

John 6

Jews were looking for a physical kingdom.
Hearing vs seeing.

The Jews didn't actually keep God's word, and didn't love God.

They were looking for a kingdom (but only to fulfill their physical desires).
But it was the kingdom of God.

They were incompatible.

Verse 1

John 6:1 After these things Jesus went over the sea of Galilee, which is the sea of Tiberias.

Jesus had gone up to Jerusalem for the feast.
But now the Jews are seeking to kill him.

So he's gone back up into Galilee.
And more time has gone by.

And he's crossed over to the west side of the sea of Galilee.
Region of Iturea (and Decapolis). Not Jewish.

Verse 2

John 6:2 And a great multitude followed him, because they saw his miracles which he did on them that were diseased.

So he's gotten far away from the Jewish leaders, but he's still being surrounded by people who think like them.

They follow him because of what they saw.

Verse 3

John 6:3 And Jesus went up into a mountain, and there he sat with his disciples.

Low-lying area around the sea, with mountains around it.

So he can sit up there and everyone can still see and hear him.

Verse 4

John 6:4 And the passover, a feast of the Jews, was nigh.

So we've now gone through about a year of Jesus's ministry.
And things are still kind of in limbo.
The Jewish leaders won't accept him, and the multitudes want to believe in miracles.

Verse 5

John 6:5 When Jesus then lifted up his eyes, and saw a great company come unto him, he saith unto Philip, Whence shall we buy bread, that these may eat?

So Jesus is sitting on the mountaintop and sees all these people that are coming.

And he asks Philip, "How are we going to feed all of these folks?"
Out in the wilderness.
That doesn't really seem like their responsibility.
Shouldn't they have their own food?
That's not what they're coming for is it?

Actually, it is.

They didn't come to hear the word, but to have their bodily needs fulfilled.
And so that is what Jesus has decided to do.

Verse 6

John 6:6 And this he said to prove him: for he himself knew what he would do.

Jesus already has planned how he'll feed them.
But he asks Philip what his suggestion is, to see what he says.

Verse 7

John 6:7 Philip answered him, Two hundred pennyworth of bread is not sufficient for them, that every one of them may take a little.

Jesus asked him where they are going to buy enough bread, and Philip says that would take quite a bit of money.
Two hundred pennyworth: 8 months salary. \$25,000.

I guess Philip failed the test.
Remember before how Jesus spoke of a meat to eat that he had?
He said that is meat was to do the will of him that sent him, and to finish his work.
He compared meat to the will of God, and eating to doing his will.

So I think he was seeing if Philip had caught on to things, and would say, "What they really need is spiritual meat."

But even Jesus's disciples didn't fully understand this until after his resurrection.

Verses 8-9

John 6:8 One of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, saith unto him,
9 There is a lad here, which hath five barley loaves, and two small fishes: but what are they among so many?

So Philip just saw an impossible problem, and Andrew considers what they have but says its a drop in the bucket.

Verses 10-11

John 6:10 And Jesus said, Make the men sit down. Now there was much grass in the place. So the men sat down, in number about five thousand.

11 And Jesus took the loaves; and when he had given thanks, he distributed to the disciples, and the disciples to them that were set down; and likewise of the fishes as much as they would.

And you can see here a pattern of how the word of God is distributed. Christ spoke it to his disciples, and they put it down for us.

Verses 12-13

John 6:12 When they were filled, he said unto his disciples, Gather up the fragments that remain, that nothing be lost.

13 Therefore they gathered them together, and filled twelve baskets with the fragments of the five barley loaves, which remained over and above unto them that had eaten.

So not only did everybody get to eat, but everybody got so full that they couldn't eat another bite, and had to send some back.

Verse 14

John 6:14 Then those men, when they had seen the miracle that Jesus did, said, This is of a truth that prophet that should come into the world.

So they were convinced that this was the prophet that Moses spoke about. Moses said that every man must hear that prophet, and if you don't heed his words you'll be cut off from among the people.

So naturally their response is for them to ask him to declare the message of God to them, that they might hear and be saved. Right?

Verse 15

John 6:15 When Jesus therefore perceived that they would come and take him by force, to make him a king, he departed again into a mountain himself alone.

Their response is, they want to make him a king.

They aren't interested in him fulfilling his role as a prophet, speaking the word of God.
But just as a king, watching out for the welfare of his people.

They don't want to come and hear and do his will, the will of God.
They want to take him by force to do their own will with him.

So he flees up into the mountain.

Verses 16-17

John 6:16 And when even was now come, his disciples went down unto the sea,
17 And entered into a ship, and went over the sea toward Capernaum. And it was now dark, and
Jesus was not come to them.

