

Bibles???

The Word of God is the Absolute Truth and the Final Authority

Turn your bibles with me to the Gospel of John 6

Last Sunday we had our Christmas service on 1 Timothy 3:16

This morning we go back to our verse by verse study through the Gospel of John.

Now, I don't know if anyone has noticed – but John 6 is the longest chapter in the Gospel of John.

It is 71 verses long.

Three weeks ago, we did a study on Jesus feeding the 5000 with five dinner rolls and two small fish.

Two weeks ago we covered when Jesus sent out His disciples to return to Capernaum – and they were caught in the storm – but instead of calling out to Jesus, they rowed the entire – and then Jesus walks up to them – and after receiving Him willingly, the boat was immediately transported to where they were going.

This is our third study through John 6.

And church – I want to make sure that we understand that those two previous incidents were not isolated incidents.

Those two incidents and really the bulk of the remaining portion of John 6 – is really surrounded around one statement that we will see that Jesus makes in our text today.

(vs 35)

Jesus will announce to His audience

“I am the bread of life. He who comes to Me shall never hunger, and he who believes in Me shall never thirst.

It is the first of the seven I AM statements that Jesus made that are recorded by John.

And the significance of these statements is that Jesus is declaring Himself to be Eternal God.

The self-contained, self-existing God

He is the I AM – the One who said to Moses, when you go back down to the Children of Israel, you tell them I AM sent you.

Meaning, He never had a beginning, He will never had an end, He is the One who sustains all that there is.

So in our text his morning, we are going to see that Jesus Christ is the only One who always satisfies.

Let's pray...

I want to start off with a question for us to think about –

Are we satisfied?

If we are a Christian who is unsatisfied, there is a good chance that we are a Christian who is envious.

If we are a Christian who is unsatisfied, there is a good chance that we are a Christian who is prone to jealousy

These are things we struggle with

But if we look to Jesus Christ and we are satisfied by what He gives and we stay focus on what He gives, then and only then will we be content.

Paul tells us in

[1Ti 6:6 NKJV] 6 Now godliness with contentment is great gain.

And the reason I bring this up is because this is the issue that Jesus is going to address here in our text.

[Jhn 6:22-40 NKJV] 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 that one which His disciples had entered, and that Jesus had not entered the boat with His disciples, but His disciples had gone away alone—23 however, other boats came from Tiberias, near the place where they ate bread after the Lord had

given thanks-- 24 when the people therefore saw that Jesus was not there, nor His disciples, they also got into boats and came to Capernaum, **seeking Jesus.**

25 And when they found Him on the other side of the sea, they said to Him, "Rabbi, when did You come here?"

The following day refers to the day after Jesus fed the multitude –

Remember, it was that evening when Jesus sent the disciples back to Capernaum.

The multitude saw Jesus send off the disciples.

However, they also were very aware that Jesus didn't get into the boat with them.

So that night – the multitude had a good night sleep – because they had full stomachs.

They get up the next morning looking for Jesus – and He is nowhere to be found.

So some from the multitude get in their boats and set sail to Capernaum and they find Him in the synagogue (we know this from later on in the chapter in verse 59)

So this is where this conversation takes place.

– and one of the things I had you make note that the reason was that they were seeking Jesus.

Now, normally we might consider that to be a good thing.

Seeking Jesus

We want our unsaved family members, neighbors, coworkers and even complete strangers to seek Jesus – to have fellowship with Him – to get to know Him.

We want them to ask us – “Hey, I have seen a something change in your life – I want the same thing. Tell me more about this Jesus”

That is why we have to be ready to respond.

So one of the questions we have to ask is why was the multitude seeking Jesus?

What were their intentions?

Were they seeking Jesus because they wanted to worship Him? Like the wise men we saw in our study Friday night.

Were they seeking Jesus because they wanted to draw closer to God? Like a Nicodemus

Were they seeking after Jesus so that they might be saved from their sins?

The word that is used here for seeking – is word that means that they were simply interested in Him.

They are not interested in following Him for commitment – they were interested in following Him for food.

“Jesus, give us the food like you did yesterday. It was tasty – our bellies were full. We want that again!!!”

They were following Jesus because they wanted their lives be really easy.

They were following Jesus because He was good to have around when they were hungry.

He was a convenient Jesus to them.

And then when they find Jesus – they want to know how He got there.

“Jesus, we didn’t see you get in the boat with the disciples? None of the other boats are missing from the other side - How did you get here so fast?”

Now, I want you to notice that Jesus doesn’t answer their question –

Even though the next verse starts off by us that Jesus answered them -

We know from our study two weeks ago how He got there. Right?

He walked on water

However, Jesus isn’t even going to tell them that.

They wouldn’t have believed Him anyways.

He blows off their question – just like He did to Nicodemus (“How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother’s womb and be born?”)

Jesus never answered him

The Samaritan woman asked – (Where then do You get that living water?) Jesus didn't answer her.

