

Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost

Sermon Road Map

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John 6:41-51

August 7, 2016

Only the Living Bread from heaven can give us eternal life for heaven.

They ran out to see the Miracle Worker - were taught and saw a **BIG** miracle
They hopped on (hired?) boats to hurry back to Capernaum to find Jesus.
But crowd is turning ugly - grumbling! Why? They consider his words nonsense!

He says he is from heaven, but we know his parents Joseph and Mary.

Know it or not - they focused on a **key point**. Jesus focuses us on it.

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- ❖ Jesus clearly claims to be God from heaven
 - ***I AM the bread of life*** - v. 35, now in v. 48
 - ♦ He declares **I am** the **I AM** who spoke to Moses
 - He did come from heaven. Not a saint or angel! The Son of God
 - ♦ ⁴⁶ ***No one has seen the Father except the one who is from God; only he has seen the Father.*** (John mentions a number of times.)
 - ♦ Sent by the Father = the Messiah
 - ♦ Offers the exclusive inside scoop! God's character, will, work, truth
 - Not all *forms of spirituality are equal!* They don't know God!
 - All others are not just inferior, but **clueless, out of their league**
 - ♦ These *Know-it-alls* know **nothing** about the Virgin Birth/Incarnation.
 - This truth is critical! Ignorance or denial = **No** eternal life!
 - ² ***This is how you can recognize the Spirit of God: Every spirit that acknowledges that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God, ³ but every spirit that does not acknowledge Jesus is not from God.*** 1 John 4
- ❖ The much needed *slap in the face* - a *bucket of ice water* reality check!
 - ⁴³ ***"Stop grumbling among yourselves," Jesus answered.*** ⁴⁴ ***"No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws them..."***
 - Problem exposed! Without God's work - people **cannot** figure this out!
 - ♦ ***"No one can come to me unless*** - what part of **no one** don't you get?
 - ♦ God created people so capable - even after the Fall, still very capable in so many ways - except one! Seeing and believing the True God!
 - ♦ *...you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat from it you will certainly die.*
 - ♦ Dead people + Dead tools = Still Dead - **We need God to make alive!**

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- ❖ God - Father, Son, and Holy Spirit - draws people through the gospel
 - ⁴⁷ ***Very truly I tell you, the one who believes has eternal life.*** ⁴⁸ ***I am the bread of life.*** ⁴⁹ ***Your ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness, yet they died.*** ⁵⁰ ***But here is the bread that comes down from heaven, which anyone may eat and not die.*** ⁵¹ ***I am the living bread that came down from heaven. Whoever eats this bread will live forever.***
 - The longing to live forever - rumors and sought out *Fountain of Youth*
 - ♦ 5th Cent. BC - Herodotus - Greek Historian
 - ♦ 16th Cent. AD - Rumored among the people of the Caribbean
 - ♦ Doesn't exist in distant land. Only found here in Jesus the Living Bread.
 - Note: *Bread of Life = Living Bread*
 - ♦ Bread whose essential quality is life = what it's about, its mission
 - ♦ Bread that is living, full of life, active to give life - for emphasis
 - Life = restored into a relationship as child of the True God by forgiveness
 - ***Very truly I tell you, the one who believes has eternal life.***
 - ♦ ***Mark this! Rely on it. Key! Critical.*** Take it into eternity - unchanging
 - ♦ Where God creates faith - eternal life exists. The Eternal God created it.
 - ♦ State of Faith = New Life = New Self = Life that's eternal.
 - ♦ How do you know you have this Eternal Life now for heaven/eternity?
 - Are you drawn to Jesus - love his word, love him, trust, respect?
 - Do you delight to do his will - despising sin, seeking to be free of it?
 - You would rather gnaw on the Bread of Life than the bread of discontent. (Grumbling comes from not happy with God's way...)
 - But what about when I don't? Remember: your sinful nature still plagues you. To get rid of it - Come to Jesus.
 - The eternal life we have now - passes through the door of death
 - Our sinful nature falls away. Why delight in what will be destroyed?

You are about to unite your voice with the Family of those with Eternal Life.
This God and his work are the reasons we received and have eternal life.

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