

GOSPEL OF JOHN 6:26-40

26 Jesus answered them and said, “Verily, verily, I say to you, you seek Me, not because you saw signs, but because you ate of the loaves and were filled.

Chrysostom: “For this should have been enough to soften even the hardest of stone, as is evidenced by the multitudes flocking to that city. And yet, their hearts are calloused, looking again for food for the body, which is why Jesus reproaches them.”

27 “Cease working *for* the meat which perishes, but *for* the food which abides to everlasting life, which the Son of Man shall give to you; for this One did God the Father seal.”

Cyril of Alexandria: “The countenance of God the Father is the Son who is the imprint of God. But the light of God is the grace that passes into creation through the Spirit, by which we are refashioned to God through faith. We receive through God, as with a seal, the being conformed to His Son.”

28 Then they said to Him, “What may we do that we may be working the works of God?”

29 Jesus answered and said to them, “This is the work of God, that you should believe in *Him Whom that One sent.*”

The force of their question is, “What are we to do as a habit (ποιῶμεν)? that we may be working (ἐργαζώμεθα) the works of God.”

“We must therefore believe in Christ – the Son of God, whom God has sent – so that we have eternal life in Him; all other things follow easily... This kind of faith, even though it does not depend of works, is a work *par excellence*. With real faith in God, a real relationship is created between man and God, a relationship of love and holiness, which is salvation and life eternal... The person who believes that he will be saved through his own achievements does not really believe in God, but becomes himself a false God. (Bp. Gerasimos)”

30 They said therefore to Him, “What sign do You then, in order that we might see, and believe You? What work will You do?”

Chrysostom: “...nothing can be more unreasonable than their asking for another miracle, as if none had been given already.”

31 “Our fathers ate the manna in the wilderness, even as it is written: ‘He gave them bread out of the heaven to eat.’”

“They wanted to diminish the miracle that Christ did with the earthly bread and challenge him to do more amazing miracles. (*As Moses fed the people with manna for several years*) (Bp. Gerasimos).”

32 Then Jesus said to them, “Verily, verily, I say to you, Moses has not given you the bread out of the heaven, but My Father gives you the bread, the true *one*, out of the heavens.

1. It was God who have the manna through Moses
2. The True Bread is Being Given Now In Christ who has come *out of the heavens*

³³“For the bread of God is the *One* coming down out of the heavens and giving life to the world.” ³⁴Then they said to Him, “Lord, always give us this bread.”

Chrysostom: “They still thought that it was something material and they yet expected to satisfy their appetites, and so they quickly ran to Him.”

³⁵But Jesus said to them, “I am the bread of life; the *one* who comes to Me in no wise shall hunger; and the *one* who believes in Me in no wise shall thirst at any time.

Cyril of Alexandria: “You foolishly suppose that the manna is the bread from heaven...let no one think that the manna was truly the bread from heaven; but one should choose that which is clearly able to feed and to completely give life to the whole world.”

Ignatius of Antioch: “I want the Bread of God, which is the flesh of Christ who is of the seed of David; and for drink I want His blood, which is incorruptible love.”

Cyril of Alexandria: “... the bread that refashions the entire living being to eternal life. The human being, who has been created for eternal life, is now given power over death...The holy body of Christ gives life to those who have it within themselves...it grants incorruption inasmuch as it is commingled with our bodies.”

³⁶“But I said to you that you also have seen Me, and believe not. ³⁷“All that the Father gives to Me shall come to Me, and the *one* who comes to Me in no wise will I cast out,

Chrysostom: “...it is no accident whether a person believes or not. It shows (*that the Father gives*) that belief is not the work of human reasoning but requires a revelation from on high and a mind devout enough to receive that revelation.”

“Faith ultimately, is the gift of God, who draws people toward the Son. The will and the work of the Father as well as the Son, who came down from heaven, is one: to save all through the Son...(Bp. Gerasimos).”

³⁸“for I have come down out of the heavens, not in order that I may do Mine *own* will, but the will of the *One* Who sent Me. ³⁹“And this is the will of the Father Who sent Me, that all that He has given Me I should not lose *anything* of it, but should raise it up at the last day. ⁴⁰“And this is the will of the *One* Who sent Me, that everyone who sees the Son and believes in Him may have everlasting life; and I will raise him up in the last day.”

“That thirst will also be quenched by this bread indicates that more is being spoken about than physical nourishment: those who see and believe, who come to Jesus, will not be rejected, but rather as Jesus says three times, he will ‘raise’ them up ‘at the last day’ (6:39,40, 44 - “*No one is able to come to Me unless the Father, the One Who sent Me, should draw him; and I will raise him up at the last day.* [Jn. 6:44]). It is the resurrection into life that is, Jesus says again three times, the will of the Father, whose work He has come to do (Fr. Behr, Paschal Gospel of John)