

John Ch 6:41-71

“Taste And See That The Lord Is Good”

On your way to the longest Ch in the gospel of John, stop off at Num Ch 21

In Num Ch 21 we catch up to the children of Israel in the midst of their wilderness wanderings. The Lord has delivered them from the bondage of Egypt, and you recall that dramatic scene whereby the Lord instructed Moses to have the individual families spill the blood of a lamb, and they were to strike the lintel and the doorposts of their homes with that blood. and They were to roast that lamb and eat that lamb in haste, to leave nothing for the morning but they were to take it in fully, and what they were unable to eat was to be consumed as by fire. and As the Angel of the Lord passed over the homes that night the people of Egypt who were found with out the blood of the lamb upon their homes, the sentence of death would be brought upon each home not found under the blood and the first born of that home would die. But of the children of Israel, they didn't fall under the sentence of death because they were saved as by the blood of the lamb.

God took them out through the Red Sea and into the wilderness, and there they've been wandering for some time now having refused to enter into the Promised Land because of their unbelief. God did all these radical things in their lives, made Himself real to them in an incredible and personal way, and yet they just couldn't trust Him for total victory in their lives, perhaps you can relate, listen God wants to take you on in to a life led in the Spirit, of victory over those snares of sin that stand against you in your life, but you have to trust Him for it.

But even in those years of vacillation, and fluctuation God was faithful to provide *for* them and take care *of* them. Every night they'd go to bed, and every morning they'd wake up, and as that layer of dew lifted off, there it was, on the surface of the wilderness, a small round substance as fine as frost on the ground; manna. Bread, as by Heaven would just come down as a gift from God for them, it was sweet, it was sustenance; it was life. But though it was kind of a novel thing for a while eventually the children of Israel began to despise, and detest that bread that God provided as life for them, look at vs 4 of Num Ch 21 (Through vs 5).

Now you and I know that this bread, was only a shadow of which the substance was Christ, it was a prophecy of sorts, a type, of how Jesus Christ would come down from Heaven. and Even as the manna was a small seed, that would speak of the humility of Jesus, it was round, which spoke of the eternity of Christ, no beginning and no end. It was white, which would testify of the purity of Jesus, and you had one of two choices concerning that manna, you could humble yourself stoop down and receive it freely, appropriate it into your life taking it in to your innermost being, or you could refuse to humble yourself and receive the gift but rather reject the gift and simply trample God's gift under foot as you stepped out of your tent each morning refusing to take in the life giving bread from heaven that God gave you.

The Children of Israel saw it as sort of a novel thing at 1st but then began to complain about the manna, it just didn't seem to be everything they wanted it to be, got tired of having it around. Well, interesting that here in John Ch 6 Jesus in the beginning of this ch is at the height of His popularity with the people. He's a novelty, provided bread for the multitudes, so the people began to seek out after Him because of that, He knew how to fill their empty stomachs. But Jesus said, "Don't labor for the food that perishes, but for the food that endures to everlasting life." and As they tried to manipulate Him to serve their own purposes, and provide bread for them again, Jesus said to them, "The bread of God is He who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world." Look at vs 35 (read). Now jump down to vs 41. (Read)

Now all that by way of long introduction to say that even as their fathers complained about the bread that God provided for them from heaven in the wilderness to save them alive. In true form, they're now complaining about the fulfillment of that foreshadowing in Jesus Christ the true bread from Heaven, who's come to give them *everlasting* life. They complained about that bread, and now they're complaining about the true bread.

Vs 42

You see they recognized this statement about coming down from Heaven as a claim to deity, Jesus was saying, "I'm not of this world, I've come from Heaven." and They're saying, "We know this guys mom and dad, how does He expect us to believe that He came from Heaven?" But the fact is they didn't know what they thought they knew and so they grafted a wrong conclusion about the Lord. and I find that to be a common occurrence in people today. You see their facts were messed up, they knew His mother that much is true, but they didn't know His Father. and So instead of inquiring further on the matter, instead of searching out the facts, they just let their limited understanding of who He was stumble them. and People do this all the time, they think they've got a clue about Jesus, but the reality is they've merely assumed something based upon their own reasoning or perhaps what others have said, and they've never really searched out the matter for themselves.

