

The *Good News* that John Wrote

*...that you may believe that
Jesus is the Christ, the Son of
God, and that believing you
may have life in his name.*

John 20.31

Life in the Spirit

Objectives of the Class

- To behold in our hearts the glory of Christ
- To participate more deeply in life in the Spirit
- To become more conformed to His image
- To pray for and encourage one another

Prayer Before Reading Scripture

Shine within our hearts, loving Master, the pure light of Your divine knowledge and open the eyes of our minds that we may comprehend the message of Your Gospel. Instill in us also reverence for Your blessed commandments, so that having conquered all sinful desires, we may pursue a spiritual life, thinking and doing all those things that are pleasing to You. For You, Christ our God, are the light of our souls and bodies, and to You we give glory together with Your Father who is without beginning and Your all holy, good, and life giving Spirit, now and forever and to the ages of ages. Amen.

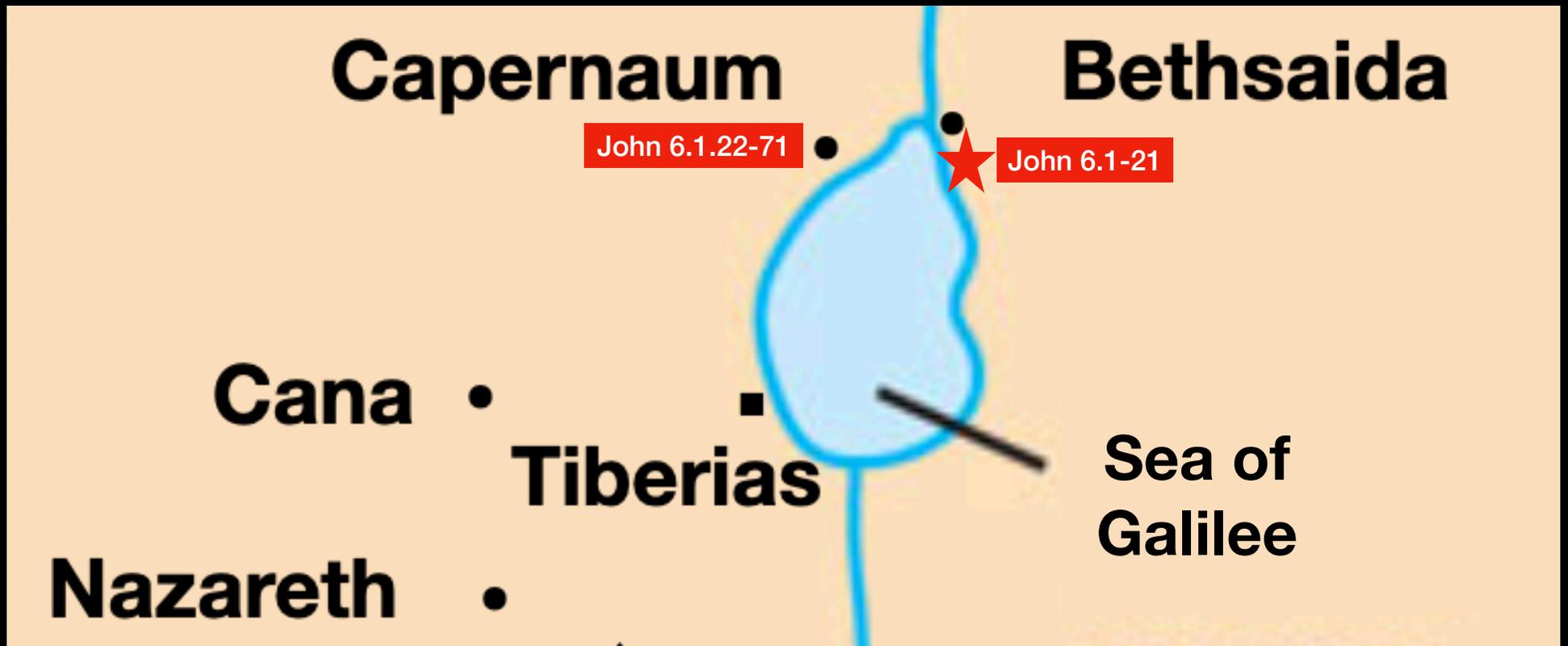
Watch

John 6.46-71

Study

John 6.46-71

Places mentioned in John 6



John 6.41-42

The people started grumbling about him, because he said, “I am the bread that came down from heaven.” So they said, “This man is Jesus son of Joseph, isn’t he? We know his father and mother. How, then, does he now say he came down from heaven?”

John 6.43-45

Jesus answered, “Stop grumbling among yourselves. People cannot come to me unless the Father who sent me draws them to me; and I will raise them to life on the last day. The prophets wrote, ‘Everyone will be taught by God.’ Anyone who hears the Father and learns from him comes to me.

John 6.46

This does not mean that anyone has seen the Father; he who is from God is the only one who has seen the Father.

John 6.47-51

I am telling you the truth: he who believes in me has eternal life. Your ancestors ate manna in the desert, but they died. But the bread that comes down from heaven is of such a kind that whoever eats it will not die. I am the living bread that came down from heaven. If you eat this bread, you will live forever. The bread that I will give you is my flesh, which I give so that the world may live.”

John 6.52

This started an angry argument among them. “How can this man give us his flesh to eat?” they asked.

