

### The Bread of Life Discourse, Part 2

#### John 6:30-40

John 6:30-40 - *“Therefore they said to Him, “What sign will You perform then, that we may see it and believe You? What work will You do?”* <sup>31</sup> *Our fathers ate the manna in the desert; as it is written, ‘He gave them bread from heaven to eat.’”*

<sup>32</sup> *Then Jesus said to them, “Most assuredly, I say to you, Moses did not give you the bread from heaven, but My Father gives you the true bread from heaven. <sup>33</sup> For the bread of God is He who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world.”*

<sup>34</sup> *Then they said to Him, “Lord, give us this bread always.”*

<sup>35</sup> *And Jesus said to them, “I am the bread of life. He who comes to Me shall never hunger, and he who believes in Me shall never thirst. <sup>36</sup> But I said to you that you have seen Me and yet do not believe. <sup>37</sup> All that the Father gives Me will come to Me, and the one who comes to Me I will by no means cast out. <sup>38</sup> For I have come down from heaven, not to do My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me. <sup>39</sup> This is the will of the Father who sent Me, that of all He has given Me I should lose nothing, but should raise it up at the last day. <sup>40</sup> And this is the will of Him who sent Me, that everyone who sees the Son and believes in Him may have everlasting life; and I will raise him up at the last day.”*

#### Background Notes

The first part of John 6 recounts two of the well-known miracles of our Lord Jesus – when our Lord fed over five thousand people, and when He walked on the stormy waters of the Sea of Galilee. Remember, these are two of the seven “Sign Miracles” in the Gospel of John – signs that clearly indicate the deity of at Jesus Christ. Following these miracles the Lord gave a talk, which is known today as the “Bread of Life Discourse,” in the town of Capernaum. He spoke to some of the Jewish leaders, as well as to many of the same people who had participated in the miracle of the multiplication of the loaves and the fish.

In verse 30, the people asked for a sign: *“What sign will You perform then, that we may see it and believe You? What work will You do?”* A sign? What more did they want? They had just seen - and many had participated in - the miracle of the feeding of well over five thousand people! What more could you ask for, in the way of a sign!

What would you have done at this point, if you had been in our Lord’s position? I think I would have said, “Oh, you want a sign do you? I’ll show you a sign, you unbelievers! How about some lightening from heaven!” (Or something like that.) It is wonderful – and instructive - to see the grace and the patience of our Lord in dealing with these folks.

When they said, *“Our fathers ate the manna in the desert; as it is written, ‘He gave them bread from heaven to eat,* Jesus replied, *“Most assuredly, I say to you, Moses did not give you the bread from heaven, but My Father gives you the true*

*bread from heaven.*” When the people said “our fathers ate the manna in the wilderness,” they were actually implying that Moses was greater than Christ. Moses had brought bread out of Heaven, but the Lord had only multiplied existing bread! The Lord simply answered them by reminding them that Moses didn’t give the manna - **God** gave the manna! **God** fed His people in the wilderness, not Moses!

*“Then Jesus said to them, “Most assuredly, I say to you, Moses did not give you the bread from heaven, but My Father gives you the true bread from heaven” (v32).* Jesus told them that God gives the true Bread from Heaven – the Bread that can feed the entire world: *“For the bread of God is He who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world” (v33).* When the people said that they would like to have this bread, the Lord revealed to them that **He is the Bread of Life!** *“And Jesus said to them, “I am the bread of life. He who comes to Me shall never hunger, and he who believes in Me shall never thirst” (v35).*

## Doctrinal / Teaching points

### 1. The world says, "Seeing is believing." God says, "Believing is seeing."

The Jews wanted a sign. They said, *“What sign will You perform then, that we may see it and believe You?”* Has a non-Christian ever said something like that to you? “Hey, if I could see a miracle right here before my very eyes, I’d become a Christian right now.” That’s the way the unbelieving world thinks. The world says, “Seeing is believing. The truth of the matter is that these folks believe even if they had seen yet another sign.

Do you remember the rich man in Luke 16, who said that he had five brothers who would become believers if someone were to rise from the dead? What was the answer that was given to him? No, they wouldn’t believe! They have Moses and the prophets. That is, they have the Scriptures, and if they will not believe the Scriptures, they won’t believe even if someone were to rise from the dead! The world says, "Seeing is believing," but God says, "Believing is seeing."

In John 11:40, Jesus was speaking to Martha, the sister of Lazarus who had died: *“Jesus said to her, “Did I not say to you that if you would believe you would see the glory of God?”* If you would believe, you would see. God says, “Believing is seeing.”

