

Salvation is a Life
Part 2
John 6
April 12, 2026

1. Review—John 20:31 [SLIDE]
but these have been written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing you may have life in His name.
 - a. We focused our attention on Jesus, the promised Messiah and Son of God
 - b. We looked at life:
 - i. It is rooted in relationship with God
 - ii. It is an abundant life
 - iii. It is a fruitful life
 - iv. It is a God-empowered life
 - v. It is a life like Jesus
 - c. We talked about life but I didn't define it. That's what we're going to do today.
2. But first—Three concepts
 - a. Happiness
 - i. Consistent with the Jewish idea of shalom. Shalom (שָׁלוֹם) is far more than just the absence of conflict; it is defined as a state of wholeness, completeness, and well-being in all areas of life.
 - ii. Modern researchers, notably Arthur Brooks, define happiness as the interaction between
 1. Enjoyment: far more than mere pleasure, it is **pleasure + people + memory**
 2. Satisfaction: the joy that follows struggle and effort
 3. Meaning: **coherence** (understanding why things happen), **purpose** (having goals and direction), and **significance** (believing your life matters).
 - b. Complicated Challenges (left brain) are challenges or problems that have a definite solution. It is the place from which we prefer to operate because it provides control.
 - c. Complex Challenges (right brain) are challenges or problems we must live out and seek to understand. These are the things with which we wrestle.
3. Turn to John 6
4. This morning we are going to see another example of Jesus' brilliance. A well-known story, followed by a series of conversations will allow us to understand the answers to two questions. He will also expose our vain attempts to answer the questions on our own term.
 - a. What is the life offered by Jesus?
 - b. How do we experience this life?
5. Read John 6:1-15 and pray. [SLIDE]
6. Context
 - a. The disciples had already been sent out and returned.

- b. They were familiar with miracles, not only performed by Jesus but by their own hand.
 - c. Verses 5 and 6 are the heart of this first section. [SLIDE]

Therefore Jesus, lifting up His eyes and seeing that a large crowd was coming to Him, *said to Philip, “Where are we to buy bread, so that these may eat?” This He was saying to test him, for He Himself knew what He was intending to do.

 - i. Jesus asked Philip where they could go to buy bread.
 - ii. Testing:
 - 1. Not pass/fail
 - 2. Evaluating learning
 - iii. Jesus knew what He was intending to do. These are words to live by!
7. “Jesus knew what He was intending to do!” The brilliance of Jesus.
- a. Those words apply to all of chapter 6, not just the feeding of the 5,000.
 - b. Jesus is going to shift our focus from complicated challenges (feeding ourselves) to the most important complex question: What is life?
 - c. He does this through conversations with five groups.
8. The five groups
- a. The people He fed (vss. 1-15) [SLIDE]
 - i. Tried to make Him king to meet their felt needs (complicated problem)
 - ii. Completely missed the significance of WHO was feeding them
 - iii. Jesus didn’t engage. He just slipped away [VS. 15 SLIDE]
 - b. The “seekers” in the crowd (vss. 25-40) [SLIDE]
 - i. Jesus challenged them by accusing them of the same fault as the previous group.
 - ii. He shifts their focus from working for perishable bread to working for the “food which endures to eternal life”.
 - iii. They ask what these works are (complicated challenge)
 - iv. Jesus directed them to belief (complex answer) rooted in relationship with Him.
 - v. They ask for a sign (complicated), citing Moses
 - vi. Jesus redirects them to life-giving bread, which they can receive by believing in Him (complex). They do not yet believe.
 - vii. Verse 40–Jesus’ invitation to believe [SLIDE]
 - c. The disgruntled Jews (41-58)
 - i. Disgruntled because Jesus didn’t fit their preconceived ideas.
 - ii. Jesus doubled down
 - 1. I am the Bread of Life
 - 2. You must eat my flesh and drink my blood
 - 3. Verses 56-58. You must eat my flesh and drink my blood.
 Definitely a complex answer! [SLIDE]
 - d. The unbelieving disciples (59-66)
 - i. Much like the disgruntled Jews, they could not accept the complex answer to their question.
 - ii. They walked away

- e. Jesus' true disciples (67-71)
 - i. Jesus asked if they were going to leave, too.
 - ii. Peter got it right this time, though I don't think he really understood the magnitude of his answer. (verse 68)
 - iii. Simon Peter answered Him, "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have words of eternal life."
- 9. Remember the two questions?
 - a. What is the life offered by Jesus?
 - b. How do we experience this life?
 - c. We try to answer these questions using the left side of our brains. We want a formula, a checklist, or for Jesus to simply "take the wheel". These do not work!
 - d. What is the life offered by Jesus?
 - i. It is the life we ALL want! It is the God-shaped hole that Augustine talked about.
 - ii. It is a life rooted in relationship with Jesus.
 - iii. He is literally the Way, the Truth, and the Life.
 - e. How do we experience this life?
 - i. We wrestle with God!
 - ii. Discipline for the purpose of godliness, not to check boxes. [SLIDE]