life. Help us to abide in You and abide in Your word. Help us to follow You and love You with all our heart, mind, soul, and strength. We pray this in Jesus' name. Amen.

### **Discussion Questions**

- How was Jesus' attitude towards the crowds different than many attitudes in the church today?
- How is the account today similar to Jesus' conversation with the woman at the well?
- Jesus was a master at turning conversations from the natural things into spiritual conversations. What are some springboards that you have used to turn conversations toward spiritual things?
- The crowds had witnessed the signs that Jesus was doing, and had personally partaken in the largest miracle, the feeding of the multitudes, and yet still did not believe. Have you ever seen or experienced God's power, presence, healing, or provision, and then later not trusted Him?
- Is there anything that Jesus said that is difficult or offensive to you?
- How is this passage similar to what happened to the church during COVID?
- Have you ever been offended by someone at church? If so, did that create more or less desire to follow Jesus?
- How is sharing the Lord's Supper similar to Peter's response to Jesus' question?

**Three Responses to the Bread of Life (Jn 6:22-71)**

**Introduction**

1. **The Offer of the Bread of Life** (Jn 6:22-40, 4:10, 2 Th 3:6-12, Jn 6:14)
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. **The Response by the Crowds** (Jn 6:41-58, 12:32)
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
3. **The Response by the Disciples** (Jn 6:59-66, 1 Co 15:6, Ac 1:3–15)
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
4. **The Response by the Apostles** (Jn 6:67-71)

**Conclusion and Applications**