

THE BREAD OF LIFE

John 6:25-59 (p. 1657)

April 7, 2019

*Then Jesus declared, "I am the bread of life.
He who comes to me will never go hungry,
and he who believes in me will never be thirsty."
John 6:35*

A day (and night!) of signs

*Some time later, Jesus crossed to the far shore of the Sea of Galilee (that is the Sea of Tiberias),
and a great crowd followed him because they saw the miraculous signs he had performed
John 6:1 (see Matthew 14; Luke 9 for how these miracles form the high point of Jesus' popularity)*

Eating is believing

*"Do not work for food that spoils The work of God is this: to believe in the one he has sent.
I tell you the truth, it is not Moses who has given you the bread from heaven,
but it is my Father who gives you the true bread from heaven."
John 6:27-32*

The sum and substance

*"All that the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never drive away
For my Father's will is that everyone who looks to the Son and believes in him will have eternal life,
and I will raise him up at the last day."
John 6:37-40*

1) God's grace is EFFECTIVE

2) I come to Christ because THE HOLY SPIRIT DRAWS ME

What is so hard about grace?

At this the Jews began to grumble
On hearing it, many of the disciples said, "This is a hard teaching. Who can accept it?"
John 6:41-60 → John 6:66-69

Resources for further study of John 6

The Belgic Confession, Articles 18-21, at <https://www.crcna.org/welcome/beliefs/confessions/belgic-confession>.

Doug's favorite definition of faith comes from the Heidelberg Catechism, Lord's Day 7, at <https://www.crcna.org/welcome/beliefs/confessions/heidelberg-catechism>

Bunyan's "Come and Welcome" at http://www.bunyanministries.org/works/vol1/07_come_welcome_christ.pdf

James Montgomery Boice's essays at <https://www.monergism.com/these-things-are-written-so-you-may-believe>

Deffinbaugh's study of John's gospel at <https://bible.org/series/you-might-believe-study-gospel-john>

Martin Lloyd-Jones' studies at <https://www.monergism.com/life-god-soul-man-john-410-13%E2%80%9314>

Spurgeon's sermons on John 6, especially "The Sum and Substance" at <https://www.monergism.com/sum-and-substance-all-theology> and "How Men Come to Christ" at <https://www.monergism.com/how-men-come-christ-john-644>

John Piper's sermon "Behold, Believe, Be Raised" at <https://www.desiringgod.org/messages/ behold-believe-be-raised>

Earl Palmer's *The Intimate Gospel* (Word, 1987).

Merril Tenney's *John: The Gospel of Belief* (Eerdmans, 1948).

Heidelberg Catechism, Lord's Day 7

Q 21. What is true faith?

A. True faith is not only a sure knowledge by which I hold as true all that God has revealed to us in Scripture;¹

it is also a wholehearted trust,² which the Holy Spirit creates in me³ by the gospel,⁴ that God has freely granted, not only to others but to me also,⁵ forgiveness of sins, eternal righteousness, and salvation.⁶

These are gifts of sheer grace, granted solely by Christ's merit.⁷

¹ John 17:3, 17; Heb. 11:1-3; James 2:19

² Rom. 4:18-21; 5:1; 10:10; Heb. 4:14-16

³ Matt. 16:15-17; John 3:5; Acts 16:14

⁴ Rom. 1:16; 10:17; 1 Cor. 1:21 ⁵ Gal. 2:20;

⁶ Rom. 1:17; Heb. 10:10; ⁷ Rom. 3:21-26; Gal. 2:16; Eph. 2:8-10