

Matthew 21-04-18b

Let's return to our study now and Elizabeth very helpfully pointed out that not only dr. Ironside, but if you look at the Schofield, is that the old Schofield or new Schofield? Anyway the Schofield note on That passage was that under the meal the leaven and the meal Schofield says the same thing Ironside did he points it out. So I I feel like I'm in good company.

The great gray heads of the faith are in accord here But the important thing is to identify the leaven and to beware and take heed and you think about that three measures of meal and a little bit of leaven It's not that there's this great steaming pile of organic fertilizer and oh look, there's an evil There's something to avoid don't step in that This is bread it you can rationalize like the Sadducees all day long about the value of bread and how important bread is You can recognize that bread is used in ritual after ritual and it's all through scripture and manna from heaven and all the rest of it If you're a Pharisee but if you leaven it if you start adding look at the final dire warnings in the book of Revelation if Anyone adds to the words of this book. God will add to him the plagues that you just got through hearing about don't inject human help Into God's Word the Lord Jesus has something to say about what this bread is In the same way that on Thursday night, we said it's not the building God doesn't just want these people to stack up some stones Lather in a little bit of mortar put on a gate and say, okay, we've accomplished the will of the Lord He is looking for people who know what that house represents who are sensitive to the spiritual truth it symbolizes and if you recall After that building is built What is the most? significant stunning amazing thing that doesn't happen What happened when Moses finished the tabernacle he and and Bezalel and a holy ab and all of the workmen? What happened in that tent? The glory of God came and dwelt by the way, did you know the word Shekinah is nowhere in Scripture? Just so you know, we always say the Shekinah came. Well word Shekinah is is not in Scripture.

It's nowhere But the glory of God the presence of God filled the tabernacle it was blindingly glorious what happened after David's son Solomon completed the temple and assembled all the people and offered just Thousands and thousands of sacrifices what happened? the glory of God filled the temple blindingly so memorably so What happened when the Ezra Nehemiah generation with Zerubbabel and and Yeshua the priest when they got the temple finished what happened nothing Nothing happened no glory cloud no presence of God no blinding glorious illumination signifying God's presence it wasn't the stinking building and They missed that truth Despite the ministrations of Haggai despite the prophecies of Zechariah despite and you remember what's in Malachi? This people says they're sacrificing their offering. They're bringing me and what are they doing? They're bringing me diseased and blind sacrifices and they're corrupting my altar and they're defiling my house That's why I'm not there it's the presence not the house Why is the temple so glorious in Jesus day who did that? Herod for crying out loud Herod

beautified the temple not the people remember how the tabernacle got built How was that financed? the spoils of The Exodus the jewelry and the mirrors and the the beads and the combs and all the things that the Egyptians Handed the Israelites and said take this and go I want you to have enough money that you can get well away and never come back here Take open up the treasure chest there. You know my Egyptian husband and give these people Treasure so when they got out in the wilderness the people donated and they donated so much that there was more than enough to cover the badger skins and The linens and the tashes and the gold appointments and the brass appointments and the all of the staves and the rings and and the creation of the table for the showbread and the golden candlestick and the altar of incense and the Bronze Sea and the Ark of the Covenant itself the people sacrificially gave for that Who built the temple that Jesus walked around under its pillars Herod Directly descended from the one that tried to kill Jesus and slaughtered the infants two years old and under Herod So is it the building or is it the presence? Well in the same way It's the bread is not just bread and at this point Jesus has already made that point to flip over to John chapter 6 You will well remember this Passage John chapter 6 in case there is any doubt and you remember we've we've seen this turning point in Matthew where the the diffidence and the apathy has turned into opposition and Active rejection and hostility in the land Whether it's in Jerusalem Jesus doesn't Show himself openly down there anymore.

He's gone to Galilee now. They are hostile and openly Rejecting and so now he is going to the towns and villages. He's going to the outskirts He's going to Magadan that nobody can even find on the map.

It's somewhere on the western shore. He's going to the region of of Phillips Caesarea on the eastern side. Nobody's real sure exactly where he was He's going to the outlying places the nooks and the crannies reminds you of his Prophecy later, we'll see it when he says this gospel will be preached in the whole world and then the end will come Well, he's getting the last little towns and villages the smallest groups of people Aware he's giving them the gospel of the kingdom and the end is then going to come so if you look at verse 41 of Well, let's go back earlier verse 22 now remember the feeding of the 5,000 That is back in the earlier part of this chapter Then when Jesus perceived in verse 15, they were about to come and take him by force to make him King he departed to the mountain by himself remember the walking on the water thing and Then they were immediately at the land where they were going on the following day verse 22 John 6 22 On the following day when the people who were standing on the other side of the sea saw that there was no other boat there except one Remember that and which his disciples had entered you can scribble out and Jesus had not entered the boat with his disciples, but his disciples had gone away alone This is why when you read Matthew it says Jesus left and the later on it says the disciples arrived on the other side there's this Disconnect between him and his disciples traveling When the people verse 24 saw that Jesus was not there nor his disciples They got into boats came to Capernaum seeking

Jesus This is up in Galilee now when they found him on the other side of the sea They said to him rabbi.

When did you come here? Most assuredly I say to you you seek me not because you saw the signs notice Jesus Created the sign of the feeding of the 5,000 nobody asked him to feed the crowd It's a wicked and adulterous generation that seeks a sign Jesus provided signs. He healed on that day. He provided food on that day You are not seeking me because you saw the signs ie You are not those who have a heart to believe You're not seeking spiritual truth.

And so when you see a sign It doesn't plug into your existing belief Belief comes first Then the confirmation we don't say well look Lord as soon as you provide me sufficient proof How about a sign from heaven then I'll believe Remember what Jesus said over in Luke 16 talking about the rich man and Lazarus and in the parable The rich man is in torments and he says send the leper to dip his leprous finger in water and cool my tongue He is in such distress he doesn't care that Lazarus is full of sores and dogs have been licking him Now that he's in Abraham's lap. He says send Lazarus. He did, you know, if you're asking Why would you say send an angel with a bucket of water? You know send Jacob to dig a well right here and I can have an infinite supply He specifically says send Lazarus that he may dip his finger in water and just touch my tongue one drop of water From Lazarus The Lazarus for whom this man did absolutely nothing But you remember what Abraham says Lazarus never speaks All of the talking here is done by the rich man and Abraham because it's a parable.

It's a figure and The rich man says Oh Father Abraham Send to my brothers So that they will not come to this horrible place. And what does Abraham reply? They have Moses and the prophets Let them hear and believe the Word of God Your brothers don't have any more belief than you do and because there is no belief. I Could send someone back from the dead To talk to them and it's not going to make a difference believe first then confirmation we don't see a sign and then believe we believe and To believers the signs make sense the signs communicate the signs Confirm and support and elaborate and flesh out That which we already believe Abraham says your brothers have got the Word of God if they're not listening to that a sign of a resurrected man Which this generation is going to see twice They see Lazarus.

They see the the little girl in the upper room. They see the man on the beer They see Jesus raising the dead several times and Jesus himself is going to be raised from the dead It's still not going to believe Signs do not create belief Signs are given to those who have belief Don't ask for a sign so that you can believe that's wicked and adulterous go back to Jeremiah so You seek me not because you saw the signs and that's your problem If you see the sign and you're seeking the Lord Jesus That's because you believe and now your belief has got an aiming point your belief has got a destination This is the fulfillment of your belief that God is in his heaven that he's going to send his Christ he's

going to send his Messiah and This matches what I know of my Old Testament scriptures What did Jesus tell the disciples that came from John the Baptist when he was in prison go tell John what you see? The blind see the lame walk John is a believer Tell him what you've seen that's going to comfort and encourage him because John knows who I am his only question is Are there two messiahs or just one? He knows I am the Lamb of God that takes away the sin of the world when you tell him these signs He'll know that I also am the coming one. That was John's question.

