

# “Seeing is Believing?”

John 6:30-40

East Berlin Community Church

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## Introduction

- **“I must see it to believe it!”**
- **Jesus’ entire ministry points to the truth that Jesus is the Messiah**
  - Matthew 4:17-- *“Jesus began to preach and to say, ‘Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.’”*
  - Matthew 4:23-24-- *“And Jesus went about all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing all kinds of sicknesses and all kinds of diseases among the people. Then His fame went throughout all Syria; and they brought to him all the sick people who were afflicted with various diseases and torments, and those who were demon-possessed, epileptics, and paralytics; and He healed them.”*
  - Matthew 4:25-- *“Great multitudes followed Him—from Galilee, and from Decapolis, Jerusalem, Judea, and beyond the Jordan.”*
- **The doubt of John the Baptist**
  - Matthew 11:3-- *“Are you the Coming One, or do we look for another?”*
  - Matthew 11:4-6 -- *“Go and tell John the things which you hear and see: The blind see and the lame walk; the lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear; the dead are raised up and the poor have the gospel preached to them. And blessed is he who is not offended because of Me.”*
  - Isaiah 61:1-2 -- *“The Spirit of the LORD God is upon Me, because the LORD has anointed Me to preach good tidings to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to those who are bound; to proclaim the acceptable year of the LORD.”*
- **The Jews at Capernaum had seen, but will they believe?**
  - Deuteronomy 18:19-- *“It shall be that whoever will not hear My words, which He speaks in My name, I will require it of him.”*
  - Romans 10:17-- *“faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.”*
  - John 6:27-- *“Do not labor for the food which perishes, but for the food which endures to everlasting life, which the Son of Man will give you because God the Father has set His seal on Him.”*

## “Seeing is Believing?”

### A. Man’s Order: **“Need to see MORE in order to believe!”**

- John 6:30 -- *“Therefore they said to Him, ‘What sign will You perform then, that we may see it and believe You? What work will You do?’”*
1. **Argument: If Jesus is greater than Moses, He needs then to perform greater signs.**
    - John 6:31-- *“Our fathers ate the manna in the desert; as it is written, ‘He gave them bread from heaven to eat.’”*
      - a. Moses was a certified messenger from God!
      - b. Moses provided *“bread from heaven”*
      - c. Jesus, you need to TOP that!
  2. **Analysis: Unbelief is never satisfied, no matter how much evidence is given!**
    - a. **The greater sign of the “empty tomb”**
      - Matthew 12:38-- *—“some of the scribes and Pharisees answered, saying, ‘Teacher, we want to see a sign from you!’”*

- Matthew 12:39-40 -- *"An evil and adulterous generation seeks after a sign, and no sign will be given to it, except the sign of the prophet Jonah. For as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of the great fish, so will the Son of Man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth."*
- b. **The rejection of the "greater sign"**
- Luke 16:31-- *"if they do not hear Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded though one rise from the dead"*
  - Mark 15:32-- *"Let the Christ, the King of Israel, descend now from the cross, that we may see and believe."*

