

Sunday Morning Message

July 3, 2022

The Bread of Life Discourse – Will You Also Go Away

The Gospel According to John

Text – John 6:22 - 71

Congregational Reading – John 6:66 - 69

Introduction

Review the Feeding of the Five Thousand and Jesus walking on the water from last message (John 6:1 – 21).

In the remainder of the chapter, we will see something very strange take place. After Jesus fed the five thousand His fame grew even more. This multitude who was fed went looking for Him because they liked what He could do for them, and they wanted more food. The strange thing is that by the end of the chapter, this great multitude had all walked away from Jesus, until Jesus was down to just the twelve, and even they were struggling a little, and maybe at least thinking about leaving Jesus.

Illustration

This sort of reminds me of Big Days at churches. We have had them here. Every Easter and Christmas we have big days where people come out in droves to the church. One time, we had a big day when we were promoting a special new series of messages – the *Are You Happy* series. That first Sunday of the series there were well over two hundred people at the eleven o'clock service, which at the time was a record for us. The following Sunday, however, there was barely over a hundred. I heard of a church plant in California who invited Anita Bryant to come and sing for their first Sunday. They had several hundred people there for that first service, but on the following Sunday, there was thirty or forty. People are fickle. They may be curious, but eventually the crowds of curious will cull to where there are just the few who will be committed.

I. Looking for Jesus or Looking for More Food (vs. 22 – 27)

These folks were searching for and following Jesus because they liked what Jesus could do for them. He had given them what they physically needed - bread, but as we will see, they were not very interested in having their spiritual needs met. John 6:26 specifically tells us that these people were looking for more food.

People will temporarily follow Jesus today because they want Him to do something for them. They want Him to get them a job, or fix their marriage, or straighten out their wayward child, or cure some physical ailment. However, there is so much more to what Jesus wants for their lives than what they are wanting Him to do. And when they discover that Jesus has some expectations from them also, they run away.

John 6:27 gives us a great spiritual truth: don't be so concerned about the temporary aspects of life. Food, clothing, houses, and cars are all necessary things, and we need them to live while we are here on this earth. However, there is much more to life than the "meat which perisheth." Christian, let me challenge you to work for and see the great value in the things which are eternal. Instead of putting all of you eggs into the basket of this life, can I challenge you to invest into eternity. Develop the spiritual more than the physical. Desire the things of God more than the things of this world.

"While we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal." (2 Corinthians 4:18)

"Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever." (1 John 2:15-17)

II. Bread of Life Discourse (vs. 28 – 58)

This passage clearly teaches that salvation is through faith alone (vs. 29, 40, 47).

This passage also clearly teaches eternal security (vs. 35, 37, 58).

This passage also clearly teaches a future resurrection (v. 44).

The part of this discourse that many of these people struggled with was when Jesus said that they must eat his body and drink His blood (vs. 48 – 58). Jesus was not saying that these folks literally needed to become cannibals and eat Him. He was saying that they needed to receive Him as their Saviour.

"But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name:" (John 1:12)

There is an illusion here to the Lord's Supper. The elements of the Lord's Supper are bread and juice, which symbolize the broken body and shed blood of the Lord. His body was broken, and His blood was shed for our sins on the Cross of Calvary. We must identify with that payment for sin personally, and we must receive His offer of eternal life. He takes our sin upon Himself, and we must take His payment for sin symbolically upon ourselves. When you eat something, it becomes part of you. What Jesus was saying to this multitude was that they needed to receive all that Jesus had for them, not just the physical food that they were after. Following Jesus was total commitment. He needed to be received wholly and entirely.

III. Will You Also Go Away (vs. 59 – 71)

Many within the crowd wanted no part of what Jesus had to say. This was more than they bargained for. They were OK with the fish sandwiches that Jesus was giving away on the Big Day, but this total commitment that He was speaking of now was further than they were willing to go, so they left.

After the crowd had dispersed, Jesus asks the twelve – “Will you also go away?” This was one of the few times that Peter got it right (vs. 68 – 69). Where are we going to go? Jesus is the only way into Heaven.

"Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me." (John 14:6)

Notice in the last two verses (vs. 70 – 71) that Jesus lets the disciples know that He knows that not everyone who claims to be a believer is truly a believer. One of the twelve was not real. We would be foolish to believe that everybody here in our church was a genuine follower of Christ.

Conclusion

There are many truths that God will show us that are beyond our ability to fully understand. We must not dismiss these truths because of our unlimited understanding. In the story, there were many people who were there who may have been curious about Jesus, and then many others who there to get what they could get from Him. They were not believers, at least not yet, and many of them would never become true followers of Christ because what they heard from Jesus in that Bread of Life Discourse was too much for them to process.

"For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts." (Isaiah 55:9)

There are many people who come into our churches that are searching for something perhaps. They may be curious about God, but when the teaching get's too deep, they go away, and they never get saved.

However, there are also many true believers who sometimes get discouraged and are tempted to quit trusting and serving the Lord because their expectations about God are not being met. God is not doing for them what they wanted, and as a result, they quit serving the Lord, quit coming to church. Or they leave one church to find another that they think will see and do things the way they want. Really, they are trying to get God to conform to their expectations. What they should be doing is conforming or transforming to what God wants for them.

"And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God."
(Romans 12:2)