

The Study Service this week is a bible study on JOHN 6: The SIGNIFICANCE OF JESUS' HUMANITY. If any one chapter in John is its heart, it is arguably John 6, for here Jesus says **"my flesh is food indeed, and my blood is drink indeed"** (Jn 6.53-55). In John 1.14, "the Word became flesh & dwelt among us", fully human, just as we all are, sharing our *sarx*, our mortal flesh. In Jn 6.35 Jesus says **"I am the bread of life"**, **"the living bread which came down from heaven"** (v.51), that anyone who **believes in him** (v.40), **munches his flesh and drinks his blood has eternal life**, and that he would **raise them up at the last day** (v.54).

John 6 reveals the astonishing significance in Jesus' taking our very flesh on himself, but it raises several questions:

(1) Is there any connection between (a) the *feeding of the five thousand* (Jesus' great act of "messianic shepherding" of the sheep) and the *immanence of the passover*, or that (b) it was followed by his *walking on the water*.

(2) How important are the parallels & differences between the *wilderness feeding of the Israelites with manna from heaven*, and Jesus *"the true bread from heaven"* (v.32) *feeding the people in the hills of Galilee*. How important also is Jesus' future *ascending to heaven* (v.62).

(3) Is there any conflict between Jesus' flesh being life & v. 63, **"It is the spirit that gives life, the flesh is of no avail: the words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life"**?

Finally, perhaps most important of all:

(4) If Jesus took mortal flesh, how is his flesh life-giving?

(5) What is it to be feed by the flesh and blood of Christ?

(6) Is it significant that it was the Word that became flesh?