## **B. They need to understand CLEARLY the "bread from heaven"**

- John 6:32-33-- *"Then Jesus said to them, 'Most assuredly, I say to you, Moses did not give you the bread from heaven, but My Father gives you the true bread from heaven. For the bread of God is He who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world.'"*
1. **Correction: Four-fold misunderstanding about "manna"**
- a. **It was NOT Moses, but God the Father who gave the manna.**
- Exodus 16:4 -- *"Then the LORD said to Moses, 'Behold, I will rain bread from heaven for you.'"*
  - Exodus 16:12 -- *"At twilight you shall eat meat and in the morning you will be filled with bread, And you shall know that I am the LORD your God!"*
  - Exodus 16:15-- *"Moses said to them, This is the bread which the LORD has given you to eat."*
- b. **Manna was NOT the "true" bread from heaven.**
- c. **Manna gave physical life; the "bread of life" from heaven gives spiritual life.**
- d. **Manna was for Israel; "Bread of Life" for the world**
- e. **In spite of Jesus' correction, they still did not understand.**
- John 6:34-- *"Then they said to Him, 'Lord, give us this bread always.'"*
  - John 4:15 -- *"Sir, give me this water that I may not thirst nor come here to draw"*
  - 1 Corinthians 2:14 -- *"But the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned."*
2. **Revelation: "I AM the Bread of Life"**
- John 6:35-- *"And Jesus said to them, 'I am the bread of life. He who comes to Me shall never hunger, and he who believes in Me shall never thirst.'"*
- a. **Jesus as the permanent satisfaction of our desire for life!**
- Psalm 42:1-2 -- *"As the deer pants for the water brook, so my soul pants for You, O God. My soul thirsts for God, for the living God? When shall I come and appear before God?"*
- b. **Must "come to Christ" and "believe in Him"**
- c. **The Jews refused to believe— "Seeing is NOT believing"**
- John 6:36-- *"But I said to you that you have seen Me and yet do not believe."*
  - Hebrews 4:2 -- *"Indeed the gospel was preached to us as well as to them; but the word which they heard did not profit them, not being mixed with faith in those who heard it."*
3. **Clarification: Understanding Jesus as the "Bread of life"**
- John 6:37-40 -- *"All that the Father gives Me will come to Me, and the one who comes to Me I will by no means cast out. For I have come down from heaven, not to do My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me. This is the will of the Father who sent Me, that of all He has given Me I should lose nothing, but should raise it*

*up at the last day. And this is the will of Him who sent Me, that everyone who sees the Son and believes in Him may have everlasting life; and I will raise him up at the last day."*

a. ***"All that the Father gives me will come to Me!"***

1) **We are the Father's "love-gift" to His Son!**

- Ephesians 1:4 -- *"just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love."*

2) **Salvation is of God, not of us!**

- Romans 10:13 -- *"whoever calls upon the name of the Lord shall be saved."*
- John 1:13 -- *"who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God."*
- Romans 9:16 -- *"is not of him who wills, nor of him who runs, but of God who shows mercy."*

3) **Human viewpoint: We must "come" to Christ**

- Revelation 22:17-- *"who wishes may take the water of life without cost"*

b. ***"The ones who come, I will not cast out"***

1) **Reason: Jesus came to do the "will of His Father"**

- John 6:38 -- *"For I have come down from heaven, not to do My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me."*
- John 4:34 -- *"My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me and to finish His work!"*
- John 5:30 -- *"I can of Myself do nothing. As I hear, I judge; and My judgment is righteous, because I do not seek my own will, but the will of the Father who sent me."*
- John 17:4-- *"I have glorified you on the earth; I have finished the work which you have given me to do."*

2) **Explanation: What is the "will of the Father"?**

- John 6:39-40 -- *"This is the will of the Father who sent Me, that of all He has given Me I should lose nothing, but should raise it up at the last day. And this is the will of Him who sent Me, that everyone who sees the Son and believes in Him may have everlasting life; and I will raise him up at the last day."*

a) **Of all the Father gives, the Son will lose none.**

- John 10:27-29-- *"My sheep hear my voice and I know them, and they follow me. And I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand. My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch them out of My Father's hand."*

b) **Everyone who sees the Son and believes in Him has everlasting life.**

- John 5:24 -- *"Most assuredly, I say to you, he who hears my words and believe in Him who sent me has everlasting life, and shall not come into judgment, but has passed from death into life."*

### **C. God's Order: Believe in order to See!**

- John 11:40 -- *"Did I not say to you that if you would believe, you would see the glory of God?"*
- John 20:25 -- *"Unless I see in His hands the print of the nails, and put my finger into the print of the nails, and put my hand into His side, I will not believe."*
- John 20:27-28 -- *"Reach your finger here and look at my hands; and reach your hand here, and put it into My side. Do not be unbelieving, but believing. And Thomas answered and said to Him, 'My Lord and my God!'"*
- John 20:29 -- *"Thomas, because you have seen Me, you have believed. Blessed are those who have not seen, and yet have believed."*