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The Gospel of **Verifying** John the MESSIAH

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14- I AM the Bread of Life: 6:22-71

As we have journeyed through the Gospel of John we have thus far seen five of the seven recorded sign miracles.

1- Water into wine; 2- Official's son healed; 3- the healing at the pool; 4- the feeding of the 5000; and then last session 5-Jesus walking on the water.

The dialogue we focus on in the session comes about primarily because of the fourth miracle of the feeding of the 5000. The time frame is Jesus feed the people then walked on the water across the sea during the night and then the next day this dialogue occurs.

We come now to the first of seven "I AM's" that Jesus will be identified as in John. This first is the Bread of Life. The others are light of the World; the Great I AM; the door, the Resurrection and the Life; the Way the Truth and the Life; and the vine. We will study these as they arrive in our text.

I- Where Did He Go? *John 6:22-25*

The day breaks and the multitude begin to look for Jesus. They do not find Him. They knew the disciples had gone ahead in the boat but that Jesus did not go with them.

Joh 6:22-24 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.

They follow Jesus across the sea to Capernaum. They find Him on the other side and ask how He got there. He never answers the question. *Joh 6:25 And when they had found him on the other side of the sea, they said unto him, Rabbi, when camest thou hither?*

II- Two Declaration of the Bread of Life:

John 6:26-59 record two different conversations. One with the multitude (vs 26-40) and then one with the Jews (vs 41-59). There are some common things said in each dialogue. Due to the large amount of verse we are covering let us look at these common elements in each of these as Jesus uses the feeding of the 5000 to verify that He is the Bread of Life.

1- Bread from Heaven:

Jesus used the first of four strong declaration that begin with "*Verily, verily*", to chastise the people for their wrong motives for following Him. *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.*

They then asked what they must do to work the works of God. He tells them to believe on Him.

Now notice they had seen the miraculous feeding the day before and now they ask for a greater sign. They wanted a sign greater than Moses. They wrongly believed it was Moses who supplied the manna. Jesus then speaks His second "*Verily, verily*" about His Father not Moses giving the bread and Him



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being the bread from Heaven. *Joh 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. 33 For the bread of God is he which cometh down from heaven...**

Notice that this is echoed again to the Jewish group in *Joh 6:51* **I am the living bread which came down from heaven...**

So Jesus is clearing showing He is greater than Moses and that He is the Bread sent from God that is the True Bread.

2- Purpose of His Coming:

Wrapped within this is also stated the purpose of His coming to earth. Notice in both dialogues.

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

Joh 6:51 **I am the living bread which came down from heaven: if any man eat of this bread, he shall live for ever.**

Christ purpose in coming was to give eternal life. Men would have no hope of eternal life apart from His coming to make it possible and provide us with it.

3- Come to Son as Father Draws:

We see this is accomplished by the drawing of the Father of lost men and women to the Son. Notice the two dialogues again.

Joh 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.**

Joh 6:44 **No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him...**

God wants men, women, boys and girls to come to Christ. The Holy Spirit is the agent of God that draws men to Christ. *John 15:26* **But when the Comforter is come,**

whom I will send unto you from the Father, even the Spirit of truth, which proceedeth from the Father, he shall testify of me:

4- Greater than Manna from Heaven:

They were remember the manna that Moses gave remember. Notice Jesus tells them that He as bread of life is greater that the manna.

Joh 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.**

Joh 6:58 **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.**

God had given the manna in the wilderness to sustain them day to day. Remember they had to gather it each day for six days and on the sixth were to gather twice as much for the Sabbath day in which no manna came. All that they gather beyond their daily use spoiled. So the contrast is stark. The manna was given for day to day life while Christ purpose is to give eternal life.

Joh 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.**

5- Believer Will be Raised from Dead:

One of the hopes that we have is that because Christ rose from the dead this gives us the promise that He will raise us up as well.

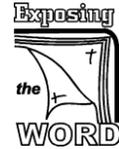
Joh 6:40 **And this is the will of him that sent me, that every one which seeth the Son, and believeth on him, may have everlasting life: and I will raise him up at the last day.**



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John 6:54 *Whoso eateth my flesh, and drinketh my blood, hath eternal life; and I will raise him up at the last day.*

Jesus uses two more sets of Verily verily to add some emphasis on this. Notice

John 6:47 *Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me hath everlasting life.*

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.*

III- The Controversy:

This last verse above gave way too many who would not understand. Was He saying they needed to engage in cannibalism in order to believe? We know that indeed He was talking about receiving the sacrifice of His body and blood without which there are no hope of life.

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

Because of their not having their hearts open to the fact that He must die and shed His blood for them they did not hear the spiritual truth. They got offended.

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

Christ and the doctrine of His sacrifice and blood offered to cleans has always been a stumbling block. Jesus asked **Doth this**

offend you? Offend means to cause to stumble. It had offended them and the gospel continues to offend men.

1 Peter 2:7-8 *Unto you therefore which believe he is precious: but unto them which be disobedient, the stone which the builders disallowed, the same is made the head of the corner, 8 And a stone of stumbling, and a rock of offence, even to them which stumble at the word, being disobedient: whereunto also they were appointed.*

Romans 9:33 *As it is written, Behold, I lay in Sion a stumblingstone and rock of offence: and whosoever believeth on him shall not be ashamed.*

IV- The Great Verification Statement:

After many left Jesus because they wanted the temporary food and not the eternal bread of life Jesus engages the 12 disciples that we know as the apostles.

John 6:67 *Then said Jesus unto the twelve, Will ye also go away? 68 Then Simon Peter answered him, Lord, to whom shall we go? thou hast the words of eternal life. 69 And we believe and are sure that thou art that Christ, the Son of the living God.*

Beloved there is no doubt that Jesus is the Bread of Life as He declared Himself to be after feeding the multitude. There is no doubt that in Him alone we have eternal life which was His purpose in coming to earth. There is no doubt that the Father continues to draw men to Christ by the Holy Spirit. There is no doubt that the gospel is offensive because men want to work instead of only believing. Still the fact remains that Jesus Christ, the one born of a virgin, that lived a sinless life is the one sent by God to be the Bread that gives eternal life.