So they stumble over their own reasoning, but notice that Jesus didn't seek to explain the matter to them, He didn't say, "Hey guys, Joseph isn't My true Father, I was born of a virgin, the Holy Spirit overshadowed Mary, and she conceived and I came forth from the Father, just ask Mary she'll tell you." He doesn't seek to justify His claims, or explain the matter, He leaves the responsibility up to them to seek it out. Jesus said, "*Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened.*" Matt 7:7-8 You see, if we're truly after the truth it's there to be found, the Lord isn't seeking to conceal Himself *from* you, but rather He wants to reveal Himself *to* you. But He won't force the matter, you can choose to seek Him out, or complain because the clues don't add up to you, that's what these guys did. and So vs 43

Vs 43-44

You ever find yourself griping about something that you just don't get? Jesus says, "Don't do that." "Don't murmur among yourselves." and He says here that imperative to our coming to Him is the Father's drawing us, or more literally *dragging* us. Now this vs deals again with God's sovereignty and seems to be a struggle point for a lot of people. Because is this to say that God *draws* some and *denies* others? and Emphatically I would say, "No." God doesn't "deny" anybody, lets keep the context, remember vs 37, "The one who comes to Me (that is of their own accord) I will by no means cast out."

The bible teaches very clearly that whosoever will may come, "*For 'whoever calls on the name of the LORD shall be saved.'*" Rom 10:13 Now last time I checked, "Whoever" meant, "Whoever" and was all-inclusive to anyone whoever breathed upon the topside of this earth. 2nd Peter Ch 3 Vs 9 says very clearly that God's not willing that any should perish, but that *all* should come to repentance. For God so loved the *world* He gave His only begotten Son. So God doesn't deny anyone the opportunity of everlasting life, but know this, you don't choose God, He chooses you. You say again, "How do you reconcile those things?" I don't, if I understood everything about God, and had the wisdom and understanding that God has, then I'd be God.

Some things you just have to take on faith, for with out faith it's impossible to please God. Just be thankful that God has drawn you to His Son. and If you don't know Jesus Christ and you're thinking, "Well maybe He hasn't drawn Me?" Then give your heart to Christ and you'll find that He's drawn you to, because you and I both know that you have that choice, you give your heart to Christ today if you so choose and the only thing stopping you is you.

Vs45-46

Vs 45 gives us a hint as to how the Father draws mankind to the Son, now we know that the ultimate resolve is through the cross as Jesus said, "*And I, if I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all peoples to Myself.*" John 12:32 Referring to being lifted up on the cross, but the message of the cross is found where? In the Word of God, and so it's the Word of God, which reveals the Son of God. and So here in vs 45 Jesus is unraveling any type of mystic misconception of what it means to be drawn to Him by being taught by God. and He's placing a major emphasis on the teaching of the Word of God, which is how we're taught by God, through His Word, and He says here that if you'll #1 hear God's Word, and #2 learn from the Father, or really take in and receive God's Word, then you'll come to Christ. Because in the volume of the book it's written *of* Him, and seeking to draw man *to* Him. So if you'll truly listen to, and learn of (that is take in) God's Word, you'll come to Christ.

Vs47

You know every time we come across a vs such as this, all I can say is, what more can I say. It's impossible to amplify that, or clarify it any more than it already is. It's amazing the things that people or denominations will insert between the words "Me" and "Has," but that's to violate the scriptures. "Whoever believes in Me and becomes a member of this church, or is baptized into this particular group, or says this many prayers or knocks on that many doors, has everlasting life." But Jesus didn't say that, and those of you who perhaps struggle with the assurance of your salvation, you need to take this vs to heart and let it change your life and give you the Christ confidence that you need. To believe in Jesus isn't to "Hope to maybe have, or possibly obtain" everlasting life. Jesus says, "The one who believes in Me has everlasting life." If you believe in Jesus Christ, have received Him into your heart and into your life, you have everlasting life, you possess it presently and will continue to enjoy it throughout eternity because it's the life of Christ in you.

