

**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)
- ▶ They 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