John 6.53-55

Jesus said to them, “I am telling you the truth: if you do not eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you will not have life in yourselves. Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood have eternal life, and I will raise them to life on the last day. For my flesh is the real food; my blood is the real drink.

John 6.56-57

Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood live in me, and I live in them. The living Father sent me, and because of him I live also. In the same way whoever eats me will live because of me.

John 6.58

This, then, is the bread that came down from heaven; it is not like the bread that your ancestors ate, but then later died. Those who eat this bread will live forever.”

John 6.59

Jesus said this as he taught in the synagogue in Capernaum.

John 6.60

Many of his followers heard this and said, “This teaching is too hard. Who can listen to it?”

John 6.61-62

Without being told, Jesus knew that they were grumbling about this, so he said to them, “Does this make you want to give up? Suppose, then, that you should see the Son of Man go back up to the place where he was before?”

John 6.63-65

What gives life is God's Spirit; human power is of no use at all. The words I have spoken to you bring God's life-giving Spirit. Yet some of you do not believe." (Jesus knew from the very beginning who were the ones that would not believe and which one would betray him.) And he added, "This is the very reason I told you that no people can come to me unless the Father makes it possible for them to do so."

John 6.66-67

Because of this, many of Jesus' followers turned back and would not go with him any more. So he asked the twelve disciples, "And you—would you also like to leave?"

John 6.68-69

Simon Peter answered him, “Lord, to whom would we go? You have the words that give eternal life. And now we believe and know that you are the Holy One who has come from God.”

John 6.70-71

Jesus replied, “I chose the twelve of you, didn’t I? Yet one of you is a devil!” He was talking about Judas, the son of Simon Iscariot. For Judas, even though he was one of the twelve disciples, was going to betray him.

Luke 22.19-21

Then he took a piece of bread, gave thanks to God, broke it, and gave it to them, saying, “This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in memory of me.” In the same way, he gave them the cup after the supper, saying, “This cup is God’s new covenant sealed with my blood, which is poured out for you. “But, look! The one who betrays me is here at the table with me!”

The Eucharist

(Fr. Alexander Schmemmann+)

...whenever man turns to God, he necessarily senses the need to offer Him the most precious things that he has, what is more vital for his life, as a fit and sacrifice (p. 101).

The Eucharist

(Fr. Alexander Schmemmann+)

To *want God* means above all to know with one's whole being that *He is*, that outside of Him there is only darkness, emptiness and meaninglessness, for in Him and only in Him is the cause, the meaning, the goal and the joy of all existence. This means further to love Him with one's whole heart, one's whole mind and one's whole being.

The Eucharist

(Fr. Alexander Schmemmann+)

And this means, finally to feel and to recognize our complete and boundless alienation from Him, our frightful guilt and loneliness in this rupture—to know that ultimately there is only one sin: not wanting God and being separated from Him; and there is only one sorrow: “not being a saint,” not having *sanctification* —unity with the One who is holy.

The Eucharist

(Fr. Alexander Schmemmann+)

But where there is this thirst for God, this consciousness of sin and this yearning for genuine life, there necessarily is sacrifice. In the sacrifice man gives himself and his own over to his God, because knowing God, he cannot but love Him, and loving Him, he cannot but strive toward Him and toward unity with Him.

The Eucharist

(Fr. Alexander Schmemmann+)

But as his sins stand on this road and encumber him, in his sacrifice man likewise seeks forgiveness and atonement; he offers it as a propitiation for sin, he fills it with all the pain and torment of his life, so that through suffering, blood and death he may finally expiate his guilt and be reunited with God. (p. 102)

The Eucharist

(Fr. Alexander Schmemmann+)

The ultimate and most joyful mystery of all is that Christ gave this sacrifice to us, to the new humanity regenerated in Him and united with Him: the Church. In this new life, His life in us and our life in Him, His sacrifice became our sacrifice, His offering our offering. “Abide in me, and I in you” (John 15.4).

The Eucharist

(Fr. Alexander Schmemmann+)

What does this mean if not that His life, fulfilled by Him in His perfect sacrifice, was granted to us as our life, as the only true life, as the fulfilment of God's eternal design for mankind?

The Eucharist

(Fr. Alexander Schmemmann+)

For if Christ's life is offering and sacrifice, then also our life in Him and the whole life of the Church are offering and sacrifice—the offering of ourselves and each other and the whole world, the sacrifice of love and unity, praise and thanksgiving, forgiveness and healing, communion and unity.” (p. 104)

John 6 - Summary

Questions?
Comments?

Prayer for God's Help

Almighty God, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, come to our help and deliver us from the difficulties that beset us. We believe Lord, that all trials of life are under Your care and that all things work for the good of those who love You. Do whatever is profitable for our souls. Take away from us fear, anxiety and distress. Help us to face and endure our difficulties with faith, courage and wisdom. Grant that these trials may bring us closer to You for You are our rock and refuge, our comfort and hope, our delight and joy. We trust in Your love and compassion. Forgive us every transgression, voluntary and involuntary. O Lord who loves mankind, deliver us from the Coronavirus. Send Your angel to watch over us and protect us. Grant health and recovery to those suffering from this virus. Guide the hands of physicians and nurses, and preserve those who are healthy that we may continue to serve our suffering brothers and sisters in peace, that together we may glorify thy most honorable and majestic name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages.