

The Gospel of John: Light in the Darkness
The One Who Believes Has Eternal Life; John 6:41-46

Excursions in the discussion

John 6:41-42 So then the Jews were complaining about Him because He said, "I am the bread that came down out of heaven." And they were saying, "Is this not Jesus, the son of Joseph, whose father and mother we know? How does He now say, 'I have come down out of heaven'?"

Athanasian Creed: Whosoever will be saved, before all things it is necessary that he hold the one universal faith of the church. Which faith that everyone keeps whole and undefiled, without doubt, lest he shall perish everlastingly. And the one universal faith of the church is this: That we worship one God in Trinity, and Trinity in unity.

If Jesus really is from heaven, why don't the Jews believe?

John 6:43-44 Jesus answered and said to them, "Stop complaining among yourselves. No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him; and I will raise him up on the last day."

John 6:45-46 "It is written in the Prophets: 'And they shall all be taught of God.' Everyone who has heard and learned from the Father, comes to Me. Not that anyone has seen the Father, except the One who is from God; He has seen the Father."

Summary of the main point

John 6:47 Truly, truly, I say to you, the one who believes has eternal life.

Striking contrast between the sovereignty of God in salvation and the open invitation of God for salvation.

Matthew 11: 25-26 At that time Jesus said, "I praise You, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that You have hidden these things from the wise and intelligent, and have revealed them to infants. Yes, Father, for this way was well pleasing in Your sight."

Matthew 11:27 "All things have been handed over to Me by My Father; and no one knows the Son except the Father; nor does anyone know the Father except the Son, and anyone to whom the Son determines to reveal Him."

Matthew 11:28-30 "Come to Me, all who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For My yoke is comfortable, and My burden is light."

John 6:48-50 "I am the bread of life. Your fathers ate the manna in the wilderness, and they died."

John 6:50-51 This is the bread that comes down out of heaven, so that anyone may eat from it and not die. I am the living bread that came down out of heaven; if anyone eats from this bread, he will live forever..."

Back to the context of the whole text, feeding of 5000 and the conversation that followed

The crowd: "Give us bread from heaven like Moses."

Jesus: "I am the bread of life."

The crowd: "Give us bread from heaven like Moses."

Jesus: "The bread Moses gave did not sustain life forever."

The crowd: "Give us bread from heaven like Moses."

Jesus: "Believe in Me for I am bread that gives life forever."

John 6:47 Truly, truly, I say to you, the one who believes has eternal life.