

Bible Study Class
Clayton Presbyterian Church
Lesson 11 Jesus
In Galilee and Beyond

Opening prayer: Lord, help us to open our hearts so that we can more fully understand Your will for our lives. Amen.

Discourse on Spiritual Food and True Discipleship

Read: John 6:22-29

1. How does the teaching in this passage reflect the miracle of the previous day? The miracle of the previous day was the feeding of the five thousand. Jesus knows that many people are following him because He fed them. He knew that they didn't understand His miracles. They were looking for Him because He gave them bread, not because He could feed their souls. They are confused as to how He is in Capernaum because they have been watching the boats. They were comparing Him with Moses who they saw as giving manna to the people in the wilderness, Jesus corrects them by saying that God gave the manna.

Read: John 6:32-40

2. Explain Jesus' claim to be "the bread of life." What gives it credibility? He is talking about spiritual hunger and thirst that only He can satisfy. He comes to do the will of God the Father. Jews proceeded upon the hypothesis that the Messiah must be greater than all the prophets, and that this greatness must be authenticated or sealed by greater signs than those of the prophets. They are comparing Jesus to Moses. The personality of Jesus was the great proof of his divinity, but the Jews refused to consider that personality, and kept clamoring for a sign. The situation was hopeless. If one refuses to believe in the sun while he sees the light and feels its warmth, what sign can you give to prove the sun's existence? God the Father offered eternal life through Jesus Christ. But you have to believe in the Son to have eternal life.

Read: John 6:41-42

3. Why did the Jews reject Jesus as "the bread of life?" In asserting that he came down from heaven he described Himself as participating in the divine glory, which gave him superiority over all men, prophets and angels. This was impossible from them to believe because they knew his earthly parents. The Messiah was to come 'in the clouds,' suddenly to appear; but Jesus had quietly grown up among them.

Read: John 6: 43-51

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4. How does the Father draw a person to Christ? How should one be "taught of God?" God draws us to Him before we know that we need Him, but we must respond to that drawing.

Isaiah 54:13 All your children shall be taught by the Lord, and great shall be the peace of your children.

The Father gave the law, and the prophets as tutors to draw men toward Christ. Those who had learned from this instruction were ready to come to Christ. The Jews thought that they were all chosen by God by virtue of their physical, natural birth. Jesus made it clear that God must draw them before they can come to God. Everyone who responds to the Father will respond to the Son. He claimed a relationship and connection with God the Father that no one else had.

Read: John 6: 52-59

5. What did Jesus mean when He said one must eat His flesh and drink His blood in order to have life? By observing Christ teaching, we are internalizing his message, just as we ingest food to strengthen our physical bodies. Communion is our symbol of this. As bread is necessary for physical life, so Jesus is necessary for spiritual and eternal life. The spiritual bread Jesus offers is even greater than the manna Israel ate in the wilderness. What they ate only gave them temporal life; what Jesus offers brings eternal life. Jesus isn't speaking about the Last Supper at this point, rather he is expounding on the truth that the Last Supper conveys. Jesus explained that receiving Him as bread was not receiving Him as a great moral teacher, example, or prophet. It was not receiving Him as a good or great man or noble martyr. It was receiving Him in light of what He did on the cross, His ultimate act of love for lost humanity. (Guzik) They willfully twisted His words to imply a bizarre cannibalism. Jesus was pointing to His death as a sacrifice, and the religious leaders of the time should have understood it. Jesus offers us heavenly bread for eternal life, but we must eat it. Faith in Jesus is not compared with tasting or admiring, but with eating.

Read: John 6: 60-71

6. What is the reaction of the people to the teaching of Jesus in this passage? Many stopped following Him at this point. Kosher Jewish food can't have blood in it because it symbolizes life; therefore, we can understand a little more clearly why they were offended. They were taking Jesus literally. The Greek words here mean hard to accept, not hard to understand. They understood but many could not accept. Jesus essentially said, "If all this has

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offended you, what will you think when you see Me in glory, and have to answer to Me in judgment?" Better to be offended now and to get over it, than to be offended on that day. (Guzik) Jesus rebuked their own material and earthly motivations for following Him. If they did not seek Him by the Spirit instead of seeking Him for food and a kingdom, then they had not come to Him at all. Scores of would-be followers of Jesus left Him, and He asked the twelve if they would also go. Jesus searched the motives of all that follow Him, including the twelve. As the synagogue emptied, Jesus asked this question that assumed a "No" answer. How did His disciples respond? Lord, where would we go? We know that you are the Holy One sent from God. Simon Peter gave a wonderful statement of faith. He recognized Jesus as Lord. He recognized Jesus as the preferred alternative, despite the difficulties. He recognized the value of spiritual things, more than the material and earthly desires of those who walked away. He recognized Jesus as Messiah the Christ and God Son of the living God. Though many walk away and some may even betray Jesus, it should not change the faith or the walk of the true follower of Jesus Christ.

An Exchange Over Traditions, Ceremony and Defilement

John 7: 1 "After this, Jesus went around in Galilee. He did not want to go about in Judea because the Jewish leaders there were looking for a way to kill him."

Read Matthew 15:1-20

7. Who came from Jerusalem to visit Jesus? Pharisees and teachers of the law. What did they ask Him? Why don't your disciples wash their hands in the proper way before they eat. The tradition was an elaborate ritual where water had to go over the wrists, etc. It went way beyond hygiene. What was their motive in asking Him these questions? They wanted to show that Jesus and His disciples were breaking the law, but they were breaking tradition. To them tradition was just important as the Law. Some believed that the traditions had begun with Moses and Jesus flatly denies that. Fourfold says, "It is hard for us to learn and apply the distinction between serving God as God wishes to be served, and serving him according to our own wishes and notions."

