



## TALKS FOR GROWING CHRISTIANS TRANSCRIPT

### John 6:30-40: The Bread of Life Discourse, Part II

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*"Therefore they said to Him, "What sign will You perform then, that we may see it and believe You? What work will You do? 31 Our fathers ate the manna in the desert; as it is written, 'He gave them bread from heaven to eat.'"*<sup>[a]</sup>

*32 Then Jesus said to them, "Most assuredly, I say to you, Moses did not give you the bread from heaven, but My Father gives you the true bread from heaven. 33 For the bread of God is He who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world."*

*34 Then they said to Him, "Lord, give us this bread always."*

*35 And Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life. He who comes to Me shall never hunger, and he who believes in Me shall never thirst. 36 But I said to you that you have seen Me and yet do not believe. 37 All that the Father gives Me will come to Me, and the one who comes to Me I will by no means cast out. 38 For I have come down from heaven, not to do My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me. 39 This is the will of the Father who sent Me, that of all He has given Me I should lose nothing, but should raise it up at the last day. 40 And this is the will of Him who sent Me, that everyone who sees the Son and believes in Him may have everlasting life; and I will raise him up at the last day."*

#### Background Notes

In the first part of John 6, we saw two of the well-known miracles of our Lord Jesus – the feeding of the five thousand, and the walking on water. Remember, these are two of the seven "sign miracles" in the Gospel of John. Following these miracles the Lord gave a talk, which is known today as the Bread of Life Discourse. It was given in the town of Capernaum to many of the same people who had participated in the miracle of the multiplication of the loaves and the fish, as well as to some Jewish leaders.

In verse 30, we see that the people ask for a sign: *"What sign will You perform then, that we may see it and believe You? What work will You do?"* A sign?! What more did they want?! They had just seen -- and many had participated in -- the miracle of the feeding of the five thousand. What more could you ask for, in the way of a sign?

What would you have done at this point, if you had been in the position of our Lord? I think I would have said, "Oh, you want a sign do you? I'll show you a sign, you unbelievers! Here's some lightening from heaven!" Or something like that. It is wonderful to see the grace and the patience of our Lord in dealing with these folks.

When they said, *"Our fathers ate the manna in the desert; as it is written, 'He gave them bread from heaven to eat,* Jesus replied, *"Most assuredly, I say to you, Moses did not give you the bread from heaven, but My Father gives you the true bread from heaven."* When the people said "our fathers ate the manna in the desert," they were implying that Moses was greater than Christ. Moses had brought bread out of heaven, and the Lord had only multiplied existing bread! The Lord simply answered

them by saying that Moses didn't give the manna, God gave the manna. **God** fed His people in the wilderness, not Moses!

Continuing in verse 32, *"Then Jesus said to them, 'Most assuredly, I say to you, Moses did not give you the bread from heaven, but My Father gives you the true bread from heaven.'" Jesus told them that God gives the true Bread from heaven, which can feed the world: "For the bread of God is He who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world"(v33). Then when the people said that they would like to have this bread, the Lord revealed to them that **He is the Bread of Life!** "And Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life. He who comes to Me shall never hunger, and he who believes in Me shall never thirst"(v35).*

## **Doctrinal / teaching points**

### **1. The world says, "Seeing is believing." God says, "Believing is seeing."**

The Jews wanted a sign. They said, *"What sign will You perform then, that we may see it and believe You? Did you ever have a non-Christian say that to you? "Hey, if I could see a miracle right here before my very eyes, I'd become a Christian right now." Did you ever have anyone say that to you? The world says, "Seeing is believing. The truth of the matter is that these folks wouldn't believe even if they did see a sign.*

Do you remember the rich man in Luke 16, who said that he had five brothers who would become believers if someone were to rise from the dead? What was the answer given to him? The answer was: No, they wouldn't believe! They have Moses and the prophets -- that is, they have the Scriptures, and if they will not believe the Scriptures, they will not believe even if someone were to rise from the dead. The world says, "Seeing is believing," but God says, "Believing is seeing."

In John 11:40, Jesus was speaking to Martha, the sister of Lazarus who had died: *"Jesus said to her, "Did I not say to you that if you would believe you would see the glory of God?" God says, "Believing is seeing."*

It is possible for us, as Christians, to fall into the world's way of wanting signs in order to believe. A Christian friend once said to me, "You know, I wish every time I had some doubts in the Christian faith that God would send a great light across the sky to assure me." That is a dangerous way to think! Let's be careful that we don't fall into the world's way of thinking. Remember the world says, "Seeing is believing," but God says, "Believing is seeing."