Vs48-51

Ok, before we get too far into this I want to set the precedent now, or establish that pattern that we're seeing so that we might know what it is to, "eat of this bread." and To keep it real simple, when Jesus starts speaking about eating of, or partaking of the bread of life, He's simply reiterating what He's already said in this discourse. Vs 27 speaks of the food which endures to everlasting life, In vs 32-33 Jesus says that He is that food, or that bread, that life giving substance.

In Vs 35 He says that to come to Him is to never hunger, and to believe in Him is to never thirst. So He's already introduced the idea of taking Him in, feeding upon Him, quenching the thirst of our souls through Him. In Vs 45 He tells us that the way that we come to Him, or are drawn to Him that we might believe in Him is through the Word of God. "*Faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.*" Rom 10:17 and In Vs 47 He resolves the whole matter by simply saying that if we believe in Him, we have everlasting life. and So when He begins to speak of eating of the bread of life (in regards to Himself), don't be confused on what He's getting at, it's simply different ways of saying the same thing. He's speaking in physical terms to convey spiritual truths. We all understand what it is to eat of something, to feed on something. It's to get incredibly intimate with whatever it may be you're eating, it's to take it down into your innermost being and actually assimilate and incorporate that into who you are, it actually becomes apart of the very fiber of your being. You are sustained by it, nourished by it, given life by it. and That's what Jesus is saying He is to be to us, taken into our innermost beings, assimilated and incorporated into who we are, giving way to Christ in us that He might be the very fiber of your being, who you are is Christ in you.

If someone feeds on violence, it means they take it in, get their fix from it and aren't satisfied until they've partaken of it. Jesus is saying you're to feed on Me, take Me in, "*Oh,*

taste and see that the LORD is good; Blessed is the man who trusts in Him!" Ps 34:8 You see even there the psalmist tells us that to *taste* the Lord is to *trust* the Lord and in so doing you'll see His goodness. So let's not be confused on this issue of eating the flesh and drinking the blood of the Lord, we're not speaking about cannibalism or anything weird, it's just further exposition on what He's already been seeking to drive home with these people. The need to receive Him into their hearts and into their lives, allow Him to become their lives, to live by His word. That we might know that, "*Man shall not live by bread alone; but man lives by every word that proceeds from the mouth of the LORD.*" Deut 8:3 Jesus said, "*Most assuredly, I say to you, if anyone keeps My word he shall never see death.*" John 8:51 So these are all different ways of expressing the same thing, the need to believe upon and receive Jesus Christ

In vs 51 He references the cross, and notice that He speaks of giving His life for the *world*, not just the elect, or those whom the Father will draw, the breaking of His body and spilling of His blood is for the sins of the world.

But once again these guys can't discern the spiritual aspects of this because they're a carnal people, (1 Cor 2:14) and so they (as we've so commonly seen) interpret His words not spiritually as they should have, but physically (notice vs 52).

Vs52

You see they're rejecting Him, not receiving Him, they should've spoken to Him and sought after Him regarding their confusion, but instead they just gave up on the matter. and Jesus has this way of making things clear to those who seek Him out, even if they have legitimate questions. He'll take the time to answer the questions of an honest skeptic, but to those who want nothing more than an excuse to criticize it's like He just veils up the issue altogether. and So if they were struggling with the idea of receiving Him intimately into their innermost being by faith and being drawn to Him by the Word of God, now they're really going to have problems.

