

Six times in this narrative Jesus said that he came down from heaven (33, 38, 41, 50, 51, 58)

-He is claiming to be divine!

"the last day" (39, 40, 44, 54) - These words show that Christ came to abolish not natural, but spiritual death. Believers will die, but their death will be followed by a glorious resurrection.

"the Jews" (41, 52)

-in John usually represent those who are opposed to Jesus, not simply a group of Jewish origin (cf. 2:18, 20; 5:16).

"draws him" (44)

-How does the Father draw people? (44)

-Jesus answers this in verse 45, "And they will all be taught..." (Isa 54:13)

-Does God only try to "draw" certain people? Consider:

"Everyone" (40)

"Everyone" (45)

"Whoever" (47)

"eat" "drink" "feed" (51, 53, 54, 56, 58)

-They took literally the figure of eating his flesh.

-Unless one has spiritual perception, spiritual truth makes no sense.

-Nicodemus could not comprehend the new birth (Jn 3:4).

-The law of Moses expressly forbade any drinking of blood on penalty of being cut off from the people (Lev 17:10-14).

-To partake of the elements that Christ offers brings one into a relationship with Him.

John 6:35-59 (ESV)

³⁵Jesus said to them, "**I am the bread of life**; whoever comes to me **shall not hunger**, and whoever **believes in me shall never thirst**. ³⁶But I said to you that you have seen me and yet do not **believe**. ³⁷All that the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will **never cast out**. ³⁸For I have **come down from heaven**, not to do my own will but the will of him who sent me. ³⁹And this is the will of him who sent me, that I **should lose nothing of all that he has given me, but raise it up on the last day**. ⁴⁰For this is the will of my Father, that **everyone who looks on the Son and believes in him should have eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day**."

⁴¹So the Jews grumbled about him, because he said, "**I am the bread that came down from heaven**." ⁴²They said, "Is not this Jesus, the son of Joseph, whose father and mother we know? How does he now say, 'I have **come down from heaven**'?"

⁴³Jesus answered 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**. ⁴⁵It is written in the Prophets, '**And they will all be taught by God**.' **Everyone who has heard and learned from the Father comes to me—** ⁴⁶**not that anyone has seen the Father except he who is from God; he has seen the Father**. ⁴⁷Truly, truly, I say to you, **whoever believes has eternal life**. ⁴⁸**I am the bread of life**. ⁴⁹**Your fathers ate the manna in the wilderness, and they died**. ⁵⁰This is the bread that comes down from heaven, so that one may eat of it and not die.

⁵¹**I am the living bread** that came down from heaven. If anyone **eats of this bread**, he will live forever. And the bread that I will give for the life of the world is **my flesh**."

⁵²The Jews then disputed among themselves, saying, "How can this man give us his flesh to eat?" ⁵³So Jesus said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless you **eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood**, you have no life in you. ⁵⁴**Whoever feeds on my flesh and drinks my blood** has eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day. ⁵⁵For my flesh is true food, and my blood is true drink. ⁵⁶**Whoever feeds on my flesh and drinks my blood** abides in me, and I in him. ⁵⁷As the living Father sent me, and I live because of the Father, so whoever **feeds on me**, he also will live because of me. ⁵⁸This is the bread that came down from heaven, not like the bread the fathers ate, and died. **Whoever feeds on this bread will live forever**." ⁵⁹Jesus said these things in the synagogue, as he taught at Capernaum.

"the" (35, 48)

- definite article / Jesus is the only one (Jn 14:6)

"believe" (30, 35, 36, 40, 47)

- To the people this meant acceptance of him on the basis of signs.

-To Jesus, it meant commitment based on trust in Him. *He had already performed miracles (1-15).*

- see Jn 3:16.

Implies that we have a choice to believe in Jesus or believe in something else. This choice is available to everyone.

"never cast out" (37)

"lose nothing" (39)

-Not only is Jesus giving them a solution to their real needs, he is also emphasizing that it is available to everyone!

-No man needs to fear that he will come in vain, for Jesus said emphatically that he would not refuse anyone (Rom 5:18-19; 10:13).

-Man does not make his opportunity for salvation; he accepts its free offer.

"manna" (31-33, 49)

- This was NOT the bread of life, because the people died.

"eat" "drink" "feed" (51, 53, 54, 56, 58)

-This reality has been attested to by the myriads of Christians throughout the ages who have partaken of Christ's body and blood, in communion with him (Mt 26:26-29)

Teacher's Notes

Context

John 6:1–21 (ESV)

