



THE GOSPEL OF JOHN: LESSON 7 *"COME AND SEE"*

In chapter 5, Jesus is accused of a big "no-no" by the religious leaders. He healed a man and told him to carry his mattress home with him, but He did it on the Sabbath. The leaders were aghast! How could he do this? Jesus took this opportunity to educate them on who He actually was and what He had the authority to do. He explains to them that He is equal with God the Father in power and authority, because ... He is God.

In our lesson this week, we will be traveling with Jesus over the Sea of Galilee, up to the mountains, and into the city of Capernaum. (Having been to all these places really makes these stories come alive. Actually taking a boat across the Sea of Galilee is an unforgettable experience ... it was awesome!) In this chapter, we find the one miracle that is recorded in all four Gospels. It also shows us how much the people misunderstood who Jesus was and what He was here to do. As you read each section, try to become part of the story. Identify with each character. Imagine seeing thousands of people being fed with almost nothing and hearing Jesus explain that He is the Bread of Life. Allow the Holy Spirit to speak to you as you open your heart to Him. And begin to imagine what Jesus can do about your seemingly "impossible" situation.

First Day

1. Read John 6:1-71 in one sitting. Now go back and observe and list the facts you find in each section. Title each section with some catchy phrase that will help you remember what it's about.

Section 1: Verses 1-14

Section 2: Verses 15-21

Section 3: Verses 22-59

Section 4: Verses 60-71

2. Were there any repeated words, phrases, or thoughts?

3. How does each section tie together? How does this chapter support John's main theme of his Gospel: that Jesus is the Son of God?

4. Verse 1 says, "After these things." What is John referring to? (See chapter 5)

That's it for today. There is so much in this chapter for you and me. Don't forget to look for Jesus on every page!

Memory Verse of the Week: "I am the Living Bread which came down from Heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever; and the bread that I shall give is My flesh, which I shall give for the life of the world."
John 6:51

Second Day

Work on your memory verse. Do you understand what Jesus is saying?

It's important to note that there is a big time gap between chapter 5 and 6. The other Gospels record most of Jesus' two-year ministry in Galilee, following Him as He healed and taught the people. They recorded many of the miracles that Jesus performed during that time. John chooses one to expound on that supports his purpose of writing. This miracle is very significant.

The time of this event was Passover, one year before Jesus' death, when the multitude was passing through on their way to Jerusalem to celebrate the Passover. The people had been following Jesus for days. His good friend and cousin, John the Baptist, had just been beheaded by Herod (Matthew 14:3-12). Jesus heads up the mountain for some quiet time, but the people continue to follow Him around like a puppy.

1. Read John 6:1-14. Also read the other accounts of this miracle in Matthew 14:13-21, Mark 6:31-44, and Luke 9:11-17. List any extra details or facts that these accounts add.

2. Why did Jesus ask Philip what He did in verse 5?

3. Jesus and the disciples saw the situation a little differently. How did Jesus look at it? What was the disciple's perspective?

4. What did Philip's response reveal about his faith?

** Two hundred denarii is equivalent to about 8 months' wages. Also note that the 5,000 only included the men. With women and children, 10,000 people may have been fed.

5. Philip got an "F" on his test. Did Andrew do any better?

6. It has been said that in our lives, we are given many opportunities that are disguised as unsolvable problems. Is there a situation in your life right now that looks impossible? What do the following verses say about that?

- a. Jeremiah 32:17
- b. Luke 1:37
- c. Luke 18:27
- d. Ephesians 3:20

7. Have you been trying to look for a human solution to your situation? Notice that Philip was looking at the situation and Andrew was looking for a human solution, but neither was looking to the Lord. How does this miracle change your perspective and offer you hope?

Let's put the spotlight on the little lad for a moment. His mother most likely packed him a small lunch to take for the day. In it were five barley loaves, which was the food of the poor. Barley loaves were small and flat, and the fish were probably the size of sardines. He willingly offered his lunch to this man Jesus. I picture him standing there with suspenders, holding his little lunch box open, offering Jesus the meager contents. (Obviously, the suspenders and lunch box are from my own imagination!) We don't know any more about him, but we do know that he was willing to offer Jesus whatever he had, no matter how small.