Are you the coming one or do we look for another? I know you're the Lamb of God. I pointed you out. That's the reason Your disciples began following you behold the Lamb of God John knows this What he doesn't know is in this debate.

It's one Messiah or two Are you the coming one or should we look for another you're you're gonna be the one that? By your stripes we are healed You're gonna be bruised What about the conquering king I know you're the suffering servant so John's belief Jesus says go tell John the signs You have seen that will confirm his understanding of Old Testament scripture. He will know when you communicate the signs Because he's a believer So you do not seek me Because you saw the signs but because you ate of the loaves and were filled your eyes are on the Lord Physical provision earthly circumstance. I was hungry.

I got filled. Where is this guy? I want some more bread Do not labor for the food which perishes don't set your sights on earthly goals human accomplishment Gratification fulfillment I feel good about this. I feel better now Do not labor for the food which perishes but for the food which endures with a view toward ace Into unto and the figurative with a view toward People wonder about the passage in Acts, you know Repent be baptized for the remission of sins.

It's with a view toward you're looking at it. It's Immaterial it's not the water. It's not the washing of the flesh read Peter It's not the Sanctification of the flesh.

It's the answer of a good conscience toward God. That's what genuine baptism is Do not labor for food which perishes labor for food which endures with a view toward everlasting life Which the Son of Man will give you because God the Father has set his seal on him The invisible God the Father you've never seen has set his seal on him the signs Confirm your belief So they said well, what shall we do that we may work the works of God well Shall we build another temple? Shall we pave a road? Shall we find some poor people and feed them? Shall we? Take a contribution and take it hither and yon. What can we do to work the works of God? If the law of Moses if the works are not what count what works do you suggest? Jesus said this is the work of God that you believe Believe and All these things will follow it is your faith that comes first the work of God starts with belief commitment to the truth So they said what sign will you perform then? The old refrain what sign will you perform that we may see it and believe you notice they've got the

order backwards What sign will you perform? We'll see it and we'll believe Jesus knows that they won't you don't believe on the basis of signs Our fathers ate manna in the desert.

He gave them bread from heaven to eat. So now they're quoting scripture if Moses gave us bread and you're giving us a new law then you give us bread Jesus said most assuredly I say to you Moses did not give you the bread from heaven. It came from my father He's the one that gives you true bread from heaven Give us a sign from heaven You're looking at him.

The bread of God is he who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world Jesus is standing there. They say show us a sign from heaven Jesus is from heaven. You're looking at it and yet they don't believe So they said look this bread that you fed us with we want we want this bread all the time Jesus said I am the bread of life.

How many different ways does he have to say this? I am the bread of life He who comes to me shall never hunger and he who believes in me shall never thirst belief then provision belief then Satisfaction, but I said to you you have seen me and yet do not believe you've seen the sign from heaven and you still don't believe You don't believe so the sign doesn't penetrate the sign doesn't activate the sign doesn't motivate Widely misunderstood verse here all the father gives me will come to me and the one who comes to me I will by no means cast out this only makes sense if you understand that God has given Believers to the Lord Jesus beginning with this generation the Old Testament Saints aren't given to Jesus There's a specific group that is given by the father to Jesus and they will come why Because they already have a relationship with the father They already believe they are the Simeon's and the Anna's and the Zechariah's and the Elizabeth's and the Joseph's and the Mary's Who were already believing and watching they are the Peter Andrew James John John the Baptist crowd Already believing already looking all the father has given to me. They will come to me who is given to him those who express belief All the father gives me will come to me remember we just saw in a previous chapter of Matthew It is given to you to understand the mysteries, but to these others It's all in parables so that seeing they see and don't perceive does Jesus really want to consciously blind people who would otherwise come to him Well, I know you would come to me if I did sufficient miracles, but I'm not gonna do them if I spoke plainly you would believe and understand and follow me, but I'm gonna encode it in a parable and Keep you at a distance and prevent you from believing prevent you from coming. This is the Calvinist view This is the reformed view and it is just so insensitive to the teaching of the Lord Jesus over and over and over again The one who has my words Believes them keeps them treasures them.

