# John 6:30-71

## Review…

- **John 6:1-29 - Looking for a king…**
  - 1st - A year passed between John 5 and John 6 - Jesus returned to the Galilee...
    - Jesus took His disciples in a boat to a remote mountain on the Galilee for a 'vacation'...
    - But the multitudes followed them on foot - and Jesus welcomed them...
  - 2nd - Jesus tested the disciples - asking Philip how they were going to feed the people...
    - They had only 5 loaves and two fish with over 15,000 hungry mouths to feed...
    - Jesus took the bread and fish - gave thanks - and fed them all till they were stuffed!
  - 3rd - The people wanted to make Jesus their King - but only because He fed them!
    - Jesus left and went up a mountain to be alone and pray...
    - The disciples waited till night - then left by boat for the other side...
    - Jesus followed them four hours later - walking across the Galilee on the water!
  - 4th - In the morning the multitudes went looking again for Jesus (*hungry*)...
    - When they found Him - Jesus told them not to strive for food that perishes...
    - Instead they should believe in the One God sent - and receive eternal 'food'...

## The rice of life… (*4 things*)

- **1st - Manna from heaven… vs. 30-40 (*3 things*)**
  - 1st - The multitudes were not content - they wanted another miracle... vs. 30-31
    - The feeding 5000 with five loaves and two fish was not good enough...
      - I am always amazed - no matter how much God gives us - it is never enough...
      - If God blesses us with uga - we want to know if we can have letson...
      - If God blesses us with a job - once we start working we want a better salary...
      - Without Jesus - we will never be content – no matter how much we have...
      - It is only when we are content with Jesus - it does not matter what we have!
      - Only then can we - **Hebrews 13:5** – "Be content with such things as [we] have."
    - The miracle they wanted - was for Jesus to give them Manna - like Moses did...
      - Moses brought Israel out of Egypt and they wandered in the wilderness...
      - There was no food to eat - so God sent them Manna - **Exodus 16**
      - When the people saw it they asked - 'what is it?' - the word in Hebrew is 'manna'...
      - It was the 'angels' food Israel ate during their 40-year wilderness wandering...
    - The people asked for Manna - because they wanted Jesus to feed them every day!
      - They did not want to work - they just wanted God to give them a hand out...
      - God does promise to provide for us - give us food to eat - **Matthew 6:26**
      - But that does not mean we get to sit down and wait for the feast to arrive...
      - The most common way God provides - we work to put food on the table...
      - **II Thessalonians 3:10** - "If anyone will not work, neither will he eat."
  - 2nd - Jesus said - 'I tell you the truth' Moses was not the one who gave you Manna... vs. 32-35
    - It was 'My Father' - He gives the 'True Bread' from heaven...
      - In Hebrew culture - bread was a part of daily life - it was necessary to stay alive...
      - If Jesus had been in the Philippines - He would have said the 'True Rice from Heaven'...
      - Jesus was trying to show them there was something more important in life than food...
      - The TRUE 'food from heaven' gives eternal life to those who receive it!

- So they asked Jesus to always/daily give them this 'True food from heaven'...
  - Jesus said - 'I AM the bread of life' - those who come to Me will never hunger or thirst!
    - There are seven 'I AM' statements given by Jesus in the book of John...
    - The 'I AM' - is one of the titles given by God to Moses (*burning bush*) - **Exodus 3**
    - God is saying - I AM your food - if we believe in Him we will never be hungry...
  - Never hungry in the sense that God will provide for all our needs...
    - God is never going to let those who trust in Him go hungry - **Psalm 37:25**
    - God promises to provide for all of our needs - but not necessarily our wants...
  - Never hungry in the sense that only God can truly satisfy us...
    - No matter how many times we eat rice – we inevitably get hungry again...
    - Because the things of this world cab only satisfy us for a moment...
    - Only when we get the 'rice of heaven' Jesus offers – are we truly satisfied!