Jesus was not much for small talk.

He goes straight to the heart

He is going to deal with a more important matter and that is of their intentions in seeking Him.

26 Jesus answered them and said, "Most assuredly, I say to you, you seek Me, not because you saw the signs, but because you ate of the loaves and were filled."

Jesus is speaking a sincere truth here to the multitude.

Many in the crowd had seen Jesus perform sign after sign that clearly revealed to them that Jesus was indeed the Messiah.

However, they had no interest in Him being the Messiah.

They just wanted their fish and loaves.

I had you make a note of the word that Jesus used for "filled"

Keep in mind, that when John provided the account of the feeding of the multitude – he described that the people ate until they were filled (vs 12)

In verse 13, John tells us that the disciples filled 12 baskets with leftovers.

However, Jesus uses a different word than the ones that John used to describe the event.

The word that Jesus uses is a term used to describe grazing animals out in the pasture.

You see, the multitude was not satisfied spiritually with the “signs” that Jesus performed, but their “animal instincts” had been satisfied with the bread and the fish that He had provided.

27 "Do not labor for the food which perishes, but for the food which endures to everlasting life, which the Son of Man will give you, because God the Father has set His seal on Him."

Jesus knew the motivation behind His popularity.

The multitudes were seeking Him, not because they supported Him in His mission of redemption but because of He was a handy guy to have around.

He said really cool stuff, healed them of disease, and fed them.

They were still zeroed in on the idea that He was an earthly king who would take care of His subjects, like all good kings are supposed to.

But they were thinking in purely materialistic terms

All that they wanted out of Jesus was provision for the here & now; the spiritual and eternal was totally absent from their hearts & minds.

Church, Jesus came to bring in a spiritual kingdom that is higher & greater than any earthly kingdom.

So when Jesus says here that we should not labor for the food that perishes – He isn't saying that we should quit our jobs.

He's just saying that we ought to be working for the right things.

[Isa 55:1-2 NKJV] 1 "Ho! Everyone who thirsts, Come to the waters; And you who have no money, Come, buy and eat. Yes, come, buy wine and milk Without money and without price. 2 Why do you spend money for [what is] not bread, And your wages for [what] does not satisfy? Listen carefully to Me, and eat [what is] good, And let your soul delight itself in abundance.

In His invitation, God asked His people to ask themselves –

“Why do I spend money for what can't satisfy?”

Think of all the things we pour our money, our time and our efforts into – knowing that these things will never satisfy the way the LORD can satisfy.

28 Then they said to Him, "What shall we do, that we may work the works of God?" 29 Jesus answered and said to them, "This is the work of God, that you believe in Him whom He sent."

They're listening.

Jesus has their attention.

They sound interested in learning to do the right thing?

What are the "works of God"?

They are thinking that they have to do something for God.

They are thinking that there is some specific commandment to keep that would secure God's approval.

That's what the crowd asks - what's the one thing we need to do?

Jesus said – "Believe in Me!"

[Eph 2:8-10 NKJV] 8 For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; [it is] the gift of God, 9 not of works, lest anyone should boast.

10 For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.

There is one work that God wants us to do: Believe in Jesus.

We are saved by believing. Our salvation leads us to do good works.

The truth is that we are not good enough to enter heaven based on our own.

In fact our sin is what keeps us from heaven.

We need a Savior, someone who will take care of our sins.

Jesus came to save us from our sins by dying on a cross and taking the penalty of our sins for us.

All we can do is to acknowledge our need for a Savior and trust in Him to forgive us of our sins.

We are called to believe in Him and He will take care of the rest.

This is one way that Jesus satisfies us – by making salvation available to all.

All they have to do is believe.

30 Therefore they said to Him, "What sign will You perform then, that we may see it and believe You? What work will You do?"

Jesus said that the essence of what God requires of man is to believe in Him.

Not to just believe what He says or does, but to believe IN Him.

The multitude hears this – they are trying to take it in.

And pretty much what they say here is -

“Wow, what you just said Jesus, that’s huge! You’re gonna’ have to back it up with a sign!”

Then they suggest one -

31 "Our fathers ate the manna in the desert; as it is written, 'He gave them bread from heaven to eat.' "

Think about what the multitude is asking –

Jesus had just revealed to them that the reason that they were seeking Him was because of their bellies.

Now they suggest that just as Moses had given Israel bread every day during the Exodus, Jesus do the same.

In other words – “One mass feeding is nice and enough to move us to make you the king we saw that three weeks ago after the feeding of the multitudes.

But if you want us to trust in You for eternal life Jesus, well, that’s gonna’ cost a bit more – like, how about a daily feast - Jesus?”

Because in their minds – they are saying, Hey Moses gave our ancestors manna six days a week for forty years.

We had manna every day for forty years –

We had manna cakes, manna waffles, manna burgers, mannacotti

Jesus, can you do that for us???

