

## PENTECOST 10 (2021)

### John 6

**John 6:22–35** On the next day the crowd that remained on the other side of the sea saw that there had been only one boat there, and that Jesus had not entered the boat with his disciples, but that his disciples had gone away alone. Other boats from Tiberias came near the place where they had eaten the bread after the Lord had given thanks. So when the crowd saw that Jesus was not there, nor his disciples, they themselves got into the boats and went to Capernaum, seeking Jesus.

When they found him on the other side of the sea, they said to him, “Rabbi, when did you come here?” Jesus answered them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, you are seeking me, not because you saw signs, but because you ate your fill of the loaves. Do not labor for the food that perishes, but for the food that endures to eternal life, which the Son of Man will give to you. For on him God the Father has set his seal.” Then they said to him, “What must we do, to be doing the works of God?” Jesus answered them, “This is the work of God, that you believe in him whom he has sent.” So they said to him, “Then what sign do you do, that we may see and believe you? What work do you perform? Our fathers ate the manna in the wilderness; as it is written, ‘He gave them bread from heaven to eat.’” Jesus then said to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, it was not Moses who gave you the bread from heaven, but my Father gives you the true bread from heaven. For the bread of God is he who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world.”

**They said to him, “Sir, give us this bread always.”**

**Jesus said to them, “I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in me shall never thirst.”**

In the Name of Jesus.

So there’s no good reason to ‘give up,’ my dear ones!

Jesus, the Bread of Life, GIVES to the people, after they ask for ‘This Bread—always!’ He GIVES to them—gives Himself—even though HE is NOT what they were asking for. ‘I am the Bread of Life.’

So, dear children of God, never stop asking your Father—Jesus’ Father; your God—His God. Always ask for what HE has already given you for certain! His Son.

Mixed in with that, no doubt, WE will also come to the Table loaded with our own thoughts and plans and panicked necessities: ‘Y’all seek me because you ate and had your full.’ But they were there—where HE was!—and so they asked for what He pledged to give them. And even though they asked all wrong, that did not change HIM.

Dearly beloved, today begins three weeks of Gospel readings from John 6, after the feeding of the 5000; the Bread of Life revelations. It helps us, today, to see where this is all going to end up: Jesus’ supporters begging for one thing; Jesus giving them Another. Two weeks from now there is appointed this reading:

<sup>60</sup> When many of his disciples heard it, they said, “This is a hard saying; who can listen to it?”<sup>1</sup>

Then: <sup>66</sup> After this many of his disciples turned back and no longer walked with him. <sup>67</sup> So Jesus said to the twelve, “Do you want to go away as well?”<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> [The Holy Bible: English Standard Version](#). (2016). (Jn 6:60). Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles.

<sup>2</sup> [The Holy Bible: English Standard Version](#). (2016). (Jn 6:66–67). Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles.

Your poor shepherd is prone to despair: the worst of all sins. I told my feelings-doctor the first day, ‘I’m a great giver-upper!’ He grabbed his pad and pen and wrote that down. He can help a bit with some of my mixed up wiring inside. But I regularly get to the point with him of hitting the wall that separates what can be worked on IN ME—and what is not about ME at all.

In other words, you and I CAN ‘listen to,’ we CAN, to a degree, ‘GET,’ get a FEELING for...matters of the Law: how oriented is your day to the will of God? Let’s check. You rose today and poured your soul between the powers of the devil and those he most wants to pervert: your president, your governor, your elected rulers. Yes? Or, with me, could you do with a ‘do-over’ on starting this day?

But—praise the Lord!—the people who HAD believed in Him, HAD ‘oriented themselves’ toward Jesus the Wonder Worker, the Feeder of All, filled from next to NOTHING!—those ‘disciples,’ the Bible calls them, understood P...E...R...F...E...C...T...L...Y:

‘What THIS MAN is saying is a round peg trying to get into our square heads. Who in the world even has the right shaped ears for these words to fit in? Or hearts? Or souls?’

Praise the Lord. None of us. No man to your left or your right is any more attuned to real-God, or any less, than you.

Here’s about the happiest thing that’s come to me over years now of feelings injections. Since the Incarnation of

the Bread of Life, there IS...ONE...THING... that Heaven is tickled pink to have me despair over! He speaks, your Father, your God, your Holy Spirit:

‘You are going to try to put YOU into the cake I have baked for you. There’s no need. But it’s how you’ve been hurt by the liar. Hurt so bad, that you are only confident about healing yourself, rather than coming to full life only because of Me.....’

‘So, here’s the religion that will harm your faith the least: pour yourself into God and your brothers and sisters in Christ; pour yourself into being good, keeping the Law; but despair of looking for the day when YOU will be satisfied with YOU!’

Those first disciples—the ones who stayed and the many that turned back—they poured themselves into Jesus: Crossed the lake and rowed the boats and hurried their little feet to the Flavor of the Day: Bread Man!

And they what did they want from Him, on top of the food they ate? They wanted, my dear ones, something that THEY could throw themselves into!

‘What God demands from us, that’s Moses!’

‘What God gives and refuses to add to or take away from, is Jesus the Christ.’

The Spirit of Jesus has given you a New Life in the Water and the Word. He absolves you daily and much—

the days, that is, that you remember to sin! His Gospel is Real Food to take as your Life, your Bread, your Drink, that a man may eat and fall into the grave and break the whole joint.

He even—even today—gives you to eat, physically, the Body of Christ and to drink with your funnels the true Blood of Christ that was and is forever shed for you and me, because we refuse to intercede with glee for those Almighty God has planned from eternity to rule over us. And it's harder to speed up the God Who is slow to anger than when we despise those He has called to rule with Him.

And you live in a world where God-orientation—even among so-called Christians—can go on with volumes, with volume, is almost completely ALL about US, and NOTHING about Christ.

Don't despair, just because most of those—even most of those who are Jesus' disciples—want a Jesus Who is not the Bread of Life, but just another one who props up this life, for another day.

But look around you! Jesus was left, it seems with Twelve disciples. 'And one of you is a devil!' Is Jesus 'giving up?' Just the opposite.

Right along with the one who betrayed Him, Jesus gave up forever looking to be satisfied with US!

Hear me. This is the Gospel. John 10: the reason the Father loves me is that I lay down my life for the sheep.

You want to apply yourself to the most impossible, hardest of all sayings? Here you go.

The ONLY reason God the Father loves His Son, is BECAUSE....HE....LOVES....YOU. THAT is the Bread that I serve to you today, that you may eat and never hunger again, never thirst, never be in want of GOD!

Make what I tell you your every prayer!

‘Dear Father, since Jesus has won your Love for Me, for the world—since He cried out that ALL WORK, all Law was now finished and off the table—since He lives declaring that if I die, then He has NOT done what you told Him to do, but He has; and that if I ever die, He is going to be kicked out of heaven and back into the grave...

Be with me as I try to orient my Life to your Gospel, and orient my love to the world. And when I am cannot behave well enough to satisfy myself, send your Holy Spirit to teach me, again, that you’ve given up looking to me for satisfaction, in the Name of Jesus.’