He's the one that loves me. I and my father will come to him It doesn't say I and my father will come to him and then he will believe and treasure my word belief then presence belief then confirmation belief then fellowship it's predicated on what we

choose and we are responsible for that choice both at salvation and Afterward, what do we prioritize? What do we value? What is our goal goals values priorities? Are they spiritual or are they earthly? Are we scrambling around trying to figure out where the bread is? We didn't bring any in the boat or are we looking at the bread that has come down from heaven? Secure in the knowledge that if he can feed 5,000 and he can feed 4,000 he can feed 12, right? Looking for bread missing you've got you've got heavenly bread in the boat Looking for pita bread You've got the living bread in the boat. I am the bread of life Verse 38.

I have come down from heaven. How many times has Jesus mentioned the Father in heaven? You want a heavenly sign? I've come down from heaven not to do my own will but the will of him who sent me notice Not our own will It's going to say this in the garden not my will but thine be done. Do we want our will done by God or Do we want to do God's will? 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 This is the confidence we have as believers As Believers we have been given to Christ by God.

He is going to raise us up at the last day The will of him who sent me is that everyone who sees the Son and believes in him notice we see we believe We have everlasting life and we are raised. How many different ways did Jesus have to say this? You believe The Gracious providence of God comes to those who believe it is predicated on belief. It is conditioned on belief Look at verse 41 the Jews complained about him because he said I'm the bread which came down from heaven They said look, this is Jesus the son of Joseph father and mother.

We know how is it? He says I've come down from heaven Said you see in rationalization eyes on people eyes on self. I know him You know, there's this whole thing in in mythology and Mysticism where if you know someone's name you have power over them and and If you know something about someone people use this all the time. Well, I knew you back when you were a rascal I know things about you, you know, I've and there's this idea that that knowledge of someone is a way to get leverage or power or control and so this is what these people do instead of responding instead of having belief and Understanding what Jesus is saying they react and they want to find a way to diminish him to discount him to undermine him Wait a minute.

You can't be from heaven. I you know, my daddy knew you when you were a boy How can you say I've come down from heaven? Jesus said do not murmur among yourselves No one can come to me unless the father who sent me draws him The father draws him why would the father draw some and not others? Who's the father going to draw it's the old analogy when the Sun is in the sky Are you butter or are you? Clay the Sun causes butter to melt causes clay to harden No one can come unless the father draws him So on what basis does the default does the father decide whom to draw Who is asking and seeking and knocking who has Taken to heart the Old Testament scriptures and the

promises who is Anna and Simeon Watching for the salvation and the deliverance of God blessed with the Holy Spirit Simeon has God's Holy Spirit in The Old Testament day the spirits not yet given Christ is not yet glorified Simeon's got the Spirit why? He loves God with every fiber of his being and God gives him that special Blessing that special promise. You're not going to depart until you have seen the salvation of Israel so There is a basis God has reasons for what he does and he reveals them to us Those who are drawn by the father.

I will raise up at the last day. It's written in the Prophets notice You should know your Old Testament scripture and be believing it. It's written in the Prophets They shall all be taught by God all are taught But not all respond not all believe they shall all be taught by God Therefore everyone who has heard and learned from the father comes to me who are those that the father draws Those who have heard and learned the teaching of the scriptures the Old Testament scriptures It's written in the Old Testament.