8. What's in your lunch box? Have you been offering Jesus whatever you have, no matter the size? What does He want to use in your life for His glory? Has He given you any gifts, talents, or abilities that you haven't yet offered to Him? Spend some time and meditate on this question ...
9. Jesus gave thanks two times in this chapter (verses 11 and 23). Why? What lessons can we learn from this?
10. What does this miracle reveal about Jesus?
11. How do the people respond to this miracle?
12. Jesus saw the situation as an opportunity to reveal His glory and stretch the disciple's faith. Has God's glory and power ever been revealed to you in what seemed like an impossible situation? How did it stretch your faith? Can you share this with your group?

I want to end with a quote from Charles Swindoll's book, Following Christ ... The Man of God. He said, "Having seen this miracle of Christ, how will you respond? Like Philip, with pessimism? Like Andrew, with guarded optimism? Like the other disciples, who seem to have slept through the whole lesson? Or like the eager young boy, excited to give what little he has and watch with wide eyes how the Lord will use it to overcome the impossible?" See you tomorrow, little lassie! 5+2, there is nothing our God cannot do!

Third Day

Study your memory verse. Have you eaten any bread today?

In verse 14, the people say that Jesus is truly the Prophet. This is a reference to Deuteronomy 18, indicating the people's desire for a Messiah who would meet physical, not spiritual, needs. Again, they totally miss the boat because they're looking at Jesus for what He can do, instead of for who He is.

1. Read John 6:15-21. Also read Mark 6:45-52 and Matthew 14:22-33. What extra details do the other accounts give us? (Also use these for your answers.)

2. Why did Jesus leave the scene? Where did He go? Where did He send the disciples?

3. Describe the disciple's dilemma. Why were they becoming anxious?

4. List all the miracles found in this one story, using all the accounts.

5. What does Mark 6:52 tell us?
6. What caused Peter to sink? (Matthew 14:22-32)
7. Do you ever feel like you are sinking? What should you do? How does John 6:20 encourage you?

We have an unsinkable Savior that will bring us through rough and turbulent waters. Is He in your boat? Have you invited Him into your daily life? Do you look to Him for the answers to your problems? As soon as Peter got his eyes off Jesus and onto the storm that was raging around him, guess what? He sank. We can learn a valuable lesson from Peter. We have to keep our eyes on Jesus; gaze at our Savior and only glance at our problems. Don't get it backwards. Don't gaze at your problems and only glance at the Savior. You will sink for sure.

8. Have you been gazing or glancing at the Savior? Have you been looking more at the rough waters around you? Have the waves made you anxious or afraid? How can the waters of adversity strengthen your faith?
9. How does this section minister to you today, right now, in whatever water you're treading?

God bless you, ladies. May your faith not falter as you hang on to Jesus, your life preserver. Make sure He's in the boat, and you're clinging to Him.

Fourth Day

Spend some time meditating on your verse.

In our section today, Jesus reveals who He is, using the feeding of the 5,000 as a springboard. He also reveals the heart motive of many who were following Him. They wanted to use Jesus, not obey Him.

1. Read John 6:22-59. The people seemed to be searching frantically for Jesus. How did they find Him?

2. According to Jesus, what was the motive of their heart? (vs 26-27)

3. Read Matthew 6:25, 31-33. How does this relate to what Jesus is saying in verses 26-27?

Jesus draws a clear distinction between "food which perishes" and "food which endures to everlasting life." We have a physical hunger that only physical food can satisfy. We also have a deep spiritual hunger that can only be satisfied by spiritual food, which is Jesus, the Bread of Life. The people in the East saw bread as the means for sustaining life (Deuteronomy 8:3). Bread was, and still is, a very important part of their culture.