So the disciples cross back over the sea.
They'll meet back up with Jesus later after things die down.

Verses 18-19

John 6:18 And the sea arose by reason of a great wind that blew.
19 So when they had rowed about five and twenty or thirty furlongs, they see Jesus walking on
the sea, and drawing nigh unto the ship: and they were afraid.

So a storm comes up (tough for all those people out there in the wilderness).

Furlong is 1/8th of a mile. 3-4 miles.

They see something out over the sea. And it gets closer, and they can see it is a man.
It is someone walking on the sea, and coming toward the ship.

Verses 20-21

John 6:20 But he saith unto them, It is I; be not afraid.
21 Then they willingly received him into the ship: and immediately the ship was at the land
whither they went.

Once they realize it is just Jesus, and not a ghost, they're glad to have him join them.

And they're suddenly where they were going.
They were rowing against the storm all that time.
It was good for Jesus because he didn't have to walk as far.
But it made more work for them.
But they didn't have to finish rowing the rest of the way.

Verses 22-24

John 6:22 The day following, when the people which stood on the other side of the sea saw that there was none other boat there, save that one whereinto his disciples were entered, and that Jesus went not with his disciples into the boat, but that his disciples were gone away alone; 23 (Howbeit there came other boats from Tiberias nigh unto the place where they did eat bread, after that the Lord had given thanks:)

24 When the people therefore saw that Jesus was not there, neither his disciples, they also took shipping, and came to Capernaum, seeking for Jesus.

So they stayed out there all night through the storm, but Jesus wasn't there. And there weren't any ships that he could have followed the disciples in. Some went by in the night, but they couldn't come to shore in the storm. But the people figured wherever Jesus's disciples are, that's probably where he'll show up. So they went back over to the north-east side of the sea, to Capernaum.

Verse 25

John 6:25 And when they had found him on the other side of the sea, they said unto him, Rabbi, when camest thou hither?

So Jesus tried to shake them off his trail, but they found him anyhow. And they want to know how he got there.

Verse 26

John 6:26 Jesus answered them and said, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Ye seek me, not because ye saw the miracles, but because ye did eat of the loaves, and were filled.

But Jesus just cuts right to the chase. He tells them that they seek him not because of the miracles that they saw. Not because he is the prophet (that like as they have seen his works they should hear his words). But rather because he filled their bellies.

They're not following him to get their spiritual needs filled.

Verse 27

John 6:27 Labour not for the meat which perisheth, but for that meat which endureth unto everlasting life, which the Son of man shall give unto you: for him hath God the Father sealed.

But they shouldn't be laboring for physical food, but for spiritual food. Not food that extends this earthly life, but that which gives eternal life.

The Son of man will give that to them. As he told the woman at the well of the living water.

For God the Father has sealed him.
That means he is the word of God.
As John said, “he that hath received him has set to his seal that God is true.”
It isn’t man that sealed him, but God.
Not man’s authority, God’s authority.

And so God has given him a word, that he has sealed to him.
That means nobody else can declare it. It is sealed.
And they need to hear that, to receive that “meat”, and it will give them everlasting life.
Just as physical food is necessary for the life of our flesh.

Verse 28

John 6:28 Then said they unto him, What shall we do, that we might work the works of God?

At first that doesn’t seem like such a bad response.
At least they are asking him now.
He just said that he has something that they need.

But what they are still interested in is works like, you know, multiplying loaves, so they can eat and be filled.

Verse 29

John 6:29 Jesus answered and said unto them, This is the work of God, that ye believe on him whom he hath sent.

That’s pretty clear.
The work of God that they are called upon to do, is not a work at all. It is just to believe.
Just to believe on the one he has sent. The Word he has sealed to them.

Verse 30

John 6:30 They said therefore unto him, What sign shewest thou then, that we may see, and believe thee? what dost thou work?

So now they want a sign.
He just fed 15000 people with 5 loaves of bread, and disappeared in one part of the world and appeared in another.

They want some more bread. They’re hungry again.

Verse 31

John 6:31 Our fathers did eat manna in the desert; as it is written, He gave them bread from heaven to eat.

So they said, “Let’s see a sign from heaven.”

Verse 32

John 6:32 Then Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Moses gave you not that bread from heaven; but my Father giveth you the true bread from heaven.

Jesus says, "That bread didn't really come from heaven."
"It fell from the sky, yes, but it didn't come from before the throne of God."

But now the true bread from heaven is being given by his Father.

Once again he claims to be the Son of God.

Verse 33

John 6:33 For the bread of God is he which cometh down from heaven, and giveth life unto the world.

So Jesus says that he is the bread of God, the true bread from heaven.
Who as he just said will give live unto the world, eternal life.

