

## "God's Love Story Sermon Outlines"

by Doug Hamilton

### Section 28: God's Love Story Is Clear, Right???

We must remember this is forty lessons covering the common theme of God's primary theme from His holy scripture, His love for us. Each lesson exemplifies a deeper perspective of to what extent God has gone to demonstrate that He wants us in heaven with Him for eternity. Using John chapter 6, we will look deeper into the mind of God and understand it even more clearly.

John 6:1-7 After these things Jesus went away to the other side of the Sea of Galilee (or Tiberias).<sup>2</sup> And a great multitude was following Him, because they were seeing the signs which He was performing on those who were sick.<sup>3</sup> And Jesus went up on the mountain, and there He sat with His disciples.<sup>4</sup> Now the Passover, the feast of the Jews, was at hand.<sup>5</sup> Jesus therefore lifting up His eyes, and seeing that a great multitude was coming to Him, said to Philip, "Where are we to buy bread, that these may eat?"<sup>6</sup> And this He was saying to test him; for He Himself knew what He was intending to do.<sup>7</sup> Philip answered Him, "Two hundred denarii worth of bread is not sufficient for them, for everyone to receive a little."

This is the only event prior to the last week of Jesus' earthly ministry that is recorded in all four gospel accounts. Jesus' is at the height of His popularity among the populace, but will soon begin to plummet in the polls. John the Baptist was already dead, the people were desperately searching for the Messiah and the rulers were nervous about the political climate.

It was the time of the Passover and the people from the north would have been making the pilgrimage south into Jerusalem. During these moment they would have encountered Jesus in the Galilean ministry. They beheld His signs to the extent of not taking the time to eat. Since we know there were 5,000 men, not counting the women and children, we can assume that there would have been over 10,000 hungry people. Jesus asked the disciples to feed them to which Philip said it would take 200 denari or eight months wages. Technically it would have taken far more than that; therefore it was a figure of speech. This was all for a test according to the text.

John 6:8-15 One of His disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, said to Him,<sup>9</sup> "There is a lad here who has five barley loaves and two fish, but what are these for so many people?"<sup>10</sup> Jesus said, "Have the people sit down." Now there was much grass in the place. So the men sat down, in number about five thousand.<sup>11</sup> Jesus therefore took the loaves; and having given thanks, He distributed to those who were seated; likewise also of the fish as much as they wanted.<sup>12</sup> And when they were filled, He said to His disciples, "Gather up the leftover fragments that nothing may be lost."<sup>13</sup> And so they gathered them up, and filled twelve baskets with fragments from the five barley loaves, which were left over by those who

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had eaten. <sup>14</sup> When therefore the people saw the sign which He had performed, they said, "This is of a truth the Prophet who is to come into the world." <sup>15</sup> Jesus therefore perceiving that they were intending to come and take Him by force, to make Him king, withdrew again to the mountain by Himself alone.

Andrew found a young lad that had a five small barley loaves and two small sardine-like fish. This would have been a typical meal of a young person of first-century Galilee. Jesus had all the people sit down in the tall grass upon the mountain and according to *Mark 6:40*, they assembled into groups of 50 to 100. Just like in the days of Elijah and the bottomless meal jar, Jesus blessed the loaves and the fish, and then caused them to multiply in order to give it to the disciples for distribution. Everyone ate as much as they liked and there was still plenty left over, totaling twelve baskets full. According to verse 14, it was this miracle that caused many to proclaim Jesus as a prophet.

This is where it became interesting for we are beginning to capture a glimpse of these followers of Jesus. The Lord fed them when they were hungry and they wanted to make Him “k”ing, not the KING of God. They were looking for a government handout king Jesus that would stuff their stomachs full of food. This was not the Jesus that the Father wanted them to see; therefore they were failing the test. God wanted them to see His love for them, but they were missing the point.

John 6:16-21 Now when evening came, His disciples went down to the sea, <sup>17</sup> and after getting into a boat, they {started to} cross the sea to Capernaum. And it had already become dark, and Jesus had not yet come to them. <sup>18</sup> And the sea {began} to be stirred up because a strong wind was blowing. <sup>19</sup> When therefore they had rowed about three or four miles, they beheld Jesus walking on the sea and drawing near to the boat; and they were frightened. <sup>20</sup> But He said to them, "It is I; do not be afraid." <sup>21</sup> They were willing therefore to receive Him into the boat; and immediately the boat was at the land to which they were going.

The basic collective synoptic gospel summary of the account is that Jesus sent His disciples away on in the boat (*Mt 14:22*). They met up again walking on the water late at night while a storm was raging. The disciples to be a terrified. Peter attempted to join the Lord in walking on the water, but failed due to lack of faith. All of the disciples showed weakness of the other people of not focusing on the bigger picture. It was time to bring them back on track to the right perspective and this event would reset their faith.