It is possible for us, as Christians, to fall into the world’s way of wanting signs or miracles in order to believe. A Christian friend once said to me, “You know, I wish every time I had some doubts that God would send a great light across the sky to reassure me.” That’s a dangerous way to think! Let’s be careful that we don’t fall into the world’s way of thinking. Remember that the world says, "Seeing is believing," but God says, "Believing is seeing."

### 2. Eternal security of the soul is part of God's salvation package.

*“All that the Father gives Me will come to Me, and the one who comes to Me I will by no means cast out” (v37.)* And then, *“This is the will of the Father who sent Me, that of all He has given Me I should lose nothing, but should raise it up at the*

*last day. And this is the will of Him who sent Me, that everyone who sees the Son and believes in Him may have everlasting life; and I will raise him up at the last day”(v39-40).*

These are three great verses that support the truth of the eternal security of the believer. If you really accept and trust in Jesus Christ as your personal Savior, you can't lose your salvation! You will not be “*cast out*” (v37). The Lord doesn't lose anyone (v39)! You have everlasting life (v40). You don't receive everlasting life when you die - if you are a believer, you have everlasting life right **now**. You can't lose everlasting life, because if you could, it wouldn't be everlasting!

Notice in verse 37, by the way, that there's a perfect blend of the sovereignty of God on the one hand, and the responsibility of man on the other hand. “*All that the Father gives Me will come to Me*” - that is the sovereignty of God. And “*the one who comes to Me*” - that's the responsibility of man. The Bible has no problem harmonizing these two doctrines.

Do you have a problem harmonizing those doctrines? It's not always easy, but the Bible puts it out there: the sovereignty of God and the responsibility of man, right in the same verse!

You can be sure that if you want to receive Christ as your Savior, you are one of the chosen. By the sovereignty of God, you are one of the “elect.” And if you're chosen, you can't lose your salvation. The eternal security of those who are saved is part of God's salvation package.

### **3. Resurrection of the body is part of God's salvation package.**

Verses 39-40: “*This is the will of the Father who sent Me, that of all He has given Me I should lose nothing, but should raise it up at the last day. And this is the will of Him who sent Me, that everyone who sees the Son and believes in Him may have everlasting life; and I will raise him up at the last day.*”

The “it” of verse 39 (“*but should raise it up at the last day*”) is the sum total of believers. Some translations use the word “them” in verse 40. No believer will miss out on the resurrection. Every believer will have a resurrection body. It will be a body like our Lord's glorious body: “*who will transform our lowly body that it may be conformed to His glorious body, according to the working by which He is able even to subdue all things to Himself*” (Philippians 3:21). We will not be spirits floating around in Heaven forever! No, we will have glorified bodies - forever.

The greatest thing about the resurrection body is **not** that we'll be able to defy gravity, or travel faster than the speed of light, or anything like that! The greatest thing about the glorified body is that we will not sin! We will be sinless! Won't that be great? That's something to look forward to!

How often, when we want to worship the Lord in this present body, some idle thought floats into our minds and distracts us. Or a negative thought flashes into our minds, and takes away our attitude of worship. Have you ever had the experience that something negative you've seen or heard enters your mind when you want to worship the Lord, or speak

with Him in prayer? Don't you wish you could cleanse your mind from those random thoughts so they wouldn't distract you? In the resurrection body that won't happen!

Isn't it great to look forward to a sinless body, in which we will be able to worship God forever? Resurrection of the body is part of God's salvation package!

## Practical Application

### **You can come close - and still not be saved.**

In verse 36 Jesus said to the people, *"But I said to you that you have seen Me and yet do not believe."* These people were not pagans, and they were not atheists. They believed in God, they believed in Moses, they believed in the miracles of the Old Testament, the giving of the manna - no problem with that.

They believed in the supernatural, and they could quote the Scripture (v31): *"Our fathers ate the manna in the desert; as it is written, 'He gave them bread from heaven to eat.'"*

They even addressed Jesus as Lord: *"Then they said to Him, 'Lord, give us this bread always'"* (v34). Many of them had participated in the miracle of the feeding of five thousand. They had come close, but they were not believers.

Back in John 5:35, speaking about John the Baptist, our Lord said to a similar group: *"He was the burning and shining lamp, and you were willing for a time to rejoice in his light."* But the Lord said that they were still unbelievers. You can come close and still not be saved!

Is that possibly your position? You believe in God - you're not a pagan! You believe in the Bible - you can even quote Scripture. You don't doubt the miracles of the Jesus Christ, and you don't doubt the miracles of the Bible. You might even refer to Jesus as Lord - but you still have not put your faith and trust in Jesus.

You still have not come to Jesus Christ, the Bread of Life, and trusted in Him as your personal Savior. You mouth the word "Lord," but you haven't truly accepted Him as your Lord – as the one who died as your substitute on the cross, died for your sins. You need to receive Christ as your personal Savior.

You can come close - and still not be saved.