**The Gospel of John:**

**Stop your Grumbling!**

*John 6:41-51*

**Context**

In this section of Scripture, the crowd reacts to Jesus’ message from the earlier section in John 6 regarding the Bread of Life. Jesus is giving this entire discourse in the synagogue at Capernaum (**6:59**) and it says the Jews were grumbling and would not believe. We see how Jesus rebukes them for their murmuring reaction and then reiterated the truth that they were unwilling to accept: He is the Bread of Life sent from the Father that can only truly satisfy the hungry soul.

**John 6:41-51**—*Therefore the Jews were grumbling about Him, because He said, “I am the bread that came down out of heaven.”****42****They were saying, “Is not this Jesus, the son of Joseph, whose father and mother we know? How does He now say, ‘I have come down out of heaven’?”****43****Jesus answered and said to them, “Do not grumble among yourselves.****44****No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him; and I will raise him up on the last day.****45****It is written in the prophets, ‘And they shall all be taught of God.’ Everyone who has heard and learned from the Father, comes to Me.****46****Not that anyone has seen the Father, except the One who is from God; He has seen the Father.****47****Truly, truly, I say to you, he who believes has eternal life.****48****I am the bread of life.****49****Your fathers ate the manna in the wilderness, and they died.****50****This is the bread which comes down out of heaven, so that one may eat of it and not die.****51****I am the living bread that came down out of heaven; if anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever; and the bread also which I will give for the life of the world is My flesh.”*

Christ gives 3 notable truths

1. **Christ is a stumbling block to the natural man**
2. The Jews

**1:19**—*This is the testimony of John, when the Jews sent to him priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, “Who are you?”*

**2:18-19**—*The Jews then said to Him, “What sign do You show us as your authority for doing these things?”****19****Jesus answered them, “Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.”*

**5:10**—*So the Jews were saying to the man who was cured, “It is the Sabbath, and it is not permissible for you to carry your pallet.”*

(Cf. **5:15-16,18; 7:1; 8:48, 52, 57; 9:18, 22; 10:24, 31, 33; 19:7, 12, 14, 20, 21, 38; 20:19**)

1. Their response: grumbling   
     
   gogguzo—(onomatopoeia) complaints and whispers of displeasure  
     
   Not necessarily openly expressed to Jesus but amongst themselves and it continued. It would not have been unlike the wilderness experience in the OT where they grumbled against God (and His servants) both before and after the physical manna God provided.

**Exodus 16:2**—*The whole congregation of the sons of Israel grumbled against Moses and Aaron in the wilderness.* 

**Numbers 11:4-6**—*The rabble who were among them had greedy desires; and also the sons of Israel wept again and said, “Who will give us meat to eat?****5****We remember the fish which we used to eat free in Egypt, the cucumbers and the melons and the leeks and the onions and the garlic,****6****but now our appetite is gone. There is nothing at all to look at except this manna.”*

1. The Bread of Life  
    **V35**—*Jesus said to them, “I am the bread of life; he who comes to Me will not hunger, and he who believes in Me will never thirst.”*

**V48***—**I am the bread of life.*

**V51***—I am the living bread that came down out of heaven; if anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever; and the bread also which I will give for the life of the world is My flesh.”*

1. Down from Heaven

**V33**—*For the bread of God is that which comes down out of heaven, and gives life to the world.*

**V38**—*For I have come down from heaven, not to do My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me.*

**V42**—*They were saying, “Is not this Jesus, the son of Joseph, whose father and mother we know? How does He now say, ‘I have come down out of heaven’?”*

**V50**—*This is the bread which comes down out of heaven, so that one may eat of it and not die.*

**V51**—*I am the living bread that came down out of heaven; if anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever; and the bread also which I will give for the life of the world is My flesh.”*

**V58**—*This is the bread which came down out of heaven; not as the fathers ate and died; he who eats this bread will live forever.*

* + 1. They thought Him to be the son of Joseph and Mary

*(cf.* ***4:44; 7:27; Matthew 13:55-57****)*

* + 1. *From Nazareth (****1:46****)*
    2. *Claiming equality with God*

**John 5:18**—*For this reason therefore the Jews were seeking all the more to kill Him, because He not only was breaking the Sabbath, but also was calling God His own Father, making Himself equal with God.*

1. *Continual rejection may lead to God judicially hardening hearts*(Cf.**Matthew 13:10-15; Isaiah 6:10; John 12:37-40**).

**1 Corinthians 1:23**—*but we preach Christ crucified, to Jews a stumbling block and to Gentiles foolishness*

1. **The natural man cannot accept the things of God  
     
   John 6:44-46**—*No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him; and I will raise him up on the last day.****45****It is written in the prophets, ‘And they shall all be taught of God.’ Everyone who has heard and learned from the Father, comes to Me.****46****Not that anyone has seen the Father, except the One who is from God; He has seen the Father*
2. The Father must draw **1 Corinthians 2:14**—*But a natural man does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually appraised.*
3. You were dead in your sin

**Ephesians 2:1**—*And you were dead in your trespasses and sins*

**Colossians 2:13**—*When you were dead in your transgressions and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He made you alive together with Him, having forgiven us all our transgressions*

**Romans 3:23**—*for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God*

**Romans 6:23**—*For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

1. There is no will to come for there is no power

His inability to come to Christ does not make an end of his accountableness. Both things are equally true.[[1]](#footnote-1)

1. **Salvation for the believer is a present condition**

**John 6:47**—*Truly, truly, I say to you, he who believes has eternal life.*

1. God draws and teaches

**V44**—*No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him; and I will raise him up on the last day.*

**Isaiah 54:13**—*All your sons will be taught of the Lord; And the well-being of your sons will be great.*

*Drawing and teaching are merely different aspects of God’s sovereign call to salvation; it is through the truth of His word the God draws people to embrace His Son (****Rom 10:14; 17; cf. 1 Peter 1:23-25****).[[2]](#footnote-2)*

***V39****—This is the will of Him who sent Me, that of all that He has given Me I lose nothing, but raise it up on the last day.*

1. Upon belief, eternal life is a present possession
2. Forgiveness and acceptance with God are current realities

Forgiven; accepted; justified; made alive; new creature; child of God; imputed righteousness; in Christ; no condemnation; peace with God; The Holy Spirit living in you; friend; name written in the Book of Life; all spiritual blessings in heavenly places; seated with Christ; reign with Him; title to heaven—which death and hell and Satan cannot overthrow; (etc); **ETERNAL LIFE**!

Happy are those who know these truths!

1. Everyone who comes will be kept by Him
2. **Eat this bread**—metaphorically to believe or appropriating (“taking in”) Jesus   
    **V51***—I am the living bread that came down out of heaven; if anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever; and the bread also which I will give for the life of the world is My flesh.”*

1. JC Ryle, Expository Thoughts, p. 268. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. John MacArthur, NT Commentary, p. 254. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)