God’s Gift of True Bread: The Flesh of the Son of God for the Eternal Life of Chosen Disciples (John 6:22-71)

1. Jesus expounds on the essential work of God for saving faith and the essential truth of His heavenly origin (vv.41-51)
   1. The grumbling multitude reveal their spiritual condition (vv.41-42)
      1. Their grumbling evidences that they are like the first wilderness multitude (v.41a).
         1. They are grumbling against the New Moses as the Exodus crowd grumbled against Moses (cf. Num. 11:1-9; Ps. 106:24-26; 1 Cor. 10:9-10).
         2. They failed to respond to the test of manna as the first crowd failed (cf. Deut. 8:3).

*“The stark reality was that even though the people had this daily supply of food, none of that generation survived. They had plenty to eat and their stomachs were full, but they died…To live one must also ingest (take to heart, [Deut.] 6:6) the life-giving commands that come from the mouth of Yahweh, and let them energize one to do his will (cf. 17:19-20; 31:11-13).” (Daniel Block)*

* + 1. Their grumbling evidences rejection of Jesus’ claim (vv.41b-42)
       1. The nature of Jesus’ claim (v.41b)
          1. He is pre-existent (cf. John 1:1).
          2. He possesses authoritative revelation (cf. John 3:11-13; Prov. 30:4; Deut. 30:11-14).
          3. He is of heavenly origin and has come in a “fleshly” way (cf. John 1:14; 6:51).
       2. The offence of Jesus’ claim (v.42)
          1. The crowd’s presumed knowledge of Jesus’ origin (cf. John 7:27)
          2. The seeming contradiction between Jesus’ earthly existence and His heavenly origin.

“*The Jews think they know all there is to know about Jesus’ paternity, but they speak in ignorance not only of his virginal conception but of his true identity…Unlike the readers of this Gospel, they do not know the Prologue—that the eternal Word became flesh (1:14).” (Carson)*

* 1. The all-knowing Christ addresses their grumbling hearts (vv.43-51)
     1. Jesus describes what must happen for them to believe in Him rightly (vv.43-46)
        1. The essential work of God behind any saving faith (vv.43-44)
           1. Jesus exclaims the absolute inability of man to come to Christ in true faith (v.44a; cf. 1 Cor. 2:14).
           2. Jesus proclaims the absolute sovereign work of the Father as the only exception to man’s inability to come (v.44b).
           3. Jesus declares His certain response to the Father’s work (v.44c).
        2. The explanation of this work of God (vv.45-46)
           1. The Old Testament precedence for it (v.45a; cf. Isa. 54:13; Jer. 31:33-34; Ezek. 36:25-27)
           2. The certainty of the results (v.45b)
           3. The clarification of how one hears and learns from the Father (v.46; cf. 1:18; 3:13; 5:25)

“*Thus, however much people are unable to ‘hear’ Jesus because of their moral delinquency (8:43), however much they can hear him only if they are ‘taught by God’, it is simultaneously true to say that they are ‘taught by God’ if and only if they truly ‘hear’ Jesus. Only then will they be truly attracted to him. The argument is of course circular, but not vicious.” (Carson)*

* + 1. Jesus describes why His heavenly origin and fleshly body are both essential for His identity as true bread (vv.47-51)
       1. The identity of Christ as life-giving food (vv.47-48)
       2. The comparison between the food of manna and the food of Christ (vv.49-51)
          1. The first manna resulted in death (v.49)
          2. The last manna results in eternal life (vv.50-51)

The consumption of this bread results in never dying (v.50; cf. John 11:25-26)

The ability of this bread rests on Christ incarnation (v.51; Isa. 53)