Vs53-59

So now He's not only talking about eating His flesh, but drinking His blood! Of course the bible teaches the life is in the blood, and so unless the blood of Christ has been appropriated to your life by faith, you have no life in you. But why did He go on to bring up the drinking of His blood along with the eating of His flesh? Now the eating of His flesh we can get, especially in the light of what season it is as He's sharing this, vs 4 tells us that the Passover is near. Which speak of what? The Exodus that we mentioned in our introduction and how they were to take it in fully after roasting it and leaving nothing. Jesus is the Passover Lamb of God, and so we see the Parallel there of taking Him in, in totality and leaving no part undone, there's no part of Jesus that we're not to take in, or leave out.

So as to where His flesh speaks of taking in and receiving Him as the sufficient sustenance of our existence, most believe the blood speaks of receiving and believing in the complete atonement of His sacrifice for our sin. I'll quote a few passages from the Pulpit

Commentary, “The great bulk of interpreters take the additional mention of drinking of his blood to connote an entire acceptance of the atoning sacrifice, of the Paschal blood shedding, to be effected for the deliverance of the world (so Augustine, Luther, Calvin, Grotius, Lucke, Neander, Keim, Meyer, Weiss, etc.). "Eating of the flesh," then, would mean acceptance of his humanity, of the manifestation of the eternal love in the Son of man; and "drinking his blood" would mean entire mental assimilation also of the terrible culmination of his mission in violent, sacrificial death.” Again, “The ‘eating’ and ‘drinking’ are therefore phrases which portray the very intimate and close form of that contact with, and dependence upon, the incarnation and the sacrifice of the Son of God, which Christ erewhile defines in broader, vaguer metaphor.” Finally, “Christ's flesh and blood stand in the same relation to the true life of man that food and drink do to the physical life of earth; and so, unless we duly and fully assimilate Divine humanity, we have no life in us. If we cannot assimilate food, we die. It must become part of our life blood and permeate our system; so "the coming and believing" must mean such an acceptance of the Christ that the love of God penetrates our whole being, "even the joints and marrow of soul and spirit;" unless it does so, we have no life in us.

Now there are those who believe He’s in reference to communion here, but there are some problems with that. #1 It would make the partaking of communion necessary for eternal life, #2 Jesus reserved the ordination of communion to share with His closest disciples, these were a bunch of disgruntled, ½ hearted followers if you could even classify them as followers. But then finally He’s going to tell us straight up that He’s not speaking of a literal eating and drinking of anything. He’s simply speaking of receiving Him that He can give us spiritual life, even as we receive physical food and drink for physical life. Now surely we remember the broken body and shed blood of Christ as we partake of communion, but He’s not in direct reference to that act here. and In Vs 57, Even as His life is guaranteed by the very nature of the Father’s life, so your life is just as eternal as is Christ’s Himself once you’ve received Him and feed *upon* Him, finding your life *in* Him.

Vs 60

A better rendering here would probably be, “This is a *harsh* saying, who can *accept* it?” It’s not that they aren’t getting the idea of receiving Him in totality, forsaking all others, cleaving only unto Him for their salvation. It’s that that offends them that He would have the audacity to tell them to place all their eggs in His basket. To trust in someone who’s talking about the fact that He’s going to die, to bring them life.. To find their righteousness not in the Law, or by the nature of the fact that they’re Jews, God’s chosen people and saved by that fact alone, but to find their righteousness and their life in Him. They’re offended by Him.

Vs61

Does the idea of placing all of your trust and faith to find acceptance before God in Jesus Christ offend you? That everything you’ve ever done on your own to try to please God, or be

worthy before God is a wash? Does it offend you that it takes the death of someone else, to bring you life, does it humiliate you to think that God's reward for all your good deeds in and of yourself (trying to be a basically good person) culminates in the violent and bloody death of Jesus Christ upon the cross. That's our just reward before God on our own merit. and Jesus is saying if it humiliates you and offends you that His death is necessary for your life, then what are you going to think when you see how God has accepted His offering and rejected yours. (Kind of Cain and Abel like).