Ray Stedman, in his book, God's Loving Word, said this: "Food is a source of survival and life. Good food is also a source of pleasure. Like many people today, these people were focused on a substance that is important to biological survival, health and strength, as well as on a substance that brings pleasure to the palate. They thought that food - representing survival and pleasure -- is what life is all about. And this is the majority view in our world today: People devote their entire lives to working, accumulating, existing, and seeking pleasure. People still spend their lives in pursuit of bread that goes stale and moldy after a while, instead of pursuing the food that endures to eternal life."

4. Are you laboring harder for the food that perishes, or the food that provides life? What are you pursuing in life? Are you spending the majority of your time working, accumulating, existing, and seeking pleasure, or are you passionately pursuing the bread that will save you from spiritual death? Time to check your heart and your priorities. Only you can answer this question.

5. The people ask Jesus what kind of work is required from them. How does He respond, in verse 29? What does He mean?

6. What do they then ask Jesus to do? What does this show us about their heart?

7. They wanted Jesus to do better than Moses. Read Exodus 16:1-15 and explain what manna is, who was eating it, and why they were eating it.

Manna was a shadow of Jesus, pointing to the real spiritual food sent by God the Father. Kent Hughes points out that "The manna typified Christ in that it was white like fallen snow, just as Jesus was without blemish. Manna was also accessible. (When a man walked outside of camp to gather it, he had the choice of treading on it or picking it up and gathering it to himself.) We can either tread on Jesus or we can take Him to ourselves. He is also our sustenance, as the manna was to the children of Israel."

8. Although the people were attributing the giving of manna to Moses, who does Jesus say was responsible for the bread in the wilderness?
(vs 32-33)

9. Jesus makes a startling claim in verse 35. He says, "I Am the Bread of Life." This is His first "I AM" statement. How does this reveal His deity?

10. Compare and contrast physical bread and Jesus, the Bread of Life.

11. Do you fill yourself up with the Bread of Life on a daily basis? We wouldn't leave home without breakfast, but do we go on with our day without eating of Him? Why do we need to eat of Him every day?

John again points to one of the *Gospel* themes: that Jesus is the source of life. He sustains us. He is our biggest and grandest "**Reason to Rejoice**"! See you tomorrow. Fill up with the Bread of Life!

Fifth Day

Write your verse from memory.

1. Read John 6:35-59. Jesus states in verses 38-40 that He is here to do the Father's will. What is it?

2. How did the Jews respond to these words? Why were they having trouble getting it?

3. According to verses 44 and 65, are we able to believe apart from God's empowerment? What verses emphasize human responsibility?

4. In verses 48-51, Jesus reminds them that those who ate manna were dead. What point is He trying to make? What does that mean to us?

The Jews still didn't get it. Verse 52 says they argued among themselves. The wording in verse 60 means not so much that the saying was vague or hard to understand but that it was hard to accept. The Greek word "skleros" means "hard to the touch, rough."

5. What does Jesus mean when He says we must "eat His flesh and drink His blood"?

The word "abide" in verse 56 suggests a constant, permanent relationship. It means "living in." Jesus further talks about abiding in John 15.

6. What other kinds of things do people seek to satisfy their hunger? (Will these things bring lasting fulfillment?)

7. Are you seeking other things instead of Jesus for your bread? What should you do about it?

8. What if not everyone in your home understands, accepts, or even believes that Jesus is the only thing that satisfies? How can you still keep your focus on Him?

9. Briefly describe how the Bread of Life has changed your life.

10. Read John 6:60-71. What happened to many of His disciples after Jesus gave the Bread of Life Discourse, as we call it? Why?

11. Jesus then turns to the 12 disciples and asks them if they want to leave too. Peter acts as the spokesman. What does he say?

The apostles didn't turn and follow the crowd; they continued to follow Jesus. Peter's statement is profound. They knew where to find life. They weren't following His miracles, but His teachings (vs 69). This is the first time we meet Judas. He is standing with the rest and probably looking very sincere. It's scary that you can be so close to Jesus, yet so far.

12. Have you come to believe that Jesus has the words of life? Does your lifestyle show it?

