

THE GOSPEL OF JOHN
EXPOSITORY SERMON NO. 6
THE BREAD OF LIFE

Introduction

- I PERIOD OF GREAT POPULARITY
 - A. Climax of Great Galilean ministry
 - 1. Great multitudes followed Him.
 - a. Visualize the great excitement to catch full meaning of this chapter.
- II JESUS' COMPASSION
 - A. His compassion not because of their hunger, but because "they were as sheep not having a shepherd."

Discussion

- I THE MIRACLE
 - A. Describe.
 - B. Teaching aspect of the miracle
 - 1. Passover near — God's sacrificial lambs would be eaten.
 - 2. What the bread of the miracle was to their bodies, His atoning death (His flesh and blood) would be to their souls.
 - 3. The spiritually minded would learn of His deity and Messiahship.
 - 4. The carnally minded would be satisfied with having been filled with the physical food.
 - C. The miracle was used by Jesus to sift His disciples.
 - 1. Could not allow this multitude to continue to follow Him without their knowing the real nature of His Kingdom . . . this would be under false pretenses.
 - 2. Gospel still sifts today!
 - a. It is still a spiritual kingdom.
 - b. It still costs, and demands that members count the cost.
 - c. There is no promise of physical peace or prosperity for men merely because they become Christians.
 - D. Result of the Miracle
 - 1. They seek to force Him to be their physical king.
 - 2. Jesus expected certain results:

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- a. Thoughts of their own hearts needed revealing.
 - b. They sought Him, not because of the signs of His Messiahship and deity, but because they had eaten of the loaves and were filled.
3. Application:
WE NEED TO ASK OURSELVES THIS QUESTION: WHY DO I FOLLOW CHRIST? It is because of family tradition, because it is the line of least resistance, because of reputation, because of worldly advantage?

II THE SERMON

- A. Jesus introduces by saying:
1. "You are seeking the wrong things — set your hearts on the spiritual things."
 2. The multitudes say, "How . . . What must we do that we may work the works of God?"
 3. Jesus answers, "Believe on Me."
 - a. Jesus Himself taught that faith and works are one and the same . . . we are saved by works as well as by faith
 - b. Believing is working
- B. The true Bread of Life is:
1. Jesus . . . the Person
 2. His atoning death and justifying resurrection is the food for our spiritual life.
 3. The Jews may have thought Jesus spoke of His literal flesh
BUT JESUS INTERPRETS HIS WHOLE DISCOURSE BY SAYING . . . "THE WORDS THAT I HAVE SPOKEN UNTO YOU, THEY ARE SPIRIT AND THEY ARE LIFE . . ."
LET US ALLOW JESUS TO INTERPRET HIS OWN SERMON!
- C. The True Bread of Life:
1. Gives life to the souls of men.
- D. How do we eat this Bread?
1. Believe — trust — obey Jesus
 2. There are too many "runt" Christians, stunted because they have stopped eating . . . "faith cometh by hearing and hearing by the Word of God."
THOUSANDS OF BABES IN CHRIST ARE DYING OF SPIRITUAL MALNUTRITION

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3. Then there are thousands more dying because they have been fed POISONED BREAD OF LIFE!
 - a. A MAN WHO FEEDS POISONED FOOD TO PEOPLE IS A CRIMINAL . . . SO FALSE PREACHERS AND TEACHERS ARE GUILTY OF SPIRITUAL MURDER
 - b. Pharisees compassed land and sea to make one proselyte . . . but then they made him twofold more a son of Hell by their false doctrines,

II THE SIFTING

- A. Multitudes really knew what Jesus meant when He said, "Except ye eat my flesh and drink my blood . . ."
 1. Their rejection of Him was moral . . . not intellectual.
 2. They wanted to dodge the issue by saying "How can we eat this Man's flesh?"
 - a. THE SAYING WAS NOT HARD TO UNDERSTAND, BUT INTOLERABLE TO THEIR CARNAL MINDS.
 - b. JESUS WOULD NOT BEND TO THEIR WISHES TO BE MADE A TEMPORAL KING, AND THEY LEFT HIM TO GO BACK TO THEIR OLD WAYS . . .
 3. Most of the rejection of Christ today is MORAL, and not INTELLECTUAL.
 - a. It is not that men and women of America do not know about Christ and what they ought to do.
 - b. THEY JUST DO NOT WANT TO FORSAKE THE WAYS OF SIN!
- B. THIS WAS A GREAT TEST FOR THE TWELVE.
 1. This is their finest hour
 2. Even though confused about the kingdom, their basic desire was to know the words leading to eternal life.
 3. They passed this test of sifting because:
 - a. They were sincere in their conviction that only Jesus had the words of Life
 - b. They saw clearly that there were only two alternatives . . . accept Jesus and have the words of life, or reject Him and die spiritually.