- 3rd - The people did not believe... vs. 36-40
  - Anyone who comes to Jesus - He receives - He will not reject anyone...
    - Because Jesus came down from heaven to do the will of the Father...
    - And the will of the Father is all who see the Son and believe - receive eternal life...
    - God put up a store that offers 'free rice for all' - Jesus is the one giving out the rice...
    - Anyone who wants can come and freely receive the true 'rice from heaven'...
    - God made it easy - because He desires for everyone to be saved - **II Peter 3:9**
    - It does not matter who we are - God makes salvation available for all!
  - But the people saw - and chose not to believe...
    - Just because there is a store offering free rice - does not mean we have to take it...
    - We still have a choice - we still have to choose to receive the gift...
    - God is a gentleman - He will not force us to do anything we do not want to...
    - God does not make anyone go to heaven - He only provides the way...

- **2ND - REFUSING TO EAT... VS. 41-50 (*3 THINGS*)**
  - 1st - The Jews complained - because they knew Jesus family... vs. 41-42
    - This is the 1st of two major problems the crowds had with Jesus teaching...
    - Jesus was the son of Joseph - they knew His 'father' and mother...
    - So how could He claim have 'come down from heaven'...
    - They could only see that Jesus was a man - born in Bethlehem / raised in Nazareth...
    - What they refused to see was that Jesus was also fully God - **Isaiah 7:14**
  - 2nd - Jesus heard their comments - and commanded them to stop complaining... vs. 43-46
    - He explained their struggle - and reason why they did not believe...
      - No one can come to Jesus - accept they are drawn by the Father...
      - Only those taught by the Father - **Isaiah 54:13** - will be resurrected on the last day...
      - Not that they see the Father - no man has even seen God - **Exodus 33:11**
      - But if they hear the Words of the Father - the Bible - they will also listen to Jesus...
    - Why do people refuse to believe in Jesus...
      - Because they do not listen to / or read the Word of God...
      - **Romans 10:17** - "Faith comes by hearing the Word of God..."
      - That is why we take so much time – so many studies – to simply teach the Bible...
      - Faith in Jesus – faith to believe – faith to grow – comes from hearing the Word…
  - 3rd - Two different kinds of 'rice'... vs. 47-50
    - Jesus said - 'I TELL YOU THE TRUTH' - anyone who believes in Me has eternal life!
      - Because Jesus is the 'Rice of life' - and gives life to all who come to Him...

- Those who eat the 'rice' that comes down from heaven - will never die!
- If we miss a meal - do not eat rice - we feel like we are starving - we become weak
- In the same way - if we miss our 'heavenly rice' - the true manna from heaven - Jesus
- If we do not get to spend time with Jesus in His word - our spirit is starving...
- If we do not want to become spiritually weak - we need Heavenly Food...
- If we are daily in His Word - we will be strong in Jesus - and receive eternal life!

▪ Those who ate the manna in the wilderness - all died...
- The problem is people are looking for the wrong kind of rice...
- I have heard people say - going to Bible studies does not put food on the table...
- The truth is if we live to eat food - but there is no Bible study - we are spiritually dead!
- We have to choose what we live for - this life / or eternal life!

- **3RD - FLESH AND BLOOD... VS. 51-58 (*2 THINGS*)**
  - 1st - Jesus said - the 'Rice from heaven' is My body...
    - The people went to war over Jesus words - 'how could He give His body as food'...
      - This was the 2nd statement of Jesus that the people could not accept...
      - In their minds they were picturing cannibalism - they took Jesus too literally...
      - The best way to understand the Bible - is always to take the simplest meaning...
      - Most errant doctrines / cults / confusion Comes from ignoring the 'simple interpretation'
      - But there are times when the 'simple interpretation' just makes no sense...
      - Jesus is OBVIOSLY not saying you have to become a cannibal to go to heaven...
      - That is when we have to look at the context of the passage to help us understand...
    - Jesus repeated four times - 'You must always eat My flesh and drink My blood'...
      - There are some who teach this as the proof of 'transubstantiation'...
        - At the moment of communion - bread and wine become the body of blood of Jesus...
        - But simple observation will prove what we are eating is just bread and juice...
        - The purpose of communion is symbolic - a way to remember the cost of our salvation...
        - That is why Jesus said - **Luke 22:19** - "Do in remembrance of me...
      - What Jesus is teaching about is His sacrifice...
        - Salvation comes through Jesus sacrifice - His broken body and shed blood...
        - According to the Law - when a sacrifice was offered - you ate part of the sacrifice...
        - When you eat something it in a sense becomes part of you...
        - If you ate part of the sacrifice - in a sense you were part of the sacrifice...
        - Salvation is not just about believing in Jesus' sacrifice - it is about a changed life...
        - We also have to take part in that sacrifice - we must also offer ourselves - **Luke 9:23** -
  - 2nd - If we eat His flesh and drink His blood - there are three results...vs. 55-58
    - 1st - If we do not eat and drink - then we are as good as dead...
      - If someone has committed a crime - and as a result sentenced to death...
      - They are in a sense already dead - in fact they are referred to as ' dead men walking'
      - Sin has only one penalty - death - **Romans 6:23** - "The wages of sin is death..."
      - So because we are all sinners - **Romans 3:23** - we were in a sense all dead men...
      - Without Jesus we are just on 'death row' waiting for Judgment day...
    - 2nd - If we eat and drink - then we will be resurrected on the last day...
      - We are all one day going to die – these bodies wear out – (*older people say Amen*)
      - But we do not sorrow or weep like those who have no hope - death is not the end...
      - We have hope because of Jesus – we will one day get new bodies - **II Corinthians 5:1**

