

## Notes for Exposition of John 6:25-35

<sup>25</sup> ¶ When they found him on the other side of the sea, they said to him, "Rabbi, when did you come here?"

6:25 -- *"Rabbi, when did you come here?" Isn't it always true that we find Jesus where we do not expect him? Perhaps the big surprise is that Jesus has gotten there before us. We aren't waiting for him, he is waiting for us.*

<sup>26</sup> Jesus answered them, "Very truly, I tell you, you are looking for me, not because you saw signs, but because you ate your fill of the loaves.

6:26 - *Jesus wants the disciples to be clear why they are looking for him - is it because the signs of the times point to the coming of Jesus - i.e. the Messiah has arrived. Or is it because y'all just want to see another miracle. Jesus places his bet on "just another miracle"*

<sup>27</sup> Do not work for the food that perishes, but for the food that endures for eternal life, which the Son of Man will give you. For it is on him that God the Father has set his seal."

6:27 - *Don't keep working for the next big thing. All the glory we create here on earth by our own ego desires will disappear. Strive instead for things that last forever, bread given by "the Son of Man". Put your trust and faith in the things God has put his trust and faith.*

<sup>28</sup> Then they said to him, "What must we do to perform the works of God?"

6:28 - *What can WE do? This again is always our question. We are so driven to DO. To prove ourselves worthy.*

<sup>29</sup> Jesus answered them, "This is the work of God, that you believe in him whom he has sent."

6:29 - *Jesus answers that the work we must do is to believe in the one God has sent. Belief IS the work required. What is the work of belief? Is it simply assenting to some creeds and some statements of assertion made by human authorities? Or is it doing things in such a way that belief is the result and the source of the good things in this world, such that others believe in him whom God has sent? We have truncated the meaning of belief to be merely an intellectual exercise dependent on words, but belief in the context Jesus means it here is all-encompassing, enfolding into it our work in the world, our reading and contemplating of Scripture, our experience of nature, our conduct and desire for loving relationships, our government, our social contracts and structure. Nothing escapes Jesus' meaning of belief here.*

<sup>30</sup> So they said to him, "What sign are you going to give us then, so that we may see it and believe you? What work are you performing?"

<sup>31</sup> Our ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness; as it is written, 'He gave them bread from heaven to eat.'"

6:30 - *What now, Jesus? What sign will you give us even though you just fed 5000 people!! They throw Moses at him. "Look at what Moses did. What about you? Moses gave us bread from heaven.*

<sup>32</sup> Then Jesus said to them, "Very truly, I tell you, it was not Moses who gave you the bread from heaven, but it is my Father who gives you the true bread from heaven.

6:32 - *Jesus challenges the whole premise of the question - Moses didn't do it, God did. God gave to*

*the Israelites in the desert; God gives you the true bread from heaven. God gave a perishable food for material survival in the desert; God gives spiritual and eternal life in the non-perishable food of Christ's spiritual body from heaven.*

<sup>33</sup> For the bread of God is that which comes down from heaven and gives life to the world."

*6:33 - the bread of heaven gives life to the world. The bread in the desert fed the Israelites in the desert, but the bread from heaven feeds the entire world.*

<sup>34</sup> They said to him, "Sir, give us this bread always."

*6:34 - Give us this bread always. I think of baby birds here; always squealing for food. Nothing is ever enough. At the same time, the squealing baby birds are exactly who the bread of heaven is intended to feed. But when does our spirituality grow up? When do we graduate from our literalism and enter into a more profound, poetic and dialogic way of seeing, a more soulful way of seeing?*

<sup>35</sup> ¶ Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty.

*6:35 - I AM the bread of life. In Christ we no longer have spiritual hunger or spiritual thirst. Like Maslow's chart of human needs, Jesus satisfies our fundamental spiritual needs, allowing for a maturing and more integrated spiritual life. While others are just trying to figure out what feeds them and quenches their spiritual thirst, the maturing Christian is already down the spiritual path, deepening, and strengthening their faith.*