

2024 19Sun John 6 (Jn 6:41-51)

-Today Jesus continues the mystery of the Eucharist / The Old Testament Manna (Bread) / Becomes, in the New Testament (Bread), a person] / Jesus Himself.

And Next week (20Sun) Jn 6:51-58 / Jesus' words will have such a literal realism / Jesus will make sure His audience understands that His words are not meant to be understood in a figurative way (V52-53) / Not symbolic / But literal.

-Last week (18Sun): Jesus said: "I am the Bread of Life." (V35)

-Which leads us this week to connect Jesus, THE BREAD OF LIFE, to the bread that sustained God's people while they journeyed 40 years in the desert.

-In our First Reading: 1 Kings: Elijah is given Food for the journey / By God Himself / Just like the Manna in the desert / And today for His Church in the Eucharist.

-In the Gospel we read: "The Jews murmured about him because he said, "I am the bread that came down from heaven," (V41).

-Then they say: "Is this not Jesus, the son of Joseph? Do we not know his father and mother?" Then how can he say: "I have come down from heaven" (V42).

-My emphasis from last week / How can Jesus do this? / Because He is God.

-They still have not connected that Jesus is God [last week's seal (V27)].

Jesus then says: "They shall all be taught by God." (V45) / Both Isaiah ch.54 and Jeremiah ch.31 speak of this "New Testament Covenant" made by God Himself, in and through, Jesus the Messiah.

-From last week: We are to believe in Jesus' Works and Teachings.

-Because if we know Jesus / We will know the Father / And we then know God.

-So Jesus is God and will give His Church Himself to get us through this world and our present journey.

-We then read: "I am the Bread of Life." (V48) / And Jesus says: "Your ancestors ate the manna in the desert, but they died." (V49) / "This is the bread that comes down from heaven so that one may eat it and not die." (V50).

-"I am the living bread that came down from heaven; whoever eats this bread will live forever; and the bread that I will give is my flesh for the life of the world" (V51).

-My emphasis this week / Jesus is connecting Himself with the Bread from Heaven (Manna) given to His people (Israel) in the desert / yet they still died.

-The Old Testament manna/bread is nice for bodily nourishment / But the New Testament Bread/Eucharist will one up it.

-In the Eucharist Jesus shares with us His very Life / Essence / and Being / A Physical and Spiritual nourishment for the journey.

-Jesus gave us "The Lords Prayer: "Give us this day Our Daily Bread" / Reminds us of The Bread of Heaven that Sustains us now, but also gives us ETERNAL LIFE.

To share a story by Fr. Mike with FOCUS students in The Holy Land:

-"Erik, a young man on fire for the Lord was talking to a baptist girl / The Baptist girl asked: Do you have a relationship with Jesus? / Erik said: Yes, but I want to have more: I want Intimacy with Christ." Eric Clark then explained / In the Mass and the Eucharist, Jesus gives us ALL OF HIMSELF / So we are able to experience Him in an incredible way in and through our bodies as the Bread of Life."

-MAN: TALK ABOUT A PERSONAL RELATIONSHIP AND INTIMACY WITH JESUS.

-We are invited (In the State of Grace) to receive Him Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity / And when we attend Mass / We are always in His Presence / To be Washed clean and renewed / The Mass and Eucharist / What an incredible gift.

Notes:

-Next week ("pericope:" Greek word meaning a grouping of Scripture verses together to be read and/or studied) / Jesus will offer the very literal words of His Real Presence / The Bread will become My flesh, My Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity / To sustain and nourish us as we journey / So literal that many will go back to their former way of life / But now I am getting ahead of myself. Lol

Vivat Jesus

Father Vic Gournas