



WEEK SIX HANDOUT – The Son’s Sacrifice Foreshadowed

BAND OF BROTHERS 2020

Key Verse: *“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.” – John 6:35 ESV*

- **The Feeding of the 5,000**

*After this Jesus went away to the other side of the Sea of Galilee... – John 6:1 ESV*

- The other gospels provide additional details

**Luke 9:10**

- The town of Bethsaida (Philip’s hometown)
- The disciples had just returned from their mission

**Matthew 14:13**

- After hearing of John the Baptist’s death, Jesus sought a quiet place to get alone
- But the crowds find Him

**Mark 6:34**

- He had compassion on them
- He viewed them as “sheep without a shepherd”

- They were attracted by the signs and wonders He did  
*...they saw the signs that he was doing on the sick... – John 6:2 ESV*

*“Unless you [all] see signs and wonders you will not believe.” – John 4:48 ESV*

- The world says, “Seeing is believing”
- The Gospel says: “Believing is seeing”

*...for we walk **by faith**, not **by sight**. – 2 Corinthians 5:7 ESV*

*So we fix our eyes not on **what is seen**, but on **what is unseen**. For **what is seen** is temporary, but **what is unseen** is eternal.* – 2 Corinthians 4:18 BSB

- The proximity of the Passover  
*...the Passover, the feast of the Jews, was at hand.* – John 6:4 ESV

### **Why is this important?**

- It establishes the context for all that comes
- Passover commemorated Israel's exodus from Egypt
- It recalled their deliverance by God from slavery
- But also, their protection from the angel of death

### **Exodus 12**

*...every man shall take **a lamb**...* – 12:3

*Your lamb shall be **without blemish**...* – 12:5

*...Israel shall **kill their lambs** at twilight.* – 12:6

*...they shall **take some of the blood** and put it on the two doorposts and the lintel of the houses...* – 12:7

***The blood shall be a sign** for you, on the houses where you are.* – 12:13

*For **I will pass through** the land of Egypt that night, and **I will strike** all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, both man and beast; and on all the gods of Egypt **I will execute judgments**: I am the Lord.* – Exodus 12:12 ESV

*...when I see the blood, **I will pass over you**, and no plague will befall you to destroy you, when I strike the land of Egypt.* – Exodus 12:13 ESVs

### **But wait, there's more!**

- The Feast of Unleavened Bread

*Seven days you shall eat **unleavened bread**. On the first day you shall remove leaven out of your houses, for if anyone eats what is leavened, from the first day until the seventh day, **that person shall be cut off** from Israel.* – Exodus 12:15 ESV

*For seven days no leaven is to be found in your houses. If anyone eats what is leavened, **that person will be cut off** from the congregation of Israel.* – Exodus 12:19 ESV

- Leaven is a symbol for sin
- If left unchecked, it pervades and permeates
- Their bread was to be unleavened – **free from sin**

*And you shall observe the Feast of Unleavened Bread, for on this very day **I brought your hosts out** of the land of Egypt.* – Exodus 12:17 ESV

- The need for bread  
*"Where are we to buy bread, so that these people may eat?" – John 6:5 ESV*
  - Jesus had compassion on the crowd (Mark 6:34)
    - They were like sheep without a shepherd
    - No one to care for and feed them
  - Jesus focuses His attention on bread
  - That will become the theme of this chapter
- The lack of bread  
*...not be enough... – vs 7*  
*...what are they for so many? – vs 9*
  - But Jesus proved sufficient
    - They all ate their fill
    - They had as much as they wanted
    - And there was plenty left over

## TWO OPPOSING VIEWS:

### The Disciples

Insufficiency  
 Lack of Vision  
 Overwhelming need  
 Doubt  
 Temporal  
 Physical

### Jesus

Total sufficiency  
 Full provision  
 Overflowing abundance  
 Confidence  
 Eternal  
 Spiritual

- The people were impressed with the sign
  - They wanted to make Him their king
    - Their **seeing** resulted in **believing**
    - But their **vision** was blurred by **personal desire**
    - They were looking for a **welfare state**
    - They wanted a king who could eliminate **physical hunger**
  - Well-intentioned **believing** based on **faulty vision** always results in a **false gospel**
- **The Bread of Life**
    - The well-fed were now hungry
    - They were looking for their "king" and provider
    - But Jesus saw through their efforts

*"Truly, truly, I say to you, you are seeking me, not because you saw signs, but because you ate your fill of the loaves. – John 6:26 ESV*

- The emphasis has shifted
  - From signs to sustenance
  - From seeing to eating
  - From believing to benefiting

“They were not interested in Him because they identified Him as the God-man but because Jesus could fill their stomachs.” – Thomas L. Constable, Notes on John, 2008 Edition

- Jesus begins talking about “food that perishes” and “food that endures”
  - They want to know what they have “to do” to get the bread that lasts
    - They’re back to requesting **a sign**
    - But they’re also sharing **suggestions**
      1. The kind of king they would like...
        - A deliverer and a provider like Moses
      2. The kind of provision they would prefer...
        - An unending supply of “bread from heaven”
  - “I am the bread of life”
    - Jesus offers eliminate their hunger and thirst
    - But they must do “the work of God”
    - They must “believe in him who he has sent” – vs 29
  - From appetizing to revolting
    - The idea of an endless supply of bread was appealing to them  
*“Sir, give us this bread always.” – vs 34*
    - But they soon lost their appetite  
*“How can this man give us his flesh to eat?” – vs 52*
    - Jesus was offering His body as the solution to their spiritual hunger and thirst
      - But they were missing the point
      - They didn’t realize they had a need for spiritual food
      - Their fathers ate manna and died
      - But Jesus was offering them a “bread” that would bring eternal life
- “This is the bread that comes down from heaven, so that one may eat of it **and not die**. I am the living bread that came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, **he will live forever**.” – John 6:50-51 ESV*
- Food that perishes versus food that endures
    - Jesus was offering Himself
    - His body and blood
    - He was foreshadowing His death

*“Whoever feeds on **my flesh** and drinks **my blood** has eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day. For **my flesh** is true food, and **my blood** is true drink.” – John 6:54-55 ESV*

- There is an **internal** and **eternal** aspect to this metaphor
- Just as an animal lays down its life so that we might consume it and live, so will Jesus lay down His life so that we might have eternal life
- There is a **consuming** and **infilling** nature to this relationship

#### **The scene: The synagogue**

- John reserves the scene of this discussion until the very end
- It all took place in the local synagogue
- Jesus had a thoroughly Jewish audience
- It explains His emphasis on Moses and manna
- But they find His words confusing and repugnant
- Jesus is foreshadowing His sacrificial death

*He took some bread and gave thanks to God for it. Then he broke it in pieces and gave it to the disciples, saying, “This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.”*

*After supper he took another cup of wine and said, “This cup is the new covenant between God and his people – an agreement confirmed with my blood, which is poured out as a sacrifice for you.” – Luke 22:19-20 NLT*

#### • **FOR FURTHER THOUGHT**

What does Jesus’ description of Himself as the “bread from heaven” have to do with the nature of His death?

In verse 4, John mentions that “the Passover, the feast of the Jews, was at hand.” Since a big part of the Passover meal was the unleavened bread and the Passover lamb, why is this point important?

How does the miraculous feeding of the 5,000 foreshadow the death of Jesus? What did He do that points to future role as the “bread of life?”