

John 6:30-34. They Ask Him to Give Them Bread.

by Favell Lee Mortimer

Jesus takes advantage of the crowd's anxiety for bread to reveal the true bread that gives life to the dead and preserves life forever, the Son of God.

Scripture: Isaiah 55:2, Isaiah 55:8, John 4:15, John 6:32, John 6:34, John 6:36, John 6:49, Romans 5:8

Topics: "Spiritual Growth", "Divine Providence"

Description

Favell Lee Mortimer preaches about Jesus using everyday circumstances to teach spiritual truths, such as directing attention to the bread that came down from heaven while speaking to people anxious for bread. Despite the unbelief and ignorance displayed by the Jews, Jesus showed them that the true bread from heaven was the Son of God, capable of giving life to the dead and preserving life forever. Just like the woman of Samaria who ignorantly asked for living water and received the Holy Spirit, those who seek heavenly bread in ignorance may be satisfied beyond their expectations, as God graciously responds to sinners in their state of ignorance and enmity.

Transcript

Our Lord frequently took occasion from circumstances to explain spiritual truths. Once, when sitting by a well, he instructed a woman who came to draw water, and exhorted her to seek for living water. Now Jesus was speaking to people who had shown a great anxiety for bread, and he took the opportunity to direct their attention to the bread that came down from heaven.

There was much unbelief and ignorance displayed by the Jews in this conversation. They pretended that they had not received sufficient proof of his authority, and said, "What sign show you then, that we may see and believe you?" He had already given them a most wonderful sign in the miracle of the loaves, yet they required more evidence; but this was not granted to them. They even ventured to dictate to the Savior what he ought to do, and referred in an insolent way to the miracle of the manna, as if they wished Him to understand that Moses, in giving bread from heaven, had wrought a greater miracle than himself. Jesus took no notice of the bad spirit they displayed, but showed them they were mistaken when they said that Moses had given them bread from heaven. The manna had not come from the heaven of heavens, where God's glory is manifested, but from the lower regions of the skies; besides, Moses did not give that bread; he did not create it--nor was it living bread; it would not give life to the dead, or even preserve the life of

the living. But there was a bread that could both give life to the dead, and preserve life for evermore--this bread was the Son of God.

The people understood not what Jesus meant, when he spoke of the "Bread of God;" but ignorantly cried, "Lord, evermore give us this bread." How many have made prayers as ignorant as this, and have received answers that they little expected! The woman of Samaria knew not what she asked when she said, "Give me of this water, that I thirst not, neither come here to draw." But her petition, so blindly offered, was graciously granted, for she soon received the water of the Holy Spirit into her heart. We may also believe that those who ignorantly asked for heavenly bread, were satisfied beyond their expectations. If God did not deal thus graciously with sinners, who could be saved! For we are all found by Him in a state of ignorance and enmity--our first prayers resemble the cry of this people--"Lord, evermore give us this bread." Some of us perhaps can remember our feelings just before we turned to God. We felt the misery of our state, we longed to find something better than we had found; but we knew not what we needed. We had heard that there was help in God; we cried to him, but in such a manner that any Being less gracious than Himself would have disregarded us. But his ways are not as our ways, nor his thoughts as our thoughts. He pitied us in our low estate, and led us by ways that we knew not, to a knowledge of his Son.

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