Vs 62-63

Now we could spend some time here but we won't. To put it plainly Jesus just shoots straight with them here, it's not about *works*, it's about *words*, His words. You see, He hasn't been speaking literally, He's been speaking spiritually. It's the Spirit who gives life, the Word of God, by the Spirit of God planted in your heart and in mine, springs up into everlasting life. The bible says, "*The law of the LORD is perfect, converting the soul.*" Ps 19:7 and Again, "*This is my comfort in my affliction, For Your word has given me life.*" Ps 119:50 Jesus says here the words I speak are Spirit, and they are life. Sometimes people don't want to give way to the Word at church, they want a "Spirit filled" meeting. How can you get more spirit filled in a gathering than by giving priority to the words of Jesus, which *are* spirit, and are life?

Vs64

"Jesus knew from the beginning," another hint of His deity there. Ps 139 says, "*O LORD, You have searched me and known me. You know my sitting down and my rising up; You understand my thought afar off. You comprehend my path and my lying down, And are acquainted with all my ways. For there is not a word on my tongue, But behold, O LORD, You know it altogether.*" Ps 139:1-4 God knows the hearts of man, and so He didn't get all worked up when people split, didn't chase them down and try to explain, He knew that if they'd receive the Word, they'd receive Him, but they were rejecting God's Word, so they were rejected Him.

Vs65-67

We're so easily impressed with big crowds, but the Lord just wasn't, He was pretty in to thinning out the crowd. Sifting as well as saving, looking for quality, not quantity; and vs 67 has probed me many times. When times are tough, and things are going on that I can't reconcile or understand how, or why this has to be happening in my life, and it's like the Lord says, "Do you want to go away? Do you want to turn away from Me because times are tough?" and This just is another implication of free will, it's like, you can if you'd like to. and Though Peter would at times say and do things that make us go, "What were you thinking?" There were other times that his words hit right where they need to, and this is one of those times.

Vs68-69

Where else am I going to go? Even if I don't always get it, even if perhaps times are tough and I don't understand why, Lord, where else am I going to go? Back to the world? That

didn't work out in the 1st place, some dead religion? I already know what my works before God amount to, nothing to my account, and vehement judgment poured out upon His Son. Lord, you alone have the words of eternal life, no matter how bad it may get, Lord we're sticking to you. May that be the resolve of each and every heart here today.

You see Peter got it, he knew it was about the word of God not the works of the flesh. He acknowledged the life changing power of Jesus' words taken down into the innermost being and assimilated into my life. and Notice quickly the order of vs 69, 1st you believe, then you know. People say, "Well, if I just knew that Jesus was the Christ, then I'd believe." Doesn't work that way, 1st you believe, and then you know, that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the Living God.

Vs70-71

"Peter you're right about who I am, but your mistake is applying that to everyone in the circle," they don't all believe and know that Jesus is the Christ. Judas rejected Jesus, rather than receiving Him. Jesus didn't take advantage of that multitude and His chance to become their King like Judas wanted Him to, didn't fall in line with his expectations, or what he was looking for so he rejected Him. God help us not to reject Jesus Christ just because He doesn't follow the pattern of our expectations, but rather when times get tough that we cleave to Him harder than ever, refusing to let go because where else are we going to go? We've tasted and seen that the Lord is good, and He alone has the Words of eternal life.

If you don't know the Lord, you've never invited Him into your heart and into your life, perhaps you've been to church quite a bit, but you've never experienced a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. Or maybe you haven't been to church much, and you're hearing some of these things for the 1st time, either way you need to understand the necessity of taking in and receiving Jesus Christ personally. Accepting His Sacrifice upon the cross on your behalf, I'm not talking about joining a church, or going through some ritual, I'm talking about partaking of the Lord, receiving Him into your innermost being, into the deepest recess of your heart and allowing Him to give you everlasting life. The bible says today is the day of salvation, and so if you'll hear His voice, receive His Word, allow the Father to draw you, then open your heart to Jesus and let Him in. His forgiveness will flood your soul, and you'll be made white like snow, you can be brand new in Christ, what do you say? Will you receive Jesus Christ or reject Him?