

Bread of Life

by Rich Follmer

1. The day before, the Jews wanted to make Jesus king because he had fed 5,000 with five loaves of bread and two fish. They thought it would be great to have a king who could feed them every day – like Moses did.
2. In their dispute, the Jews compared Moses with Jesus. They said Moses was greater because he brought bread down from heaven, where Jesus fed 5,000 from bread that already existed.
3. Jesus introduces the concept of “eat my flesh and drink my blood,” meaning “accept my sacrifice as your hope of salvation.” This metaphor is continued at the Last Supper.
4. The Jews misunderstood and were offended because they were forbidden to drink blood. (Leviticus 7:26-27)
5. Jesus took his disciples to Tyre and Sidon. This was outside Jewish territory, 50 miles north of Capernaum – about the distance between Normal and Dwight, IL.
6. Tyre & Sidon were two Gentile port cities along the Mediterranean Sea. It was the same area where Elijah had been sent to the woman of Zarephath in I Kings 17:9
7. The woman of Canaan was a syro-phoenician. The Phoenicians are credited with developing the phonics-based alphabet.
8. Jesus told the woman that it was not right to take the children’s bread, and give it to dogs. He used a word that meant “wild dogs.” The woman was quick to turn his words around to her advantage. “Yes, but even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from the children’s table. She used a word that meant “puppy dogs or pet dogs.”
9. The Lord obviously knew the character, determination, and faith of this woman. His test of her was probably for the benefit of his disciples. This was yet another way to prepare them for when the gospel would be preached to the Gentiles.