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- C. Their confidence in Jesus was :
1. Possible because of their intimate association with Him and hearing and obeying His teaching.
 2. One cannot trust a stranger with such confidence
 3. Their confession was a result of "having come to know . . ."
- WE CANNOT TRUST JESUS TODAY UNLESS WE HAVE AN INTIMATE ASSOCIATION WITH HIM BY STUDY, OBEDIENCE PRAYER AND LABOR IN THE KINGDOM

Conclusion

- I WHOLE MATTER OF ETERNAL LIFE IS IN FEEDING ON THE BREAD OF LIFE.
THIS IS DONE BY "ABIDING IN HIM . . ." CONTINUALLY.
- II MUST NOT FEED UPON POISONED BREAD OF LIFE.
- A. THE MESSAGE OF ALL RELIGIOUS SECTS MUST BE TESTED AND ANALYZED.
THEY MUST BE COMPARED WITH THE DIVINE STANDARD AND FORMULA AS REVEALED IN THE NEW TESTAMENT.
- III FOOD, UNLESS ASSIMILATED DOES NO GOOD.
WE MAY COME TO CHURCH 50 YEARS WITH PERFECT ATTENDANCE, BUT UNLESS THE GOSPEL GETS DOWN INSIDE AND BECOMES A PART OF OUR SPIRITUAL BLOOD STREAM, WE SHALL DIE OF RITUALISM, HYPOCRISY, ETC.

EXAMINATION — CHAPTERS 4, 5, and 6

Here are the questions — You supply the answers as stated in the Scriptures.

1. Q. "How is it that thou, being a Jew, askest drink of me, who am a Samaritan woman?"
A.
2. Q. "Hath any man brought him aught to eat?"
A.
3. Q. "Wouldest thou be made whole?"
A.

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4. Q. "Whence are we to buy bread, that these may eat?"

A.

5. Q. "What must we do, that we may work the works of God?"

A.

6. Q. "Would ye also go away?"

A.

True or False?

1. The Samaritan woman at the well was married.
2. The woman, having come nearly two miles to get water, left her waterpot and returned to the city.
3. The sower is always sure of reaping from his own labors.
4. The nobleman was required to have faith before Jesus would heal his son.
5. The man at the pool of Bethesda was healed on the sabbath.
6. Anyone not worshipping Jesus as the Son of God does not worship God.
7. The Jews never searched the Scriptures.
8. The Sea of Galilee has four other names.
9. Jesus interprets His own discourse on the Bread of Life.
10. Jesus always knew that Judas Iscariot would betray Him.

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Can You match these portions of Scripture?

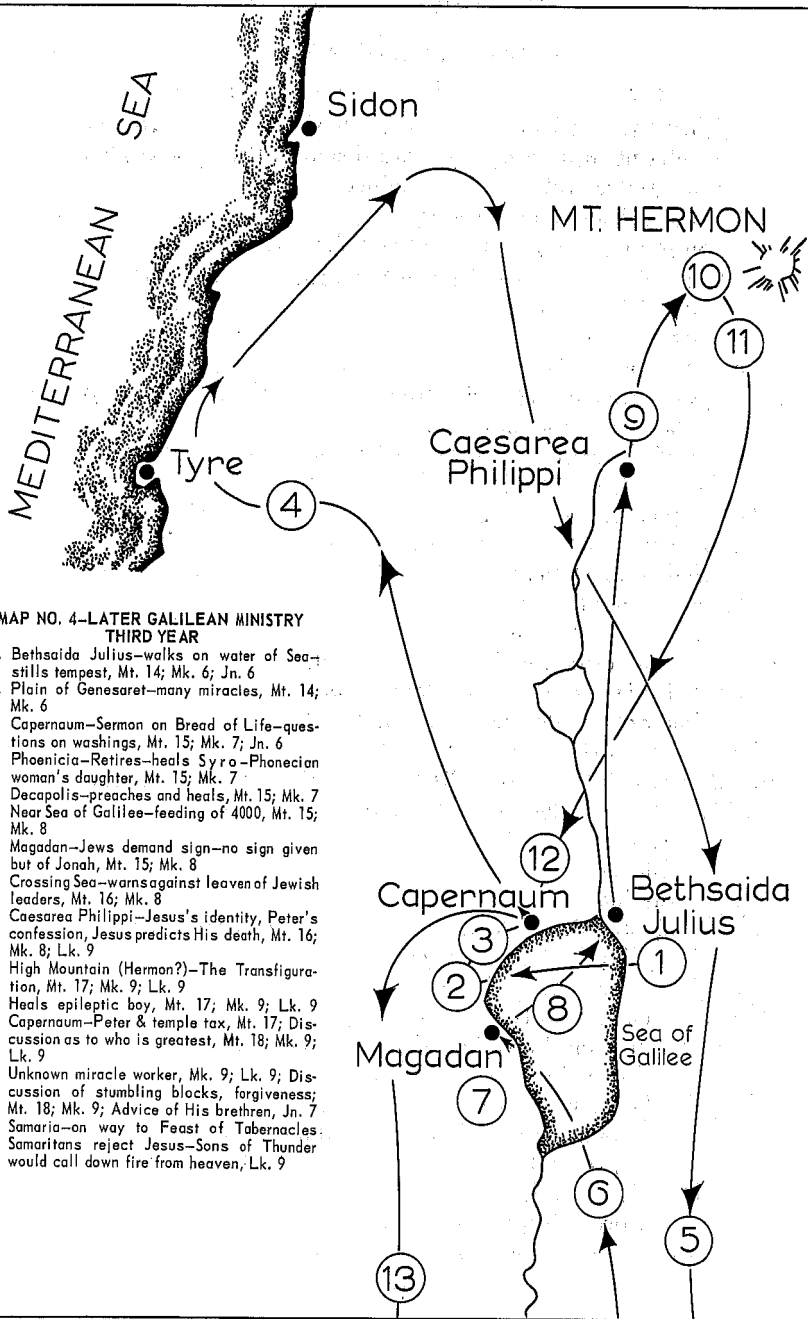
1. "But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and truth:
 2. "Say not ye, There are yet four months, and then cometh the harvest?
 3. "The hour cometh, and now is when the dead shall hear the voice of the Son of God;
 4. "Marvel not at this: for the hour cometh, in which all that are in the tombs shall hear his voice;
 5. "Work not for the food which perisheth,
 6. "Except ye eat the flesh of the Son of man and *drink* his blood,
 7. "I am come in my Father's name, and ye receive me not:
 8. "It is the spirit that giveth life; the flesh profiteth nothing:
 9. "No man come to me,
 10. "For this cause have I said unto you, that no man can come unto me,
- a. but for the food which abideth unto eternal life,"
 - b. if another shall come in his own name, him ye will receive."
 - c. and shall come forth; they that have done good; unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of judgment."
 - d. except it be given unto him of the Father."
 - e. the words that I have spoken unto you are spirit, and are life."
 - f. ye have not life in yourselves."
 - g. for such doth the Father seek to be his worshippers."
 - h. behold, I say unto you, Lift up your eyes, and look on the fields, that they are white already unto harvest."
 - i. and they that hear shall live."
 - j. except the Father that sent me draw him: and I will raise him up in the last day."
 - k. God is a spirit: and they that worship him must worship in spirit and truth."

