

# *The Gospel of John*

## 6:41-59

Welcome back to this week's study in the book of John.  
As with this study and all bible studies, remember to pray before you start.

Remember last week's study where Jesus was explaining to the people that He was the bread of life and that they were seeking the physical things and He came to feed them spiritually?

Well this week we start off with the Jews response to Jesus.

✠ **John 6:41-42** *The Jews then complained about Him, because He said, "I am the bread which came down from heaven." And they said, "Is not this Jesus, the son of Joseph, whose father and mother we know? How is it then that He says, 'I have come down from heaven'?"*

It seems they were starting to get it because they no longer questioned Jesus about being the bread of life. But now they are wondering what He is talking about, because He is saying that He came from heaven. It's also possible that they still didn't get it but they turned their attention away from the bread of life statement to the one Jesus made that He was from heaven.

They also knew Jesus' earthly father Joseph and his mother Mary. At the end of this conversation it says:

✠ **John 6:59** *These things He said in the synagogue as He taught in Capernaum.*

Which was not far (about 60-70 miles) from where Jesus grew up in Nazareth. We also know that Joseph was a carpenter and he may have traveled to Capernaum for work.

So they wonder what this carpenter's son is talking about. How could He come from heaven when He grew up in Nazareth? Sure, we know the answer, but they didn't understand that Jesus was the Messiah.

A teacher can teach and teach, and then the test comes. If you have all the answers there in front of you then the test is a piece of cake. But if not, then you had better hoped you paid attention to the teacher.

We have the answer here in front of us, which is God's entire word, the bible. But they didn't. They didn't understand that Jesus would be crucified and rise from the dead on the third day. So we can't be too hard on the people in the bible when we are reading it. We know how things work out, but they were living by faith, and to do so they needed to pay attention to the teacher, who is Jesus. If not, they will flunk the test.

But then even though we have the answers in front of us, still many will flunk the test even today.

✎ **John 6:43-51** *Jesus therefore answered and said to them, "Do not murmur among yourselves. No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him; and I will raise him up at the last day. It is written in the prophets, 'And they shall all be taught by God.' Therefore everyone who has heard and learned from the Father comes to Me. Not that anyone has seen the Father, except He who is from God; He has seen the Father. Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me has everlasting life. I am the bread of life. Your fathers ate the manna in the wilderness, and are dead. This is the bread which comes down from heaven, that one may eat of it and not die. I am the living bread which came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever; and the bread that I shall give is My flesh, which I shall give for the life of the world."*

Did you catch that Jesus was explaining to them that Joseph was not His father but His Father is God who sent Jesus.

✎ *No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him; and I will raise him up at the last day.*

Joseph didn't send Jesus, but rather God did. Joseph does not draw people to Jesus, but rather the Father in heaven does.

So there are also some who read this verse and says that this is not fair because God has not drawn them to Jesus, therefore they should not have to go to hell by rejecting Jesus.

† **2 Peter 3:9** *The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.*

Every time you feel that little tug in your heart when an invitation is given to accept Jesus, this is God drawing you to Him.

But when you feel that tug on your heart, you still reject Jesus, it's not God's fault. He sent His Son Jesus to die for your sins, you just have to believe it and repent of your sins.

Anyone can pull you into a church, but it's your choice whether you will accept Jesus as your Lord and Savior.

God will draw you to church, or a bible study on the Internet like this one, or a home group, or even to a Christian who shares the gospel (the good news of Jesus Christ) with you. He will even lead you to read His word, the bible. It's like the old saying, you can lead a horse to water but you can't make him drink.

God will draw you to Jesus, but He gives you a free will to accept or reject Jesus.

If you choose to reject Jesus, don't blame God when you get to heaven. He drew you to the living water, you just refused to drink.