- 3rd - If we eat and drink - we will abide in Jesus...
  - Jesus lives because of the Living Father - so also we live because Jesus Lives!
  - Not only do we have the hope of eternal life - but also we have life now...
  - Because we are abiding in Jesus - **John 15:4** - connected to the vine we are alive!

- **4TH - A HARD TEACHING... VS. 59-71 (*2 THINGS*)**
  - 1st - Jesus taught this at the synagogue in Capernaum... vs. 59-66
    - Many were offended by Jesus' teaching...
      - Jesus was not afraid to upset people - He was there to teach them the truth!
      - Many churches today have forgotten the authority of the Bible...
      - They are afraid to talk about harder subjects - sin / consequences / hell...
      - They do not want to offend people - so they only talk about happy subjects - love / grace...
      - They are more interested in entertaining the people - than teaching them...
      - **II Timothy 4:3** - "A time is coming when people will no longer listen to right teaching. They will... look for teachers who will tell them whatever they want to hear."
      - If we only teach people what they want to hear - they give them what they NEED to hear!
      - God Word is what Corrects us so that we can be saved - **II Timothy 3:16**
    - Many of His disciples when they heard it - said 'this is a VERY hard teaching'...
      - 1st - 'Did this offend you' - offended because Jesus said He was from heaven...
        - You will also be offended whey you see the Son of Man ascend up into heaven...
        - Imagine the shock of seeing Jesus return to Father - if they only thought He was a man!
      - 2nd - Offended because Jesus said they had to eat his flesh and drink His blood...
        - Jesus explains His words were not physical - they were spiritual...
        - Jesus clarifies His 'hard teaching' on eating His body / drinking His blood...
        - He was not speaking about physically eating - but spiritually taking in His Word!
    - Many of the disciples (*not the 12*) went back and did not follow Jesus anymore...
      - But those who walked away at the hard teaching - were those who did not believe...
      - There are going to be people who come to church for a while - then leave...
      - Maybe because of a 'hard teaching' / upset because of something the Bible says...
      - Or perhaps because they were looking for the wrong kind of 'rice'...
      - But by walking away it only proves they were never serious about following Jesus!
      - **I John 2:19** - "These people left our churches, but they never really belonged with us; otherwise they would have stayed with us. When they left, it proved that they did not belong with us."
  - 2nd - Jesus asked the 12 Disciples if they would also leave... vs. 67-71
    - I love the humility of Jesus...
      - If I were God almighty - I would have threatened to fry them if they took more step...
      - But God does not make anyone stay - He gives us the freedom to choose...
      - People can come and go as they like - there is no membership / there are no walls...
    - Peter answered ' where would be go - you have the words of eternal life.'
      - Jesus choose the 12 - even though He knew one of them was a devil (*Judas*)...
      - So the disciples believed Jesus was the Messiah - the Son of the Living God!
      - God never gave us the promise of an easy life - but He does promise eternal life...
      - There are going to be days when the Word of God challenges us - a hard teaching...
      - There are going to be days when we get caught up in the pursuit of the rice of this world...
      - But we need to make sure we are 'taking up our cross' - and partaking of the 'True rice'...
      - Cause if we want to go to heaven - where else can we go / whom can we follow - but Jesus!