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Multiple Choice

(Choose the answer which is most nearly correct)

1. "When the Lord knew that the Pharisees had heard that He was making and baptizing more disciples than John, He . . ."
 - a. left Judea and went into Galilee
 - b. left and went into Judea
 - c. stopped making and baptizing disciples
2. The mountain upon which the Samaritans worshipped was :
 - a. Mt. Gerizim
 - b. Mt. Gishon
 - c. Mt. Gilgal
3. If Jesus was in Samaria "four months before harvest," He was there in the month of :
 - a. April or May
 - b. December or January
 - c. September or October
4. The man at the pool of Bethesda had been lame for :
 - a. Thirty-eight years
 - b. Forty-eight years
 - c. Thirty-eight months
5. The great sermon in John, the fifth chapter, is called :
 - a. The Sermon on the Resurrection
 - b. The Sermon on the Bread of Life
 - c. The Sermon on Deity
6. The Gospel of Luke tells us that the feeding of the five thousand took place near the city of :
 - a. Bethesda
 - b. Bethlehem
 - c. Bethsaida
7. The lad brought to Jesus by Andrew had with him :
 - a. five fishes and two loaves
 - b. five loaves and five fishes
 - c. five loaves and two fishes
8. The Sermon on the Bread of Life was delivered :
 - a. In a synagogue in Capernaum
 - b. On the shores of the Sea of Galilee
 - c. On a mountain near Bethsaida Julias
9. Jesus interpreted His own Sermon on the Bread of Life as :
 - a. His literal flesh and blood
 - b. The Lord's Supper (communion service)
 - c. Abiding in His words which are spirit and are life



MAP NO. 4—LATER GALILEAN MINISTRY
THIRD YEAR

1. Bethsaida Julius—walks on water of Sea—still tempest, Mt. 14; Mk. 6; Jn. 6
2. Plain of Genesaret—many miracles, Mt. 14; Mk. 6
3. Capernaum—Sermon on Bread of Life—questions on washings, Mt. 15; Mk. 7; Jn. 6
4. Phoenicia—Retires—heals Syro-Phonician woman's daughter, Mt. 15; Mk. 7
5. Decapolis—preaches and heals, Mt. 15; Mk. 7
6. Near Sea of Galilee—feeding of 4000, Mt. 15; Mk. 8
7. Magadan—Jews demand sign—no sign given but of Jonah, Mt. 15; Mk. 8
8. Crossing Sea—warns against leaven of Jewish leaders, Mt. 16; Mk. 8
9. Caesarea Philippi—Jesus's identity, Peter's confession, Jesus predicts His death, Mt. 16; Mk. 8; Lk. 9
10. High Mountain (Herman?)—The Transfiguration, Mt. 17; Mk. 9; Lk. 9
11. Heals epileptic boy, Mt. 17; Mk. 9; Lk. 9
12. Capernaum—Peter & temple tax, Mt. 17; Discussion as to who is greatest, Mt. 18; Mk. 9; Lk. 9
13. Samaria—on way to Feast of Tabernacles Samaritans reject Jesus—Sons of Thunder would call down fire from heaven, Lk. 9