

Harmony of the Gospels

Healings at Gennesaret Matthew 14:34-36; Mark 6:53-56

- A description of the immediately response of the people at the appearance of Jesus as He and the disciples come back across the lake and a summary statement of the response of the people as He continued to travel throughout the area.



Discourse on the true bread of life John 6:22-59

- The discovery that Jesus had departed and the quest to find Him. 22-24
- The first temptation directed toward Jesus by the devil was to turn stones into bread. Jesus quoted and acted on this biblical truth: ³ And he humbled you and let you hunger and fed you with manna, which you did not know, nor did your fathers know, that he might make you know that **man does not live by bread alone, but man lives by every word that comes from the mouth of the LORD.** Deuteronomy 8:3 (ESV)
Jesus tries to help the crowd realize that there is a greater need than physical food He came to fulfill.

Discourse on the true bread of life John 6:22-59

- The people responded by asking what they can do to gain God's favor. Jesus' simple and profound answer is that they must believe in the One God has sent to them.
- The people responded by asking for a confirming sign, again, focused on physical provision as they reference the manna provided for the Israelites of the exodus.
- Jesus corrected them that it was not Moses who provided the manna but His Father and now His Father has provided the true life-giving bread.

Discourse on the true bread of life John 6:22-59

- Jesus now clearly presents Himself as this bread.
 - This bread brings real fulfillment
 - The Father gives people the opportunity to receive Jesus as this life-giving bread
 - He is the one who has come down from heaven to accomplish the Father's purpose
 - Jesus is able to save and to keep all who come to Him.

Discourse on the true bread of life John 6:22-59

- Rather than believe what God is now revealing to them through Jesus they trust more in what they think they know about Jesus.
- Jesus again appeals to them to listen to the Father
 - Remember that the message of Jesus is “Repent for the kingdom of God is at hand.” The “change of thinking” (repentance) reveals that they have not been in the habit of listening to the Father and need to turn from their way of understanding God’s kingdom to what has been and is being revealed to them.
 - Jesus reveals that He is in the position to most clearly reveal the will of the Father. v46

Discourse on the true bread of life John 6:22-59

- Jesus revealed that He, God in the flesh, would give that body for the sins of the world.
- He uses the metaphor of eating His flesh and drinking His blood to reveal that the minimum requirement for salvation is total acceptance of who He is and what He came to do.
- Here is the important truth. Salvation comes not in accepting a religious system. Salvation comes from accepting the person of Jesus Christ.

Defection among the disciples John 6:60-71

- The difficulty here was for them to lay down their ideas about the Messiah and embrace God's revelation through Jesus.
- Jesus would continue to prove He is the Messiah through His obedience to the Father culminating in his ascension back to the Father.
- Jesus clearly reveals that He was not talking about consuming His literal flesh but was revealing spiritual truth.

Defection among the disciples John 6:60-71

- A mass exodus from following Jesus
- In response to Jesus' question if they would go away also, Peter speaks for the Twelve to reaffirm their faith in Him.
- This is another place where John gives the editorial comment about the betrayal of Judas.

Conflict over the tradition of ceremonial uncleanness Matthew 15:1-3a; 7-9, 3b-6, 10-20; Mark 7:1-23; John 7:1

- The Torah contains laws regarding things that make a personal ceremonially unclean ranging from sinful behavior to touching a dead body or giving birth. Rituals are prescribed for cleansing.
- The practice here of the Pharisees is extra to what is prescribed in scripture and seems to have arisen sometime after the Exile.

Conflict over the tradition of ceremonial uncleanness Matthew 15:1-3a; 7-9, 3b-6, 10-20; Mark 7:1-23; John 7:1

- Jesus challenges their practices on two counts:
 - They use their extra-biblical traditions to avoid practicing the clear teachings of the Law.
 - True defilement comes from within.
 - Note the comment that his remarks concerning this made all foods clean (See Acts 10:9-16; 1 Timothy 4:1-4)