Verse 34

John 6:34 Then said they unto him, Lord, evermore give us this bread.

They are still stuck on food. They are infatuated with eating.
They think what Jesus is saying is that he is the heavenly bread machine, who came down to feed everybody.

Verse 35

John 6:35 And Jesus said unto them, I am the bread of life: he that cometh to me shall never hunger; and he that believeth on me shall never thirst.

But he says no, he's not the bread maker, he's the bread.
Those that come to him will never hunger or thirst (just as he told the woman at the well).

Verse 36

John 6:36 But I said unto you, That ye also have seen me, and believe not.

"Look, I told you that you saw the miracles, but that's not why you seek me."
"You're here, but you're not truly coming to me. You believe not."
"You're not interested in believing my word, just getting your belly filled."
"So you won't receive the bread and water that I am offering."
"You won't believe."

Verse 37

John 6:37 All that the Father giveth me shall come to me; and him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out.

He's not going to cast out anybody that comes to him.

But they're not truly coming to him.

They aren't coming to the Son of God, the Word of God. They're coming to God's bread-maker.

But those that the Father has given him will come to him. Come to him as the Christ.

And he won't cast those that truly come to him out.

Verse 38

John 6:38 For I came down from heaven, not to do mine own will, but the will of him that sent me.

So he doesn't make a judgment call on who to accept. He takes all that the Father sends him.

He came not to do his own will, but his Father's.

All that come to him as the Son, he takes.

Verse 39

John 6:39 And this is the Father's will which hath sent me, that of all which he hath given me I should lose nothing, but should raise it up again at the last day.

So again, just as Jesus told the Jews in chapter 5, he tells them that the Father has put him in charge of the resurrection.

And so all those that come to him will ultimately be raised up.

That's the Father's will, that all that he gives him will have eternal life. And Jesus is going to fulfill that will.

Verse 40

John 6:40 And this is the will of him that sent me, that every one which seeth the Son, and believeth on him, may have everlasting life: and I will raise him up at the last day.

Not just seeth, but believeth on him.

They've seen him. He's manifested himself through miracles.

But they don't truly believe on him.

But those that do will have everlasting life, and he'll raise them up in the end.

So as he told them, don't labor for meat that is going to perish. Here is eternal life being offered, and they just want a few free meals.

Verse 41

John 6:41 The Jews then murmured at him, because he said, I am the bread which came down from heaven.

Now they are perplexed, because he said he came down from heaven.

Here they asked for a sign, and he says “I am the sign,” and they’ve seen him, and yet they won’t believe him.

Verse 42

John 6:42 And they said, Is not this Jesus, the son of Joseph, whose father and mother we know? how is it then that he saith, I came down from heaven?

They say, “we know who is parents are, so how can he say that he came down from heaven?”

They are only willing to believe what they see, not what they hear.

Verses 43-44

John 6:43 Jesus therefore answered and said unto them, Murmur not among yourselves.
44 No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him: and I will raise him up at the last day.

He says, “Don’t try to figure it out. You just can come to me, that’s all.”

“You’re not going to figure it out, because you haven’t been drawn unto me of my Father.”

“I know, because you won’t believe.”

“And those that are drawn will believe, and I’ll raise them up at the last day.”

Verse 45

John 6:45 It is written in the prophets, And they shall be all taught of God. Every man therefore that hath heard, and hath learned of the Father, cometh unto me.

As he told the Jews, the scriptures are what testifies of him.
And those that hear, that are taught of God, will come to him.

But those that won’t hear, that will only see, they won’t come to him.

Verse 46

John 6:46 Not that any man hath seen the Father, save he which is of God, he hath seen the Father.

Because nobody has learned of the Father through seeing. But through hearing.
Nobody has seen the Father except the one which came down from heaven.

And so those that have learned of God, have heard. And so they will hear.
But those that want to see can't have learned, and so will not hear now either.

Verses 47-50

John 6:47 Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me hath everlasting life.
48 I am that bread of life.
49 Your fathers did eat manna in the wilderness, and are dead.
50 This is the bread which cometh down from heaven, that a man may eat thereof, and not die.

So he says he is sure they won't come to him and believe on him.
But he declares the truth to them anyhow, just to prove it to them.

He says it again. Those that believe have everlasting life.
Those that eat physical bread die. Doesn't matter where it supposedly comes from.
But those that believe on him, will not die.

Verse 51

John 6:51 I am the living bread which came down from heaven: if any man eat of this bread, he shall live for ever: and the bread that I will give is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world.

So as Jesus told Nicodemus, the Son of man must be lifted up.
Just as they looked on a serpent in the wilderness, to be saved from the serpents, we would believe on death to be saved from death.
And so since it is the death of Christ that we believe on, by analogy his flesh is the bread that we eat.

Verse 52

John 6:52 The Jews therefore strove among themselves, saying, How can this man give us his flesh to eat?

So now they are even more confused. They are so infatuated with eating something that they can't see that he is speaking figuratively. What fools!

Here is Jesus's reply.
Now, everything that Jesus said about to say is said intentionally to confuse and offend them.
There is no way for them to believe. He just told them that. So rather than explain, he wants to just get rid of them.

Verses 53-58

John 6:53 Then Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except ye eat the flesh of the Son of man, and drink his blood, ye have no life in you.

54 Whoso eateth my flesh, and drinketh my blood, hath eternal life; and I will raise him up at the last day.

55 For my flesh is meat indeed, and my blood is drink indeed.

56 He that eateth my flesh, and drinketh my blood, dwelleth in me, and I in him.

57 As the living Father hath sent me, and I live by the Father: so he that eateth me, even he shall live by me.

58 This is that bread which came down from heaven: not as your fathers did eat manna, and are dead: he that eateth of this bread shall live for ever.

Jesus has carefully established an analogy here, based on what they said about their fathers in the wilderness.

And yet they are so fleshly-minded that they refuse to understand it.

And so to thoroughly appall and offend them, he lays it on as thick as he can.

But his point is simply this.

Those that believe on him, dwell in him, and he in them.

They live by him, and as he lives by the Father.

In other words, they become joined in one, so that they share the same basis of life.

And that is the Spirit, that water of life that he talked about before.

But they don't understand that, because they are only interested in the needs and pleasures of this life.

Verse 59

John 6:59 These things said he in the synagogue, as he taught in Capernaum.

Where the man's son that was dying and was healed was.

Verse 60

John 6:60 Many therefore of his disciples, when they had heard this, said, This is an hard saying; who can hear it?

And even many of his disciples did not comprehend it.

Verses 61-63

John 6:61 When Jesus knew in himself that his disciples murmured at it, he said unto them, Doth this offend you?

62 What and if ye shall see the Son of man ascend up where he was before?

63 It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing: the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life.

Is this offending you? Why?

Are you offended because I said I came down from heaven? (that's why the Jews were offended.)

What if I told you you're going to see me ascend back up?

Or are you offended because you don't understand what I said? Did you take it literally?
Don't be silly. It is the spirit that quickeneth, the flesh profiteth nothing.
Eating my flesh won't do you any good. You already have a body of flesh.
What you need is the spirit.
You need a new quickening, that brings a fundamentally different basis of life.
And that's what I'm talking about. The words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life.

Verse 64

John 6:64 But there are some of you that believe not. For Jesus knew from the beginning who they were that believed not, and who should betray him.

"But I know there are also some of you who don't believe."
Some of you are just confused, but others of you can't understand, because you don't believe.

Verse 65

John 6:65 And he said, Therefore said I unto you, that no man can come unto me, except it were given unto him of my Father.

"I told you that you can only come to me if you've learned of the Father."
"And now you can see why, because otherwise you'll be offended and not able to understand."
"You need to be thinking spiritually. What I'm teaching is incompatible with the fleshly mind."

Verse 66

John 6:66 From that time many of his disciples went back, and walked no more with him.

So many of them were offended and left.
But that just means that they didn't believe.
Jesus said those that his Father had given him would come to him, and he wouldn't cast them out. He'd lose nothing.

But these people don't want to walk after the Spirit of God. They want to walk after the flesh.
And so they leave.

And that is John 666.
Because that is going to be how the antichrist is.
He and those that follow him will be fleshly, and they will leave the teachings of Christ.

Verse 67

John 6:67 Then said Jesus unto the twelve, Will ye also go away?

Many have left, will they go too?

Verse 68

John 6:68 Then Simon Peter answered him, Lord, to whom shall we go? thou hast the words of eternal life.

But as Jesus said, those that come to him he will not cast out.
They have understood one thing: he has the words of eternal life.
He has the word, and the word is life, and the life is the light of men.
Everything else is darkness, where are they going to go?

Verse 69

John 6:69 And we believe and are sure that thou art that Christ, the Son of the living God.

They believe he is the Christ, the son of God. Why?
Because of the word. He has the words of eternal life.
Not the other way around.

Verse 70

John 6:70 Jesus answered them, Have not I chosen you twelve, and one of you is a devil?

Jesus says, "Speak for yourself, not all of you believe."

Verse 71

John 6:71 He spake of Judas Iscariot the son of Simon: for he it was that should betray him, being one of the twelve.

So again, Jesus knew who would betray him.
He knew who was believing and who was not.