

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 can 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 OBVIOUSLY 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 when 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!**