



Aug. 12, 2018 Jn. 6: 41-51 & 1 Kgs. 19:4-8

Connie May © 7/7/18

www.theark1.com

Drawing with permission from Fr. Beck

Link to [Beck](#) (paywall) other [Beck](#)

Stone, Naomi. [thou preparest a table before us](#)

Rolheiser, Fr. Ron. [Eucharist as new manna](#)

[Monastery Sunday Homilies](#)

[YouTube link](#)

ENTERING THE SCENE:

John Pilch reminds us: "American cultural heroes invariably include the person of humble origins who rises to achieve great status. Abraham Lincoln is but one familiar example. That such achievement is possible is a corollary of the American cultural belief in the equality of all persons. When real experience belies this belief, Americans fall back on the idea of equal opportunity. At least, everyone can rise to a greater position than the one that came with birth. Such a notion is entirely lacking in the ancient Mediterranean world. Basic honor derives from birth into very specific circumstances. Honor requires that a person remain in this status, maintain and preserve it, and never consider "getting ahead?" Any attempt to improve upon or behave not in keeping with one's birth status is shameful because it is a divisive force in community." Is it no wonder that the people stumbled over this?

John 6:41-51

41 At this the Jews began to **grumble** about him because he said, "I am the **bread** that came down from **heaven**." 42 They said, "**Is this not Jesus, the son of Joseph, whose father and mother we know?** How can he now say, 'I came down from **heaven**'?" 43 Stop **grumbling** among yourselves," Jesus answered. 44 No one can **come to me** unless the **Father** who sent me **draws him**, and I will **raise him up** at the last day. 45 It is written in the **Prophets**: 'They will **all be taught by God**.' Everyone who listens to the **Father** and learns from him **comes to me**. 46 No one has seen the **Father** except the one who **is from God**; only he has seen the **Father**. 47 I tell you the **truth**, he who believes has **everlasting life**. 48 I am the **bread of life**. 49 Your **forefathers** ate the **manna** in the desert, yet they **died**. 50 But here is the bread that comes down from **heaven**, which a man may eat and not **die**. 51 I am the **living bread** that came down from **heaven**. If anyone eats of this **bread**, he will **live forever**. This **bread** is my **flesh**, which I will give for the **life of the world**."

DISCUSSION QUESTION: The people grumbled because they were affronted by Jesus. When was the last time I did that?

PRAYER: Teacher Jesus, I often grumble when someone challenges me or confronts me with a truth I am not ready or able to hear. Otherwise I just discount it as nonsense and walk away. When you offer me nourishment for the journey ahead I need help to get up and get moving. More often than not I just fall asleep on the couch with a full stomach. If I really want that elusive thing called "eternal life" I must be willing to risk and move into the unknown. Help! Amen.