

THE GREAT WENCHOSTER BIBLE

John 6: 56-69

56. Jesus saith unto them that were still listening and munching on their sandwiches and stuffed baguettes, He that eateth my flesh, and drinketh my blood, dwelleth in me, and I in him. And some did look askance at their snacks and flasks of cheap wine they had bought in the market.
57. And He continueth, As the living Father hath sent me, and I live by the Father: so he that eateth me, even he shall live by me. And one did raise their hand to question and asked, Does this by implication mean that if thou livest in me that the Father also liveth in me and therefore I in the Father? A two-fold deity? Hmm. That's easy to grasp.
58. But Jesus answereth him not and returned to His favourite Johannine theme of the moment, and pointing to himself said, This is that bread which came down from heaven: not as your fathers did eat manna, and are unsurprisingly dead: he that eateth of this bread shall live for ever. Get it?
59. These things said He in the synagogue, as He taught in Capernaum. And there was diverse mutterings amongst the rabbis and the servers and those that made the tea which by this point was getting cold.
60. Many therefore of His disciples, when they had heard this, said, I do not comprehend this teaching. Speaketh He in parables or metaphorically or literally? Would someone explain these Christological implications. This is an hard saying; who can hear it, especially those who are deaf and at the back of the room? And what about those who have slipped out to see a man about a goat? And some did look around to see if there was any bread on the tables, but they were bare. And they took this as another sign.
61. When Jesus knew in Himself that His disciples murmured at it, and that they were slow to comprehend and seeth not the glory of the Father thus revealed, He said unto them, Doth this offend you? You ain't heard nothing yet. You will regret. 'Cause you ain't heard nothing yet.
62. What and if ye shall see the Son of man ascend up where He was before? And James did look at the stairs to the upper balcony and wonder if there were any sandwiches up there.
63. And changing the imagery just to confuse them further Jesus saith, It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing – and try saying all that quickly. The words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life, even unto the many translations that shall come in future years. Well, apart from one or two.
64. But there are some of you that believe not. Oh yes! For Jesus knew from the beginning who they were that believed not, and who should betray Him, for they did question His teachings and talk amongst themselves in small groups late into the night, even drawing coloured beans from a sack, and using phrases like chiasitic structure, inculturation, and heuristic.
65. And He said, Therefore said I unto you, that no man can come unto me, except it were given unto him of my Father. And in this way did He cause the guilt of their disbelief to fall upon them and not upon His words. And which would give rise to exceeding schism many centuries hence.
66. And from that time many of His disciples went back, and walked no more with Him, and they returned unto their homes and villages and did take up relations with their wives again who had been abandoned whilst they trod the roads.
67. Then said Jesus unto the twelve, You see how many leave. Will ye also go away unto the fleshpots and the lure of mammon?

68. Then Simon Peter answered him, Lord, to whom shall we go? Thou hast the words of eternal life as well as the discount card for the shop of Eliazar the baker and his wife's enormous fresh baps. And besides, the fleshpots closed half an hour ago.
69. And we believe and even though thou warnest that many will come claiming they are the promised one, we are sure that thou art that Christ, the Son of the living God. See! We were listening most of the time! Now, where's the bread that may accompany our supper of lamb stew?