

The Pastor's Bible Study

An interactive study of the Gospel of John¹

Week 11 ~ Exploring John 6:22-71

Personal Study Time:

(Use the following suggestions in your personal Bible study time this week to prepare for our class discussion next Saturday.)

Day 1: Read John 6:22-59 twice and then answer the following question in your Gospel of John notebook.

- List the reasons in John 6 why the people continued to follow Jesus. Then list their reactions to Jesus' sayings and document the change in their attitudes from those expressed in 14,15 to those expressed in 54-56.
- What was it that first motivated you to become involved in religious activities? How have your motives changed as you have drawn closer to Jesus? Are there still motives that you think Jesus would want to change?

Days 2: Read John 6:22-59 and then answer the following questions.

- Compare this passage with Ex 16 and Num 21. Compare and contrast the bread of life that Jesus offers with the manna given by Moses in the wilderness. Describe in a paragraph or two the main point that you think Jesus is making in this section. In what ways is the bread He offers greater than the manna?
- How comfortable are you with your life? Are you settling for the "good manna" when Jesus wants to offer you something "greater"? Prayerfully list the "good" things in your life that you think Jesus is calling you to replace with something "better". Then prayerfully consider what these "better" things may be that Jesus has to offer you.

Days 3: Reread John 6:22-59 and then answer the following questions.

- What does Jesus mean by eating His flesh and drinking His blood? Write out how you think Jesus would express the same idea today.
- Can you think of a category of food that best describes your spiritual diet right now? Fast food? Junk food? High fiber diet? Dessert? Leftovers? What changes do you think you need to make in your spiritual diet?

¹ Much of this study is quoted and/or adapted from Jon Paulien and George R. Knight, *John: Jesus Gives Life to a New Generation*, The Abundant Life Bible Amplifier (Boise, Idaho: Pacific Press, 1995).

Day 4: Reread John 6:22-59 and then answer the following questions.

- Take a piece of paper and draw a line down the middle. On one side list all the statements in this passage that imply that coming to Jesus is God's work. On the other side list those that imply that coming to Jesus is a personal choice. Which of the two themes seems more important to you? Why?
- Are you daily coming to Jesus in faith, a faith based on His promises? Or are you coming to Him with a faith based on things He does (v. 30)? Starting today, how can you live your life based on Jesus' promises even if it doesn't appear that He is "doing" what you would like Him to do for you?

Day 5: Reread John 6:22-71 and then answer the following questions.

- Which teaching in the previous section of the chapter did the people find so hard to accept? Why do they turn away at this time? Why do Peter and the Twelve decide to stay? Write out your thoughts in two or three paragraphs.
- Have there been times in your life when following Jesus has seemed too difficult or disappointing? What kind of insights helped you decide to hang in there with Jesus rather than moving on to some other way of life?

Day 6: Reread John 6:60-71 and then answer the following questions.

- Why do you think Jesus all but invites the disciples to leave Him in this passage? Why do you think Judas stayed around?
- Sometimes life gets difficult. Regardless of how good or bad your life seems today, how will you "stick" with Jesus should it get worse tomorrow? Do you have a spiritual emergency plan of action? What might such a plan include?