8. How did Jesus respond the questions and accusations of the people in the above question? He asked them why they were breaking God's command to honor parents.

9. What prophecy did Jesus apply to these people? Isaiah 29:13 that we read earlier. In what way did it fit them? They were using their traditions and following them more closely than

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they were the Commandments. Some of their traditions actually broke the law. Jesus saw their hypocrisy as a fulfillment of Isaiah's prophecy. Jesus has three points: (1) in each case those warned were Jews, (2) from Jerusalem, (3) with a religion characterized by externals that sometimes vitiated principle. The Jews of Jesus' day thought of themselves as preserving ancient traditions; but Jesus said that what they were actually preserving was the spirit of those whom Isaiah criticized long before. They had displaced the true religion of the heart with a religion of form. Therefore, their worship was vain and their teachings their own, with nothing of God's authority behind them. Comments from Biblegateway.

10. What effect is there on one's worship when he teaches as doctrine the commandments and precepts of men? It makes them hypocrites because they are not putting God's commands in the first priority.

11. How did the scribes and Pharisees reject the commandment of God by keeping tradition? They were using resources that could help parents saying that it belonged to God.

12. According to the text, how is a person defiled? Jesus says that it is what comes out of a person's mouth that makes them unclean. What desirable characteristics proceed from the hearts of people? What concerned Jesus most was to see people transformed and their hearts renewed because he came to save his people from their sins. He wanted those same desires in His followers. Purity of heart, not looking religious or impressive, is what matters most to Christ

Matthew 15:21 "Leaving that place, Jesus withdrew to the region of Tyre and Sidon."

13. Where did Jesus go after He finished His discussion with the scribes and Pharisees? Fourfold says that this is the first time Jesus went into foreign territory. He withdrew to escape the opposition of his enemies and the mistaken movements of his friends. As he was not on a missionary tour, it was perfectly proper for him to enter heathen territory.

Healing a Phoenician Woman's Daughter

Read Matthew 15: 22-28

14. Briefly summarize what Jesus did for the woman and her daughter, include the events leading up to and those which follow it. A woman approached Jesus saying that her daughter was demon-possessed. Jesus was probably still in foreign territory. Jesus seems to have ignored her until His disciples asked Him to send her away. She uses the term "son of David" indicating that she had heard about the promised Messiah. Surrounding countries wanted to share in the

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Messianic blessings. He told his disciples that He had come to save the people of Israel. The woman still asked for his help. He said it isn't right to take children's food and give it to the dogs. She replies that dogs get to eat leftovers that fall from the table. Jesus approved of her faith and her daughter was healed. She was a gentile like the centurion.

Matthew 15:29 Jesus left there and went along by Lake Galilee.

15. Where did Jesus go after He left Tyre and Sidon? From Tyre Jesus proceeded northward to Sidon and thence eastward across the mountains and the headwaters of the Jordan to the neighborhood of Damascus. Here he turned southward and approached the Sea of Galilee on its eastern side. Somewhere amid the mountains on the eastern side he ceased his journeying for some days.

The Feeding of the Four Thousand

Read Mark 7:31-37

16. Briefly summarize Jesus' healing of the deaf man who had a speech impediment. What did Jesus tell the people to do in relation to this miracle? What was their reaction? Jesus takes the man away from the crowd, put his fingers in his ears, spat and touched the man's tongue. He told the people to keep quiet about it. They were amazed and said how well he does everything. The deaf hear and the mute speak. These were the people who had asked Jesus to depart from their coast on account of the loss of their pigs. A complete change in their feelings had taken place since that day.

Read Matthew 15:30-38

17. As a result of the above miracle, who came to Jesus? A large crowd of people. How many of them were there? Four thousand people.

18. What concern did Jesus have for the multitude? They had nothing left to eat. They were with Jesus for three days and now were out of food. How did He meet their needs? The Disciples had seven loaves of bread and a few fish. Jesus multiplied that, fed the people and the disciples picked up seven baskets of leftovers.

19. Compare and contrast the feeding of the 4000 to the feeding of the 5000. See the feedings.

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The Pharisaic Leaven

Matthew 15:39 Then Jesus sent the people away, got into a boat, and went to the territory of Magadan.

20. Where did Jesus go after feeding the 4000? Matthew says Magadan and Mark says Dalmanutha. Bible Hub says "the borders of Magadan" and "the parts of Dalmanutha" were contiguous. We may perhaps gather from the narrative that they lay on the western shore of the Sea of Galilee.

Read Matthew 16:1-12

21. What request did the Pharisees and Sadducees make of Jesus? They wanted a miracle. A miracle was to show that God approved of Jesus.

What was His response? He refused telling them that they could read the signs of the weather but not the signs of the times.

Closing prayer: Thank you for allowing us to have this time together in Your presence. Help us to go humbly into worship. May our fellowship today be joyful and pleasing in Your sight. Amen.

John 6:22-29	John 6: 43-51	Matthew 15:1-20	Mark 7:31-37
John 6:32-40	John 6: 52-59	Matthew 15: 22-28	
John 6:41-42	John 6: 60-71	Matthew 15:30-38	
		Matthew 16:1-12	