The next day the multitude whom were fed the day before woke up and looked for a “Jesus Breakfast”, but could not find Him. They figured that Jesus and the others took the boats over to the other side of the sea; therefore they headed out to find them. Upon finding Him they tried to make it sound like they were really interested in Jesus’ words by calling Him Rabbi, but He

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knew differently. *"Truly, truly, I say to you, you seek Me, not because you saw signs, but because you ate of the loaves, and were filled. "Do not work for the food which perishes, but for the food which endures to eternal life, which the Son of Man shall give to you, for on Him the Father, {even} God, has set His seal."* He was telling them to seek the spiritual food first by trusting in Him. That was not the perspective of God's Love Story the Jesus they were seeking. They persisted on dropping hints for more food. Suggesting Jesus bring down some manna from heaven like in the days of Moses (hint, hint). *What work do You perform? "Our fathers ate the manna in the wilderness; as it is written, 'He gave them bread out of heaven to eat.'"*

They were attempting to make God's Love Story not of a deeper spiritual and eternal love, but of a stomach-filling physical love. Jesus went on to explain that it was not Moses that gave the Israelites the bread, but God and that He is the true bread from heaven. *Verse 33 "For the bread of God is that which comes down out of heaven, and gives life to the world."* They just won't see it as confirmed in their response, *"Lord, evermore give us this bread."* Did Jesus give up on them?

John 6:35-40 Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life; he who comes to Me shall not hunger, and he who believes in Me shall never thirst. <sup>36</sup> "But I said to you, that you have seen Me, and yet do not believe. <sup>37</sup> "All that the Father gives Me shall come to Me, and the one who comes to Me I will certainly not cast out. <sup>38</sup> "For I have come down from heaven, not to do My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me. <sup>39</sup> "And this is the will of Him who sent Me, that of all that He has given Me I lose nothing, but raise it up on the last day. <sup>40</sup> "For this is the will of My Father, that everyone who beholds the Son and believes in Him, may have eternal life; and I Myself will raise him up on the last day."

How much clearer could God's love for them be? They had dropped hints about obtaining some more food because they want more bread and Jesus clearly said He is the "bread of life". God was communicating, "I want you to live forever with Me in heaven, but you just want food on earth!!! They were at a pressing point. Is it any wonder they began to grumble and attempt to see Jesus from an earthly perspective? *"Is not this Jesus, the son of Joseph, whose father and mother we know? How does He now say, 'I have come down out of heaven'?"* Jesus tells them stop grumbling and to focus on the deeper truth. He could say this because He personally knows the Father, making Him the true "Bread of Life", for He gave His flesh for us on the cross. *Verse 52 The Jews therefore {began} to argue with one another, saying, "How can this man give us {His} flesh to eat?"* They were not seeing God's true love in the event.

John 6:53-58 Jesus therefore 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 yourselves. <sup>54</sup> "He who eats My flesh and drinks My blood has eternal life, and I

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will raise him up on the last day. <sup>55</sup> "For My flesh is true food, and My blood is true drink. <sup>56</sup> "He who eats My flesh and drinks My blood abides in Me, and I in him. <sup>57</sup> "As the living Father sent Me, and I live because of the Father, so he who eats Me, he also shall live because of Me. <sup>58</sup> "This is the bread which came down out of heaven; not as the fathers ate, and died, he who eats this bread shall live forever."

This was Jesus' last attempt to communicate God's extremely deep love for them. Most of them simply did not get it. *Verse 60 Many therefore of His disciples, when they heard {this} said, "This is a difficult statement; who can listen to it?"* Isn't this sad? Less than one day prior they were rejoicing with a full stomach, proclaiming Jesus to be a prophet from God and trying to anoint Him a king, yet when the real Jesus is revealed to them...*verse 66 As a result of this many of His disciples withdrew, and were not walking with Him anymore.* Jesus spoke the words of God's Love Story, but they could not see past the physical world.

John 6:66-71 Jesus said therefore to the twelve, "You do not want to go away also, do you?" <sup>68</sup> Simon Peter answered Him, "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have words of eternal life. <sup>69</sup> "And we have believed and have come to know that You are the Holy One of God." <sup>70</sup> Jesus answered them, "Did I Myself not choose you, the twelve, and {yet} one of you is a devil?" <sup>71</sup> Now He meant Judas {the son} of Simon Iscariot, for he, one of the twelve, was going to betray Him.

Don't you love this response from Peter? *"Lord, to whom shall we go? You have words of eternal life. 69 "And we have believed and have come to know that You are the Holy One of God."* We must remember that a few hours before while on the boat, the disciples still hadn't gotten it (Mark 6:52), but now that has changed, for Peter and some others did see Jesus as the "Bread of Life", meaning they understood the Love Story of God!

### In Conclusion:

Jesus spent His entire earthly life communicating the message "GOD LOVES YOU", but not everybody would accept this. Some people want to view God differently and allow their earthly view of Him to get in the way. He Loves You! He Loves You! He Loves You! Anything less than that will cause us to turn away like Judas in the end.