It's written in the Prophets They'll all be taught those who hear and learn are drawn and they come to me No one can come to me unless the father draws him. Why does the father draw them? Why does the father confirm for them who I am what I'm doing? Because they heard and they learned they believed Not that anyone has seen the father except he who is from God I say to you he who believes has everlasting life verse 47 I am the bread of life your father's eight manna in the wilderness. They're all dead Why are you laboring for earthly bread? This is the bread which comes down from heaven that one may eat of it and not die I am the living bread which came down from heaven you think about the manifold mistake Jesus is Trying to point out and emphasize the wrongness of here all down through church history about the Communion table Jesus says I'm the bread What does the Catholic Church say? Well the wafer turns into Jesus it becomes the material bread.

It's consubstantiation transubstantiation it actively becomes the flesh of Jesus and It's the same mistake people make in this chapter. We don't have time to read the rest of it We've seen it before Confusing the material with the spiritual getting caught up in the material instead of the spiritual It is not eating a cracker and drinking Kool-Aid that constitutes the Lord's table Paul makes this clear in Corinthians and People quote Corinthians as they eat the cracker and drink the Kool-Aid and miss the point The body of Christ that the Corinthians were disrespecting were their fellow believers And Paul points it out in that very chapter your elbow each other out of the way You're feeding your appetite and ignoring your fellow believer. You're desecrating the body of Christ You should have The spirit of Christ that Paul describes in Philippians chapter 2 you don't look out for your own interests alone You look out for the interests of others let this mind be in you which was in Christ Jesus The Lord Jesus is the bread if you want to celebrate the Lord's table don't focus on Physical bread they make that mistake here.

They make the mistake in the boat. They made the mistake at the 5,000 and the 4,000

Do you not yet understand? It's not the building. It's the presence.

It's not the bread. It's the Lord That's what counts I Am the living bread if anyone eats of this bread he will live forever and the bread that I shall give is my flesh Which I shall give for the life of the world Even the Lord Jesus flesh crucified on the cross isn't what saved us He bore our sins in his own body on the tree He's giving his flesh for the life of the world, but what does the flesh mean? What does the bread mean? What does the leaven mean? and He emphasizes this and points out the blindness to these spiritual truths in verse 53 of John 6 I surely I say to you unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood you have no life in you Oh, I get it. It's not his actual flesh and his actual blood It's the cup and the cracker that we do at Communion same mistake Identically same mistake you don't need a cracker, and you don't need a cup you need recognition of the spiritual truth Same thing with baptism.

It's not the water. It's not the dunking Peter says this plainly. It's not the washing of the flesh.

It's the answer of a conscience toward God. It is your belief It's your recognition of spiritual truth. Don't let the leaven of the Pharisees inherit Blind you don't get caught up in material things asking for a sign looking for material Changes in the world changes in circumstance make the sun go dark make the top come off a mountain Do something to help me believe? The sign is already here the bread is with us where two or three are gathered in my name there am I in the midst do You see the fleshly body of the Lord Jesus in our midst.

We're gathered in his name It is a spiritual truth Spiritual truth, and it would be better to Abandon the physical symbols if they get in the way of understanding the spiritual truth That's why Jesus leaves the Pharisees and Sadducees. They don't get the spiritual truth, so he doesn't stick around The Jews did not understand the temple and so God destroyed it He let Nebuchadnezzar destroy it in 587 586 and they destroy it again the Romans destroyed in 70 AD because the People of God didn't get the message that it's not the physical that counts. It's the spiritual It's not the building.

It's the presence It's not Physical bread. It's the Lord Jesus himself so Don't be the Jews in verse 52 the Jews quarreled among themselves saying how can this man give us his flesh to eat? Unless you eat my flesh and drink my blood you have no life goes on He who eats my flesh and drinks my blood abides in me and I in him this is just grotesque it sounds cannibalistic and Jesus does it on purpose to blast us out of our physical point of view and into the spiritual Many disciples turned away This is a hard saying verse 60 who can understand it when Jesus knew in himself that his disciples complained about this He said does this offend you what if you should see the Son of Man ascend where he was before Do you really need a heavenly sign? To get this straight. It is the Spirit who gives life the flesh profits Nothing the words I speak to you are spirit and our life, but there are

some of you who do not believe now this is There are a plural some of you who do not believe for Jesus knew from the beginning who they were who did not believe and him the betrayer this is this is a Noun a verb uses a noun knew who the betrayer was of him That's why I've said to you.

No one can come to me unless it has been granted to him by my father No one can come and say you who are complaining You know why this doesn't make sense to you You know why the words don't make sense the parables don't make sense the figure doesn't make sense You're not a faither you're not sensitive it's not given to you to understand because you're not one who is Learned and taught by God you don't listen in the past and now you can't understand it in the present From that time many of his disciples went back and walked with him no more Jesus said to the twelve Do you also want to go away now? We're coming up on the great confession, which we'll see you next Sunday What about this? Simon Peter answered him Lord to whom shall we go you have the words of eternal life Also, we have come to believe and know that you are the Christ the Son of God We know you're the Christ the Son of God Jesus answered them Did I not choose you this I'll close with this because it's another Clue that reformed theology has got a horrible significant flaw in it Jesus answered them and you never see them come to this verse did I not choose you the twelve and one of you is a devil the word choose there is The same word we get elect from ek lek toss a collect us did I not elect you 12 and One of you is a devil. I've elected the devil. The devil is elect Judas is elect Because Jesus says I've elected all of you and one of you is Diabolos Anyway, he's he spoke of Judas Simon Iscariot It doesn't say son of and your New King James is correct He spoke of Judas Simon Iscariot.

It was he who would betray him being one of the twelve. I Elected all twelve of you one of you is a betrayer but Think about the bread. Here's where we close for the morning.

What is our Course of action in this light Just Think about the disciples in the boat digging through clothing looking for bread with Jesus sitting in the boat They have already heard these words they heard the John 6 discourse before this and They're still looking for bread when Jesus mentions 11 Another great spiritual truth. They don't connect it Because their eyes are on the earthly the Physical the temporal the short-term the shallow the superficial Jesus they've just seen in the last few days Jesus feed 9,000 people and their families and They're looking in the boat wondering what they're gonna have for lunch It's just tragic we cannot make this mistake we've got to Turn our eyes to Jesus the author and finisher of our faith Who for the joy that was set before him up above? earthly things Endured the cross despising the shame He was not deflected by circumstance. He was not talked into turning rocks into bread by the devil He wasn't tricked into using divine power To try to convince people of what they would not believe because they had already decided not to believe He isn't waylaid He has his eyes on his mission.

He has his eyes on his father. He has his eyes on eternity and That's where our eyes should be when we look to him. That's where we're going to be looking and we Imbided the true bread from heaven which gives life to us gives life to the world He's going to raise us up out of our circumstances now He's going to raise us up from the grave in the future or from the ground if we're in that privileged generation that gets to see the rapture but It is the presence of the Lord Jesus in our boat.

It has to be the focus don't start fumbling around for bread and We're going to see the fullness of the great confession. This is not the only great confession. There's like four of them in Scripture The disciples have known who Jesus is for a long time.

So why does he emphasize it at this point? There is a reason They've acknowledged Jesus Several times in the past but here in Matthew 16 this particular acknowledgement has Special features and that's why it is unique and that's why Jesus says what he says about it We'll see that next Sunday. We'll close here in a word of prayer Father, thank you for the truth of your word. Thank you for the wonderful Power that it has to do for us what we can never do for ourselves to transform us by the renewing of our minds To equip us for every good work to sanctify us so that we can know what is your good and acceptable and perfect? Well, we pray that as we reflect on these truths that your Holy Spirit will impress them on our hearts Help us to see how pertinent and applicable they are in the situations we face the circumstances we find ourselves in the challenges that Face us and that in all things the Lord Jesus will be glorified both now and in the ages to come We pray it in Jesus name.

Amen