

One Bible, One Story

New Testament Survey

So that You Might Believe: The Gospel according to John

Last Week's Main Points

- Luke's gospel shows us Christ on his way to suffer and die in Jerusalem, and how this is for our salvation.
- Christ is concerned for the outcasts and the marginalized in society
- The narrative of the Road to Emmaus may be ours as well, as Christ reveals himself on our journey.

I. Introduction

II. Key Concepts/Features

- The Revelation of Christ, the Son of God
- Jesus Christ, the Apostle of God
- Signs and Wonders
- Metaphors for Christ
- The Glory of the Son

III. Outline of John¹

- A. Prologue (1:1-18): Christ Revealed: The Word became flesh, The Light of the World shines in the darkness.
- B. The Book of Signs (1:19-12:50) Christ reveals himself to his followers and to others through signs and wonders.
- C. The Book of Glory (13:1-20:31): Christ's glory revealed as he moves towards his passion
- D. The Epilogue (21:1-25): The Revelation of the Risen Christ to disciples and the world

IV. Today's focus passage: Read John 6:35-51

1. Read this passage. Consider how some of the themes above are a part of Jesus' teaching. How is the metaphor of bread used here in relation to Christ in verses 25-34? See also verses 49-59. Compare your thoughts with Deuteronomy 8:3.
2. How might John be establishing the trustworthiness of Christ in this passage? What does he draw attention to when he presents the contrast between Manna in the Wilderness and the Bread of Life (32-34; 49-50)?

¹ Outline based upon Raymond E. Brown, *The Gospel According to John: I-XII* (Anchor Bible Commentary; Garden City, NY: Doubleday, 1966), cxxxviii; Francis J Moloney S.D.B., *The Gospel of John* (Sacra Pagina; Collegeville, MN: The Liturgical Press, 1998), 23-24.

3. John frequently uses dual extremes to make his points: light vs. darkness; life vs. death; etc. If those who eat of the bread of heaven will never die but have eternal life, how does this bread contrast with the fruit of the Creation narrative in Genesis?
4. John seems to reference an early theology of the Last Supper in verses 54-56. Why does he place that here, apparently out of order from the actual narrative? How do you think this text may inform our Eucharistic tradition today?

V. Application

- One of the things I hope that we take away is the sense of God's rich provision in Christ. We trust in Christ because he freely gives us life, because he freely gives us himself and brings us out of death.
- This week, take some time to reflect on how you experience this eternal life in Christ now. Do you feel that the church is a safe place for this life to be nurtured in you? In others? Pray for someone who you know may be struggling to trust God.