¹ After this Jesus went away to the other side of the Sea of Galilee, which is the Sea of Tiberias. ² And a large crowd was following him, because they saw the signs that he was doing on the sick. ³ Jesus went up on the mountain, and there he sat down with his disciples. ⁴ Now the Passover, the feast of the Jews, was at hand. ⁵ Lifting up his eyes, then, and seeing that a large crowd was coming toward him, Jesus said to Philip, "Where are we to buy bread, so that these people may eat?" ⁶ He said this to test him, for he himself knew what he would do. ⁷ Philip answered him, "Two hundred denarii worth of bread would not be enough for each of them to get a little." ⁸ One of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, said to him, ⁹ "There is a boy here who has five barley loaves and two fish, but what are they for so many?" ¹⁰ Jesus said, "Have the people sit down." Now there was much grass in the place. So the men sat down, about five thousand in number. ¹¹ Jesus then took the loaves, and when he had given thanks, he distributed them to those who were seated. So also the fish, as much as they wanted. ¹² And when they had eaten their fill, he told his disciples, "Gather up the leftover fragments, that nothing may be lost." ¹³ So they gathered them up and filled twelve baskets with fragments from the five barley loaves left by those who had eaten. ¹⁴ When the people saw the sign that he had done, they said, "This is indeed the Prophet who is to come into the world!"

¹⁵ Perceiving then that they were about to come and take him by force to make him king, Jesus withdrew again to the mountain by himself.

¹⁶ When evening came, his disciples went down to the sea, ¹⁷ got into a boat, and started across the sea to Capernaum. It was now dark, and Jesus had not yet come to them. ¹⁸ The sea became rough because a strong wind was blowing. ¹⁹ When they had rowed about three or four miles, they saw Jesus walking on the sea and coming near the boat, and they were frightened. ²⁰ But he said to them, "It is I; do not be afraid." ²¹ Then they were glad to take him into the boat, and immediately the boat was at the land to which they were going.

Part 1

John 6:22–35 (ESV)

²² On the next day the crowd that remained on the other side of the sea saw that there had been only one boat there, and that Jesus had not entered the boat with his disciples, but that his disciples had gone away alone. ²³ Other boats from Tiberias came near the place where they had eaten the bread after the Lord had given thanks. ²⁴ So when the crowd saw that Jesus was not there, nor his disciples, they themselves got into the boats and went to Capernaum, seeking Jesus.

²⁵ When they found him on the other side of the sea, they said to him, "Rabbi, when did you come here?" ²⁶ Jesus answered them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, you are seeking me, not because you saw signs, but because you ate your fill of the loaves. ²⁷ Do not work for the food

that perishes, but for the food that endures to eternal life, which the Son of Man will give to you. For on him God the Father has set his seal." ²⁸ Then they said to him, "What must we do, to be doing the works of God?" ²⁹ Jesus answered them, "This is the work of God, that you believe in him whom he has sent." ³⁰ So they said to him, "Then what sign do you do, that we may see and believe you? What work do you perform?" ³¹ Our fathers ate the manna in the wilderness; as it is written, 'He gave them bread from heaven to eat.' " ³² Jesus then said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, it was not Moses who gave you the bread from heaven, but my Father gives you the true bread from heaven. ³³ For the bread of God is he who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world." ³⁴ They said to him, "Sir, give us this bread always."

³⁵ Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in me shall never thirst.

"believe" (30, 35, 36, 40, 47)

John 3:16 (ESV)

¹⁶ "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.

"never cast out" (37)

"lose nothing" (39)

Romans 5:18–19 (ESV)

¹⁸ Therefore, as one trespass led to condemnation for all men, so one act of righteousness leads to justification and life for all men. ¹⁹ For as by the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, so by the one man's obedience the many will be made righteous.

Romans 10:13 (ESV)

¹³ For "everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved."

"the Jews" (41)

John 2:18 (ESV)

¹⁸ So the Jews said to him, "What sign do you show us for doing these things?"

John 2:20 (ESV)

²⁰ The Jews then said, "It has taken forty-six years to build this temple, and will you raise it up in three days?"

John 5:16 (ESV)

¹⁶ And this was why the Jews were persecuting Jesus, because he was doing these things on the Sabbath.

"eat" "drink" "feed" (51, 53, 54, 56, 58)

John 3:4 (ESV)

⁴ Nicodemus said to him, "How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother's womb and be born?"

Leviticus 17:10–14 (ESV)

¹⁰ "If any one of the house of Israel or of the strangers who sojourn among them eats any blood, I will set my face against that person who eats blood and will cut him off from among his people. ¹¹ For the life of the flesh is in the blood, and I have given it for you on the altar to make atonement for your souls, for it is the blood that makes atonement by the life. ¹² Therefore I have said to the people of Israel, No person among you shall eat blood, neither shall any stranger who sojourns among you eat blood.

¹³ "Any one also of the people of Israel, or of the strangers who sojourn among them, who takes in hunting any beast or bird that may be eaten shall pour out its blood and cover it with earth. ¹⁴ For the life of every creature is its blood: its blood is its life. Therefore I have said to the people of Israel, You shall not eat the blood of any creature, for the life of every creature is its blood. Whoever eats it shall be cut off.

Matthew 26:26–29 (ESV)

²⁶ Now as they were eating, Jesus took bread, and after blessing it broke it and gave it to the disciples, and said, "Take, eat; this is my body." ²⁷ And he took a cup, and when he had given thanks he gave it to them, saying, "Drink of it, all of you, ²⁸ for this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. ²⁹ I tell you I will not drink again of this fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom."