Christ, the Son of God

Studies in the Gospel of John

True Bread from Heaven
Lesson 6
John 6

Trinity Bible Church Sunday School
February 11, 2018
Purpose Statement

Therefore many other signs Jesus also performed in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; but these have been written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing you may have life in His name.

John 20:30-31 (NASB)
Outline of the Gospel of John

The Prologue (1:1-18)
The Introduction of Jesus Christ (1:19-1:51)
The Public Ministry of Jesus Christ – General Presentation (2-12)
The Private Ministry of Jesus Christ – Presentation to His Own (13-17)
The Trial and Death of Jesus Christ (18-19)
The Resurrection of Jesus Christ (20:1-29)
The Purpose Statement by John (20:30-31)
The Epilogue (21)
The Prologue (1:1-18)

- The Word is God
- The Word became flesh as the only begotten from the Father
- The Word revealed the Father
- The Word was rejected by His own
- The Word was received for eternal life
Introduction of Jesus (1:19-51)

▷ John’s testimony:
  • The Lamb of God
  • The Pre-incarnate One
  • The One Who baptizes with the Holy Spirit
  • The Son of God

▷ John’s disciples’ testimony:
  • Messiah
  • One taught by Moses and the Prophets
  • Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph
  • Son of God, King of Israel

▷ Jesus’ claim:
  • The Gate of Heaven
  • The Son of Man
The Work of the Son of God

- The revelation of Jesus as the Word (2-12)
  - A presentation of Jesus’ Person and His Work
  - A revelation of His message – the Gospel – “I AM”
  - The responses to Jesus claims and teaching
  - Jewish unbelief and intense hostility
  - Many received Him and believed in Him

- The revelation of Jesus as the Good Shepherd (13-17)

- The revelation of Jesus as the Lamb of God (18-20)
Review John 2-5

- Jesus’ priorities – faith and zeal (2)
- A lesson on true faith (3)
- The universal Savior (4)
- The work of the Father (5)
  - A matter of life and death
  - The Deity of Christ
  - The witnesses
  - The priority of Scripture
A Lesson from Scripture (6)

- Feeding 5000 (6:1-14)
- Walking on water (6:15-25)
- Discourse on bread (6:26-40)
- Response of the Jews (6:41-58)
- Response of the disciples (6:59-71)
Feeding 5000 (6:1-14)

- The setting
  - “The other side of the Sea of Galilee”
  - Followed because of the signs
  - Passover, the feast of the Jews, was near

- The test for His disciples
  - Testing and bread in Exodus 16:4
  - To know whether they would walk in my “instruction” (faith)
    - Evening meat – Know the LORD brought you out of Egypt
    - Morning bread – See the glory of the LORD
  - He knew what He planned to do
  - Disciples only knew how it could not happen
  - Test of faith (1 Peter 1:6-7); fear (Genesis 22:12)

- Miracle – 5 barley loaves and 2 fish – All had “as much as they wanted”

- Response:
  - This is the Prophet to come (Deut 18:15-19) – “Hear Him”
Jesus Walks on Water (6:15-25)

- A very brief account
  - The people intended to take Him by force to make him king
  - The storm – a strong wind
  - Jesus walked on the water – the disciples frightened
  - Jesus spoke: “I AM; stop being afraid”
    - First of 23 “I AM” statements in John
    - Exodus 3, 6 – the Name (YHWH) of God revealed in deliverance from bondage
  - He entered the boat and they were immediately at their destination
  - What is the meaning of this miracle?
    - A call to faith in Him – the Great I AM
    - A parallel with the Exodus – appropriate introduction to the following discourse
    - 1 Corinthians 10:1-5 – all passed through the sea, and all ate the same spiritual food, and all drank the same spiritual drink
    - Delivered through an impossible barrier
“I AM the Bread of Life” (6:26-40)

- A false priority (6:26)
- “Truly, truly” – You are working for food which perishes
- You need food which endures for eternal life
- Source: the Son of Man
- How to work the works of God?
- Believe in Him Whom God has sent – trust, not work
“I AM the Bread of Life” (6:26-40)

- “Give us a sign!” (6:30)
- “He gave them bread out of heaven to eat.”
  - Ex 16:4 “I will rain bread from heaven” – for testing, not life
  - Neh 9:14-15 – God gave bread from heaven through Moses
- John 5:46-47 – they did not understand or believe Moses
- “Truly, truly” – Not Moses, but God gives true bread from heaven
- True bread from heaven gives life for the world (i.e. not just Israel)
“I AM the Bread of Life” (6:26-40)

- The Jews want “this bread”
- “I AM the bread of life” (6:35)
  - Come to Me – never hunger
  - Believe in Me – never thirst
“I AM the Bread of Life” (6:26-40)

- They saw Jesus, but did not believe – they did not truly come
- A short lesson on sovereign grace (6:37-40)
- The Father gives . . .
  . . . and they will come
  . . . and they will not be cast out
- The work of Christ . . .
  . . . none will be lost by the Son
  . . . all will be raised up at the last day by the Son
- The experience of the believer . . .
  . . . will have eternal life
  . . . the Son will raise them up on the last day
- The point: the absolute necessity of God’s grace, not man’s work
Response of the Jews (6:41-58)

- The Jews grumbled (see Ex 16)
- The did not grumble at sovereign grace, but the son of Joseph
- Jesus responds with the Gospel:
  - The need for the “drawing mercy” of God
  - The certainty of resurrection to life (5:29)
- A lesson from Scripture: “All will be taught of God”
  - Isaiah 54:13; Jeremiah 31:34; Micah 4:2
- A message from the presence of God – the Son of Man
  - Truly, truly . . .
  - I AM the bread of life – contrast with manna which they ate and died
  - I AM the living bread from heaven
  - This bread to be given for the life of the world (“My flesh”)
Response of the Jews (6:41-58)

- How to eat His flesh and drink His blood?
- Already answered in John 6:35 – come and believe
- Jesus “doubles down” with this offensive terminology
- The life of the Son of Man is the only source of eternal life (6:53)
- The life of the Father is the life of the Son of Man and believers
- The bread from heaven – not like manna – gives life forever
Response of the Disciples (6:59-71)

- “This is a difficult statement” – a cause for stumbling
- The Son of Man will return to the Father
- The Spirit gives life, not the flesh – regeneration (John 3)
- Disciples in name only – only superficial faith
- Many disciples withdrew from Him
Response of the Disciples (6:59-71)

- Jesus speaks to the twelve (6:67)
- “You do not want to go away also, do you?”
- Peter’s response for the twelve:
  - No place else to go for eternal life
  - We believe that you are the Holy One of God
- Jesus excludes Judas – “a devil” (in sheep’s clothing)
True Bread from Heaven

- This is a difficult teaching – still
- It is a liberating teaching
  - The Living Word came to bring us eternal life.
  - This life is beyond our understanding and an offense to our sense of self dignity (pride)
- What we cannot do, God has done in Christ
- What we must do:
  - Eat His flesh and drink His blood
  - Come to Jesus and believe in Him for eternal life.
- The instrument of this great work is the written Word