### **2. Eternal security of the soul is part of God's salvation package.**

*"All that the Father gives Me will come to Me, and the one who comes to Me I will by no means cast out"(v37) And, "This is the will of the Father who sent Me, that of all He has given Me I should lose nothing, but should raise it up at the last day. And this is the will of Him who sent Me, that everyone who sees the Son and believes in Him may have everlasting life; and I will raise him up at the last day"(v39-40).*

These are three great verses that support the truth of the eternal security of the believer. If you really accept Jesus Christ as your personal Savior, you can't lose your salvation. You will not be cast out (v37). The Lord doesn't lose anyone (v39). You

have everlasting life (v40). You don't receive everlasting life when you die -- you have it **now**, if you are a believer. You can't lose everlasting life – if you could, it's not everlasting!

Notice in verse 37, by the way, that we have a perfect blend of the sovereignty of God on the one hand and the responsibility of man on the other hand. "*All that the Father gives Me will come to Me*" -- that is the sovereignty of God. And "*the one who comes to Me*"-- that's the responsibility of man. The Bible has no problem harmonizing these two doctrines. Do you have a problem harmonizing those doctrines? It is not always easy, but the Bible puts it right out there: the sovereignty of God and the responsibility of man, right in the same verse.

You can be sure that if you want to receive Christ as your Savior, you are one of the chosen. By the sovereignty of God, you are one of the "elect." And if you're chosen, you can't lose your salvation. The eternal security of those who are saved is part of God's salvation package.

### **3. Resurrection of the body is part of God's salvation package.**

Once again, verses 39-40: "*This is the will of the Father who sent Me, that of all He has given Me I should lose nothing, but should raise it up at the last day. And this is the will of Him who sent Me, that everyone who sees the Son and believes in Him may have everlasting life; and I will raise him up at the last day.*" The "it" of verse 39 ("*but should raise it up at the last day*") is the sum total of believers. No believer will miss out on the resurrection; every believer will have a resurrected body. It will be a body like our Lord's glorious body. Philippians 3:21 says, "*who will transform our lowly body that it may be conformed to His glorious body, according to the working by which He is able even to subdue all things to Himself.*" We will not be spirits floating around in heaven forever! No, we will have glorified bodies forever.

One of the greatest things about the glorified body is that we will not sin. The greatest thing about the resurrection body is not that we'll be able to defy gravity, and travel faster than the speed of light, or things like this! The greatest thing is that we will be sinless! Won't that be great? That is something to look forward to!

How often in this present body when we want to worship the Lord, some idle or bad thought comes into our minds, floats through, distracts us, takes away our attitude of worship. Have you ever had that experience? Just when you want to worship the Lord, something negative that you've seen or heard comes into your mind, and you wish you cleanse your mind from those thoughts so that they wouldn't distract you? The resurrection body – it's great to look forward to! Resurrection of the body is part of God's salvation package.

### **Practical Application**

#### **You can come close -- and still not be saved!**

In verse 36 Jesus said to the people, "*But I said to you that you have seen Me and yet do not believe.*" The people that the Lord was speaking to here were not pagans, and they were not atheists. They had come close, but they were not believers. They believed in God, they believed in Moses, they believed in the miracles of the Old

Testament, the giving of the manna, no problem with that. They believed in the supernatural, they could quote the Scripture (v31): "*Our fathers ate the manna in the desert; as it is written, 'He gave them bread from heaven to eat.'*" They addressed Jesus as Lord (v34): "*Then they said to Him, 'Lord, give us this bread always.'*" Many of them had participated in the miracle of the feeding of the five thousand. Back in John 5:35 our Lord said to a similar group, speaking about John the Baptist, "*He was the burning and shining lamp, and you were willing for a time to rejoice in his light.'*" But the Lord said that they were still unbelievers. You can come close and still not be saved!

Is that possibly your position? You believe in God -- you're not a pagan! You believe in the Bible -- you can even quote Scripture. You don't doubt the miracles of the Christ and you don't doubt the miracles of the Bible. You might even refer to Jesus as Lord -- but you still have not accepted Jesus Christ. You still have not accepted Jesus Christ, the Bread of Life, as your personal Savior. You're just mouthing this word "Lord" because you haven't truly accepted Him as your Lord -- the one who died as your substitute on the Cross, died for your sins. You need to receive Christ as your personal Savior.

You can come close -- and still not be saved.