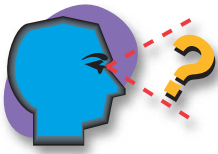


John



Responses to the Questions

NOTE: BE SURE TO ANSWER ALL THE QUESTIONS YOURSELF BEFORE READING THE ANSWERS IN ORDER TO MAKE THE MOST OF THIS STUDY.

Read John 6:22-71

1. In chapter 4 Jesus told the Samaritan woman that the water that she had come to draw from the well was not what she *truly* needed. Jesus said, "Every one who drinks of this water will thirst again, but whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him will never thirst; the water that I shall give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life." (John 4:13-14) The woman's response: "Sir, give me this water that I may not thirst, nor come here to draw."

Her response showed that at that point she believed Jesus to be speaking of physical thirst. In chapter 6, the crowds are seeking the same – to fill their physical and earthly needs. Their response, like the woman at the well, is: "Lord, give us this bread always." Like her, they think he is speaking of satisfying their physical appetites. Jesus, however, is speaking of something much more important. When he tells them not to labor for food that perishes but the food which endures to eternal life, he is not offering a life-time supply of well water or fish and chips. He's offering eternal life.

2. Speaking of himself as the Son of Man should remind the Jews the writings in the book of Daniel and also in Ezekiel that speak of the Son of Man as one who was to come who would rule the nations.

Hebrews 1:3 tells us that Jesus reflects the glory of God and bears the "very stamp of his nature, upholding the universe by his word of power." Jesus' statement that God the Father has set his seal on Jesus not only signifies God's approval but also shows that they are one in nature as well. In addition, the image of a seal has been seen by some interpreters as a reference to Jesus' baptism.

3. God instructed Moses to put some of the manna in a jar and to store it in the Ark of the Covenant. It was believed that several hundred years later, Jeremiah hid the Ark in a cave and rebuked the people for trying to find it, stating that "the place shall be unknown until God gathers his people together again and shows his mercy." (2 Maccabees 2:7)
Because of this, the Jews might have expected Jesus to produce this "hidden manna". At the very least they expected him to give them a bigger miracle than the one they attributed to Moses. Jesus corrects them that God, not Moses, gave their ancestors the manna in the desert and that now God is giving them the *true* Manna from Heaven.
4. To come to Jesus means to open our minds and hearts to him; to completely believe in him and put our faith in him.



Responses to the Questions (cont.)

5. The Jews murmured against him because he claimed to come down from heaven. They don't believe him because they think they know who his mother and father are and they are scandalized because he is claiming to be God.
The Israelites murmured against Moses because they didn't trust and believe him. They accused him of bringing them out in the desert to die. These Jews and their ancestors were blinded by their pride. Moses stated that their grumbling was not against him but against God. Like their ancestors before them, these people are rejecting God.
6. In Jeremiah 31:31-34 states that God will place his law within the hearts of his people and they will no longer have need to teach their friends and kinsmen how to know him. All people shall know him. God has given each of us an interior knowledge of him. He has also given us free will. He draws each of us; however, we can choose whether or not to "come to Jesus." "Raise him up on the last day" is referring to the eternal life with God.
7. The Jews are outraged and begin arguing amongst themselves over his statement that the bread he will give them is his flesh. They obviously took him literally because they are upset and arguing over his statement. In verse 53, Jesus becomes even more emphatic with his statements and reaffirms what he has said.
8. Many of his disciples found what he was saying to be very hard to believe. They didn't have faith in him and therefore could not accept what he was saying.
9. Spiritual does not mean symbolic. When Jesus makes this statement he is referring to the way to interpret his words. In the flesh we cannot understand what he is saying, but if we think in a spiritual sense, we can believe that he will indeed give us his flesh even though we don't understand how. We have faith and that's what it takes to understand his words.
10. Jesus is referring to the disciples who had just left him and one of the 12 apostles, Judas Iscariot, who betrayed him.
11. Those who left Jesus could not accept what he was saying. There were doubtless many there already who never believed him and followed him out of curiosity or in the hope of getting some material gain. Jesus put many of his followers to the test. Was their faith in him strong enough to trust him and what he was saying? Obviously many did not have the faith that would endure such a difficult teaching. Unfortunately, there are many today that still find the doctrine of the Eucharist difficult to understand and reject this teaching. A person who really believes in the True Presence of Jesus in the Eucharist would most assuredly not be able to abandon him. However, those, who like Judas, who claim to believe and then leave and betray him are worse off than those who never believed at all.



Responses to the Questions (cont.)

12. Peter speaks for the Apostles. He tells Jesus that they couldn't leave him as he is the one with the words to Eternal Life. Peter truly believes in Jesus. Jesus mentions Judas to bring to the attention of the others that although Jesus chose him, that Judas has free will and he chose to betray Jesus.