

Bread From Heaven; John 6:31-33

I. Manna in the Wilderness

- A. Israel had crossed the Red Sea and were at Elim
- B. They set out from Elim into the wilderness of Sin
- C. And Israel started to complain
- D. Exodus 16:2–4 (ESV); ² And the whole congregation of the people of Israel grumbled against Moses and Aaron in the wilderness, ³ and the people of Israel said to them, “Would that we had died by the hand of the Lord in the land of Egypt, when we sat by the meat pots and ate bread to the full, for you have brought us out into this wilderness to kill this whole assembly with hunger.” ⁴ Then the Lord said to Moses, “Behold, I am about to rain bread from heaven for you, and the people shall go out and gather a day’s portion every day, that I may test them, whether they will walk in my law or not.
- E. Exodus 16:14–15 (ESV); ¹⁴ And when the dew had gone up, there was on the face of the wilderness a fine, flake-like thing, fine as frost on the ground. ¹⁵ When the people of Israel saw it, they said to one another, “What is it?” For they did not know what it was. And Moses said to them, “It is the bread that the Lord has given you to eat.
- F. What an event!
 1. I want you to imagine yourself in tents in the wilderness
 - a) No pantry, no refrigerator
 - b) No idea of what you will eat in the morning
 2. Walking out of your tent in the morning to manna
 3. Exodus 16:31 (ESV); Now the house of Israel called its name manna. It was like coriander seed, white, and the taste of it was like wafers made with honey.
 4. This is a life of total dependance on God
 5. Every morning for 40 years they depended on God for the sustenance
 6. Could you imagine opening your refrigerator every morning and it had been filled with food?
- G. Jesus brings them back to this event

II. The True Bread

- A. Jesus had just fed over 5000 men (this number did not include in women or children)
- B. John 6:9–10 (ESV); ⁹ “There is a boy here who has five barley loaves and two fish, but what are they for so many?” ¹⁰ Jesus said, “Have the people sit down.” Now there was much grass in the place. So the men sat down, about five thousand in number.
- C. Jesus reminds them of God’s provision through manna (their dependance on God)
- D. And then He makes the connection — manna and Himself
 1. John 6:32–33 (ESV); ³² 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. ³³ For the bread of God is he who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world.”
 2. This comparison becomes a stumbling block for them
 3. John 6:51–53 (ESV); ⁵¹ I am the living bread that came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever. And the bread that I will give for the life of the world is my flesh.” ⁵² The Jews then disputed among themselves, saying, “How can this man give us his flesh to eat?” ⁵³ 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 you.
 4. But Jesus is pretty clear about his role as the Bread of Life
 5. This foreshadows our memorial, the Lord’s Supper
 6. Unless we are partakers of Christ, we have no portion with Him
 7. John 6:54–58 (ESV); ⁵⁴ Whoever feeds on 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 Whoever feeds on 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 whoever

feeds on me, he also will live because of me. ⁵⁸ This is the bread that came down from heaven, not like the bread the fathers ate, and died. Whoever feeds on this bread will live forever.”

E. It is pretty clear here — Jesus is eternal life!

III. Sin or Salvation

A. This teaching was hard for the Israelites

1. John 6:60 (ESV); When many of his disciples heard it, they said, “This is a hard saying; who can listen to it?”
2. John 6:66 (ESV); After this many of his disciples turned back and no longer walked with him.
3. These weren’t the religious elite: the Pharisees, the Sadducees, the Lawyers, or the Scribes that stopped following Jesus — they weren’t following him to begin with
4. These were his disciples!
5. It is right after many of His disciples left that Peter makes this great statement
6. John 6:67–69 (ESV); ⁶⁷ So Jesus said to the twelve, “Do you want to go away as well?” ⁶⁸ Simon Peter answered him, “Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life, ⁶⁹ and we have believed, and have come to know, that you are the Holy One of God.”

B. We either have eternal life or eternal destruction — away from the presence of the Lord

C. John 14:6 (ESV); Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

IV. Bread From Heaven

A. Have you partaken of the Bread From Heaven

B. Have you called on Him as your savior

C. Have you had your sins washed away