

I. JESUS THE BREAD OF LIFE – OUR GREATER MOSES

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...48 I am the bread of life. John 6:35, 48

- A. John 6 is one of the most profound few days in Jesus’ ministry. John records for us two of the most powerful miracles performed by Jesus as the Passover season approaches.
- B. In John 5 Jesus is being tested by the religious leaders and he introduces the testimony of Moses against them. One of the fulfillments of scripture was that Messiah would be like the Greater Moses who delivered Israel from the oppression of Egypt by God’s power.

For if you believed Moses, you would believe Me; for he wrote about Me. But if you do not believe his writings, how will you believe My words? John 5:46-47

- C. Now here in John 6, as Israel is just days away from another Passover commemoration of Moses’ ministry and God’s intervention in Egypt; Jesus demonstrates he is that Greater Moses.
- D. Notice some of figurative comparisons between Moses and Jesus.
 - 1. Jesus on a hillside to teach the people (Jn. 6:3) = Moses the law giver. Moses was a profound teacher of God’s law. Moses didn’t just speak of the do’s and don’t’s of God’s law but revealed the nature of God through his teaching.

“Give ear, O heavens, and I will speak; And hear, O earth, the words of my mouth. 2 Let my teaching drop as the rain, My speech distill as the dew, As raindrops on the tender herb, And as showers on the grass. 3 For I proclaim the name of the Lord: Ascribe greatness to our God. 4 He is the Rock, His work is perfect; For all His ways are justice, A God of truth and without injustice; Righteous and upright is He.” Deut. 32:1-4

- 2. Jesus feeds 5,000 (6:10) people with 5 barley loaves and two small fish (6:5-14) = God feeding the multitude of Israel in the wilderness after their dramatic deliverance from Egypt. The religious leaders attributed the manna as the hand of God over the leadership of Moses.
 - 3. Jesus calms a storm and delivers the disciples to the other side of the Sea of Galilee (6:16-25) = Moses opening the Red Sea for the people to escape Pharoah and his army.
- E. These events in John 6 is the reveal Jesus as the Greater Moses and to make a statement that the God of Passover was here. There are so many connections between Passover and Jesus that it is clear that Jesus fulfills the Passover for the Jewish community.
- F. The Passover celebrations ultimately, “...epitomize God’s claiming and releasing of his people as well as his preservation of the people by supplying them with food and rescuing them from the threatening sea” (Borchert, p. 249).¹ Ultimately Passover is a multifaceted identifying celebration where the God of heaven claimed a people and worked on their behalf.

¹ Borchert, Gerald L. 1996. *John 1-11*. The New American Commentary. B&H Publishing: Nashville, TN.

- G. The Jewish leaders ask for a sign from Jesus and Jesus tells the leaders that it wasn't Moses who gave the Israelites manna but his Father just as Jesus was sent at "true bread" from heaven.
- H. It is then Jesus claims to be the "bread of life" basically claiming that he was the provision of God for the people and that he had been sent as the Greater Moses with God's claim on the people.
- I. Jesus was now here representing God as the Greater Moses with the claim on God's people and demand to Pharaoh (the Devil, Rome, False Religious leaders, etc) "Let My people go!" (Ex. 5:1).

Afterward Moses and Aaron went in and told Pharaoh, "Thus says the Lord God of Israel: 'Let My people go, that they may [a]hold a feast to Me in the wilderness.' " Exodus 5:1

II. JESUS CREATES SEPARATION

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...48 I am the bread of life. John 6:35, 48

- A. Jesus claims that he is the bread of life. Though the people ate the manna in the wilderness they still went hungry and had to collect more. Jesus' claim is that somehow his bread will satisfy the hunger of the human spirit/soul not just stomach.
- B. This was radical for Jesus to use this metaphor. However, he increases the intensity of his invitation and begins to cryptically compare the bread he offers to his flesh.

Then Jesus said to them, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink His blood, you have no life in you. 54 Whoever eats My flesh and drinks My blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day. 55 For My flesh is food indeed, and My blood is drink indeed. 56 He who eats My flesh and drinks My blood abides in Me, and I in him. John 6:53-56

- C. This dramatic invitation by Jesus would represent his most radical teaching yet and it offended many. Jesus was after true followers and his decision to purposely offend the mind, revealed what was in the hearts of people.
- D. If you truly loved Jesus, believing he was Messiah and desired relationship with him, that these statements would have drawn you closer to him to ask questions. However, if your heart was disconnected and unbelieving, the moment had come for you to decide...would you follow Jesus regardless of the cost.
- E. I heard one bible teacher make this correlation. Jesus in essence shut down the soup kitchen. He decided that if you wanted him just because he provided food but didn't want his teachings, he would close the kitchen, cut off the supply of food to help you see what was in your heart.
- F. Jesus' decision that day was effective. John tells us that many walked away from Jesus that day and sought him out no more (6:66); BUT, the disciples who knew him the most, pressed in for greater understanding and did not abandon him (6:68-69).

- G. Jesus had come to bring a clear line of demarcation. God in Christ had laid claim to a people that day, all were welcome, but few would choose the road they would have to travel. Few would choose love at any cost.

III. CONCLUSIONS

- A. In this chapter (6) of John's gospel, Jesus is revealed as the Greater Moses. He came to claim a people and demonstrate his willingness to provide for ALL their needs.
1. He is here today to make that same claim and willingness to provide for ALL our needs.
 2. He is here to provide.
 3. He is here to rescue and set free.
 4. He is here to transition us from one place to another safely.
- B. Jesus is the bread of life. Daily fellowship and communion with Jesus will satisfy every hunger and every thirst of your life (spirit, soul, body).
1. If there is one thing being demonstrated on the earth today is that the earth is very very hungry for answers and thirsty for peace.
- C. Jesus sees his disciples (all disciples) as a **complement** (equally yoked partner) and calls us to **commit** to him and him alone to find successful life.
1. Jesus partnered with Philip and the other disciples to satisfy the hunger of 5000 people.
 2. Jesus intervened with the storm rescuing his friends.
- D. As mentioned before, Jesus is here to make a claim. He is here to claim humanity via the cross, not necessarily free Israel from Rome. Our deliverance from slavery is from the spiritual oppressors first.
- E. Our commitment to him is to receive Him as he is, and to believe and act upon what he has said.
- ²⁸ Then they said to Him, "What shall we do, that we may work the works of God?" ²⁹ Jesus answered and said to them, "This is the work of God, that you believe in Him whom He sent." John 6:28-29*