Jesus goes on to say:

*✠ It is written in the prophets, 'And they shall all be taught by God.' Therefore everyone who has heard and learned from the Father comes to Me.*

Quoting from Isaiah

✠ **Isaiah 54:13** *All your children shall be taught by the LORD, and great shall be the peace of your children.*

And also referring to Jeremiah

✠ **Jer 31:31-34** *"Behold, the days are coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah-- not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day that I took them by the hand to lead them out of the land of Egypt, My covenant which they broke, though I was a husband to them, says the LORD. But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put My law in their minds, and write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people. No more shall every man teach his neighbor, and every man his brother, saying, 'Know the LORD, for they all shall know Me, from the least of them to the greatest of them, says the LORD. For I will forgive their iniquity, and their sin I will remember no more."*

God is the one who gives the understanding of His word. If you lack understanding, then the bible tells us to ask God who will give it to us.

✠ **James 1:5** *If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him.*

✠ **Prov 2:6** *For the LORD gives wisdom; From His mouth come knowledge and understanding;*

✠ **Eph 1:17-18** *that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him, the eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that you may know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints.*

That's why it's important to pray before you read or study the bible, so you can ask the Lord to give you that understanding. You read and study the bible not because it's a best selling novel, but because it has the words of life.

*✠ Therefore everyone who has heard and learned from the Father comes to Me.*

The Jews went to the synagogue every Sabbath and they heard God's word and learned from it, and as they learned they should have known what Jesus was speaking about. But

they were so busy learning man's laws that they spent little time learning what God was saying so they couldn't understand.

When you go to church the word of God should be taught, not the rules and regulations the church has given. Sadly to say, some church's laws and regulations are not in the bible, but they spend more time making sure the people are following them instead of God's word.

Jesus goes on to say:

✠ *Not that anyone has seen the Father, except He who is from God; He has seen the Father. Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me has everlasting life.*

Jesus spells it out in plain English here: *he who believes in Me has everlasting life.*

"I believe in Jesus," you may say. But do you say it out loud, do you tell others about Jesus. I like the saying I once heard which goes like this:

**If you believe that Jesus is alive, why are you living like He's dead?**

Even the demons believe and tremble at the name of Jesus, but they are not going to heaven.

✠ **James 2:19** *You believe that there is one God. You do well. Even the demons believe--and tremble!*

To believe in Jesus is to live the way He wants you to and no longer the way you want to. Jesus says that if you believe in Him that you will become a new creation a different person no longer living like you used to.

✠ **2 Cor 5:17** *Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.*

You also need to understand that everything just doesn't change overnight. Sure some things will, but others will in time.

✠ *"I am the bread of life. Your fathers ate the manna in the wilderness, and are dead. This is the bread which comes down from heaven, that one may eat of it and not die. I am the living bread which came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever; and the bread that I shall give is My flesh, which I shall give for the life of the world."*

Jesus is speaking of His death on the cross here. There was no death associated with the manna that the children of Israel ate in the wilderness. And the death that did come was to their physical body.

As we learned over the last few studies here in chapter six, the people wanted physical food, but even if Jesus did provide them with this food, they would still die in their sins. Jesus came to offer Himself as a living sacrifice, that those who would believe in Him would not die but have everlasting life.

Also when you read the book of Exodus, the Passover was a symbol of what Jesus is talking about here.

† **Ex 12:8** *Then they shall eat the flesh on that night; roasted in fire, with unleavened bread and with bitter herbs they shall eat it.*

It was by believing in God's promise to save those who followed what He said and by eating the flesh of the lamb they showed their belief. It's the same thing we do when we take communion, we are saying that we believe that Jesus died for our sins and the bread and wine (or cracker and juice) represents what Jesus did for us on the cross.

Jesus also quoted God's word to satan when He was tempted in the wilderness.

† **Luke 4:4** *But Jesus answered him, saying, "It is written, 'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word of God.'"*

This truth Jesus knew and He was trying to teach it to the Jews. He is also trying to teach it to us today.

And you can guess what the Jews response to all of this was.

✎ **John 6:52** *The Jews therefore quarreled among themselves, saying, "How can this Man give us His flesh to eat?"*

"Was Jesus speaking of cannibalism here?" they may have wondered.