32 Then Jesus said to them, "Most assuredly, I say to you, Moses did not give you the bread from heaven, but My Father gives you the true bread from heaven.

33 "For the bread of God is He who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world."

The people had said Moses had given their ancestors manna.

Is that true? NO

Jesus corrected them – nowhere does the Word say Moses had given them manna; that was something God did graciously.

Moses had to collect his daily portion like everyone else.

And even though there were times when the Israelites complained about having manna all the time, the truth is it tasted GOOD!

Wafers made with honey

And what Jesus is stating here is that the manna was a picture / a type of Him

It was a picture of God meeting the true needs of His people.

The Children of Israel needed food – God gave them manna

The world needed a Savior – God gave the world a Savior,

By the way, did the manna fall on mountaintops so that the Children of Israel had to climb in order to get it? No

Did the manna fall into deep canyons or ravines that made it difficult to retrieve? No

The manna settled upon the ground in front of every man's tent... so that each person could just scoop it up and eat it or choose to step over it and go hungry...

Church, no one is going to be able to say – “I did not have access to Jesus” – because He is readily available, He is near to every man

One can receive Him and be truly satisfied or refuse Him and starve oneself to death.

34 Then they said to Him, "Lord, give us this bread always."

The crowd likes what they hear.

Just like the woman at the well wanted “living water” so she wouldn't have to come to the well, they want this “bread” so they can quit work and still eat well.

35 And Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life. He who comes to Me shall never hunger, and he who believes in Me shall never thirst."

Once again, this is the first of the seven I AM statements –

He is not just claiming to be “Yahweh”, but He's showing us what that looks like. Here He says He is the “Bread of Life”.

Why bread? Because you and I need bread for life.

Later on He is going to announce, **I am the Resurrection** – why?

Because we need resurrection. Amen.

That is what we live for and that is why we die for.

Jesus is going to say, “ **I AM the Light of the World**: why did He say that? Because we need light. We are in darkness spiritually – we need light – He is light.

I AM the Good Shepherd – we need a good shepherd. We are dumb sheep. Without His guidance, without Him governing over us and watching us we will get into all sorts of trouble.

He says I AM the way the truth and the life – because we need to be shown the way.

We need to be shown the truth -

In being the bread of Life - He is announcing to us that He is true satisfaction.

36 "But I said to you that you have seen Me and yet do not believe.

Jesus knows the heart of the multitudes.

They had seen the signs – yet they did not believe in Him to be their Savior.

37 "All that the Father gives Me will come to Me, and the one who comes to Me I will by no means cast out. 38 "For I have come down from heaven, not to do My

own will, but the will of Him who sent Me. 39 "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. 40 "And this is the will of Him who sent Me, that everyone who sees the Son and believes in Him may have everlasting life; and I will raise him up at the last day."

From verses 35-40, Jesus is giving the multitude the reasons why they need to believe Him.

He knows that some in the multitudes are hardening their hearts to Him.

Why they need to stop thinking about the physical and start thinking about the spiritual.

In verse 35 He tells them that He can satisfy their spiritual hunger

He then tells them in verse 37 that they need to come to Him because He will receive anyone who comes to Him.

Jesus will not refuse anyone who comes to Him

He also says that they should come to Him because He is doing all this according to the Father's will.

He tells them to come to Him because He will save them and He came to impart eternal life to all who believe.

Again, Jesus wants them to focus on the spiritual and stop thinking about their bellies.

This same announcement – Jesus is making to the world today.

Is it hard not to think about physical food when you haven't eaten all day and the pantry is bare? Yes – all you are going to tend to do is think about how to fill your belly.

Is it hard not to think about money when your bank statement says that you don't have enough funds to pay for the rent next month? Yes – you are going to think about how you need money

When were sick – we are going to think about how to feel better.

But what Jesus is saying here is that even in the midst of such material difficulties, we still need to lift our vision above the material and put it upon the spiritual.

The world today just like the multitude back then, need to put their trust on Jesus instead of material bread and material things.

And when we lift our eyes and out our trust in Jesus, He will satisfy us and we will be content.

Amen

Let's pray...

To Receive Christ do the following:

Admit, "I am a sinner."

Confess and be willing to turn from your sin.

Believe, by faith that Jesus Christ died for you on the cross.

Receive, through prayer, Jesus Christ into your heart and receive eternal life.

Dear Lord Jesus,

I know that I am a sinner and need Your forgiveness. I believe that You died on the cross for my sins. Please forgive me for my sins and cleanse me by Your blood. I accept You by faith as my personal Lord and Savior. Give me a thirst for Your Word and Help me to follow You all of my days. In Jesus' name I pray, Amen.

[Num 6:24-26 NLT] 24 '

May the LORD bless you and protect you.

May the LORD smile on you and be gracious to you.

May the LORD show you his favor and give you his peace.'