The quarreling was very likely because some understood what Jesus was talking about and other still didn't get it.

When you are focused on the world and the physical things of this world, it blinds you to the truth of God's word. That's how cults start and why people follow after them. People are looking for ways to sin but still go to heaven. Cults give them this way by teaching false doctrines giving the people what they want instead of what they really need.

The people here wanted physical food, but Jesus knew this was not what they needed. Jesus didn't come to this earth to be a grocery store. No He came to give us eternal life by giving his flesh not Weber's bread.

✎ **John 6:53-59** *Then Jesus said to them, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink His blood, you have no life in you. Whoever eats My flesh and drinks My blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day. For My flesh is food indeed, and My blood is drink*

***indeed. He who eats My flesh and drinks My blood abides in Me, and I in him. As the living Father sent Me, and I live because of the Father, so he who feeds on Me will live because of Me. This is the bread which came down from heaven--not as your fathers ate the manna, and are dead. He who eats this bread will live forever." These things He said in the synagogue as He taught in Capernaum.***

Notice Jesus didn't answer in the way they expected Him to. They may have been waiting for Him to say, "No I'm not talking about cannibalism." But He didn't, He just repeated what He had been saying.

These Jews also knew very well all about sacrifices and the meaning of the blood and the bread that was offered to God (*You can read all about them in the books of Exodus to Deuteronomy*). But they just didn't make the connection that the Messiah would be the ultimate sacrifice and would replace their sacrifices of lambs and bread offerings.

Also by partaking of the flesh and blood of Jesus would mean an inward cleansing.

We are so quick to change our outward appearance when the inside is what God wants us to change.

† ***1 Sam 16:7 But the LORD said to Samuel, "Do not look at his appearance or at the height of his stature, because I have refused him. For the LORD does not see as man sees; for man looks at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart."***

You can cut your hair, and wear a suit and tie, shine your shoes, or wear less make-up. But the real question is, even though your outside may look good, is your insides just as dirty as they always were?

If a man wears a suit and tie and his hair is short and he is well groomed, we think that he is a good Christian, or at least a good person. But if a man wears dirty torn jeans and a tee shirt with long stringy hair, or maybe purple hair with earrings in his nose, lips and ears, we think they are rebels and we despise him.

If the man in the suit rejects Jesus and the man with the purple hairs loves Jesus with all his heart, then we have judged wrongly according to the outward appearance.

A lot of the new Christian bands out today dress and look totally unlike anything we would expect a Christian to. They have different color hair, tattoos, weird clothing and play loud music. But they love the Lord with all their heart and they reach those in the world no one else could reach. Pray for their ministries and for God to change your heart towards them if it needs it.

So if your insides are dirty, don't spend time trying to clean the outside to cover up for it, rather spend time cleaning up the inside by being in God's word and in prayer and going

to church and bible studies. You will find that the more you clean the inside up, the less you care about the outside, because you realize that God created you just the way you are and you are happy with that.

Also a lot of you have never seen me. You have no idea what I look like. If you did would that affect your ability to study here? If it would then you are basing someone's teaching upon the way they look and not the words they teach.

We have never seen Jesus, and you can be assured that He is not a white, solemn looking man with long straight brown hair and blue eyes.

Jesus was Jewish, and if you ever seen a Jew you know they have darker skin, with black, sometimes curly hair. If you really saw what Jesus looked like and He wasn't anything at all like the painting you have seen, would that affect your belief in Him or His words?

If He looked like any normal, Jewish person or maybe wasn't that great looking according to the worlds view today, would you be embarrassed to call Him your Lord and Savior?

I think we will all be shocked when we see Jesus in heaven, because we will say, "*You look nothing like Your picture*" but we will know Him because Jesus will be the only one in heaven with holes in His hands and feet and a whole in his side. Plus, He will be sitting at the right hand of God.

Well that's it for this week. Next week we will see the response of the people to all of what Jesus had just said. I say see, because they express themselves by their actions.

May God richly bless you in His love, grace and mercy and may you live like Jesus is alive in you!