

The Bread That Will Never Perish

John 6:22-69

Trinity Baptist Church

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Review and Intro

Last week we look in Mark 6 and saw how

- 1) In our exhaustion, Christ reveals His purpose
- 2) In our Obedience, Christ provides beyond expectation
- 3) In our Struggle, Christ desires our faith, not our awe

This week we are going to continue in the same chain of events but through the eyes of a different witness. Turn please to John 6.

Here we see John's account of Jesus feeding the 5,000, the apostles

crossing the sea, and Jesus walking to them ON THE WATER! This is right where we are going to pick up this morning.

1) We must: Seek Jesus with admiration, not expectation (V.22-26)

1. Verse 15 tells us exactly why the crowd of people were looking for Jesus.
 - a. We see that they had planned to take Him by force and make Him king.
 - b. In many of our lives we like to say that Jesus is king, however He has not been given that throne out of a rejuvenated, surrendered heart longing for Christ to be in His rightful place.
 - c. He has been forced into that place as a spectacle to be shown and a trophy that we use as a wishing well. Much like the crowd here desired to do.
2. Jesus tells the crowd in Verse 26 that they did not seek after Him because of signs but because their bellies were full.
 - a. What does He mean signs?
 - b. When we think of signs we associate it with wonders to be amazed at, Jesus means for them to

be evidence that He is the true Son of God. Here Jesus is telling the crowd that they should have seen the miracle of feeding so many with so little as a proof that He truly is the Messiah and the one who brings completion and purpose. That He alone will always be enough. But instead they only saw that Jesus could fix their current problem and make life more comfortable.

i. This morning let me ask you a simple question.

1. Why are you here?

3. Look at Verse 26: Jesus speaks to the crowd rather bluntly here almost in a way that we would never want someone to speak to us. He jumps straight to the heart of the problem.

a. The crowd wanted Jesus for what He can do, not for who He is.

b. This is a major problem in church today. We often talk about how great Jesus is because He can do this or that, in reality what He desires from us is to realize who He is and then allow what He does to be a byproduct.

c. Jesus is working here to make the crowd see that He is worthy of admiration and trust because He

alone has the ability to sustain. Not only in providing for physical needs, but for giving purpose and meaning to life itself.

2) We must: Believe in Christ as the true Son of God (v.27-29)

1. Jesus continues in Verse 27 with instruction to not work for food that perishes.

a. What exactly is food that perishes?

i. Everything the world has to offer.

1. This is Glory, wealth, possessions, clout, recognition, status.

ii. The NLT translation puts it this way, “do not be so concerned with things that perish like food, but spend your energy on the things that are eternal.”

b. What Jesus is not saying is just as important as what He is saying.

c. He is Not saying:

i. Quit your Job.

1. We see multiple times in scripture where we are made and designed to work and to provide for ourselves and our families.

2. Colossians 3:23 work as unto the

- Lord
- 3. Ecclesiastes 9:20 work with all your might
- 4. 1 Timothy 5:8 provide for your family
- d. He is saying:
 - i. Don't find your identity in the Job that can be taken away at a moment's notice.
 - ii. Don't place so much trust in your ability to perform at your job that the idea of losing it affects your spiritual wellbeing.
 - iii. Don't sell out every moment of your life to things that are not eternal.
 - iv. Don't be so hard nosed about fulfilling the "ministry" that you miss the Messiah.
- 2. Verse 27 goes on to say: But "work" for the food that endures to eternal life.
 - a. What does that kind of work look like? How do you keep from striving for things that are not eternal and focus intentionally on the things that are eternal?
 - b. Where does this "food" come from?
 - i. Verse 27 tells us that it comes directly from Jesus Himself.
 - c. That is a great question that the crowd also asked Jesus!
- 3. Verse 28

- a. What must we do to be doing the works of God?
- b. Jesus answered: "this is the work of God, that you believe in Him who He has sent."
- 4. Do not miss what Jesus is saying here!
 - a. He tells us to WORK for the food that endures eternal life.
 - b. Folks, believing in Jesus takes work on our part. We must preach the truth of Jesus to ourselves daily. (this is not working for your salvation, this is working to grow in our belief, the process of sanctification)

3) We must: Eat of the bread of life (v.33,35, 52-59)

- 1. Jesus tells us that we should not strive for the food that will perish but for food that will endure to eternal life
 - a. He then blows their minds by telling the crowd that He himself is the bread of life.(v.35)
 - b. Look at how many times he says this:
 - i. V.33 the bread of God is the one who comes down from Heaven
 - ii. V.35 I am the bread of life
 - iii. V.48 I am the bread of life

- iv. V.51 I am the living bread that came down from Heaven.
 - v. V.57-58 the one who feeds on me, this is the living bread that came down from Heaven.
2. Jesus is making it abundantly clear that HE ALONE is the source of life. That we must eat and drink of Him, of His covenant, of His will and His purpose in order to have abundant and fulfilled life.
 3. Whoever comes to me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in me shall never thirst.
 4. Remember the crowd has followed Jesus across the sea in search of His ability to meet their immediate physical needs. He already stated earlier last week that He had compassion on them because they were sheep without a shepherd. Now he lays out the truth that belief in Him leads to everlasting provision. This is the same offer that Jesus is making to you this morning.
 5. In verse 53 Jesus says “unless you eat the flesh of the son of man and drink his blood you have no life in you.
 - a. Jesus is making the point that, unless He is as vital to your daily routine as eating and drinking, then you have no life in you. This is a mark of a true believer in Jesus as the savior and King of the world, and not a believer that Jesus is simply the gift giver and desire supplier of the world.
 - b. He continues by saying that those who see me just

as vitally important as eating and drinking are ones who eat of my flesh and drink of my blood they have eternal life.

6. The salvation does not come from what Jesus can do, salvation comes from who Jesus is.
 - a. Who is Jesus? Look back at verse 27
 - i. The Son of man, on whom the father has set His seal.
 - ii. This means that God the Father has stamped Jesus with the ultimate seal of approval stating that He has fully and totally fulfilled all requirements to be able to give and sustain life and has now been sealed as one with the Father, not lesser in any way that the Father Himself. This is why He alone is able to provide salvation. This is why He tells us that to do the work of God we must Believe in the one whom He sent.
 - b. He continues in verse 57,
 - i. Because Jesus was sent by the Father and lives in Him so we can live in Jesus.
7. What does all this mean? It seems confusing at first.
8. In simple terms, to know Who Jesus is and love Him because of who He is and not what He does, this is to eat of His flesh and drink of His blood.

4) We must: Cling to the bread of Life

This teaching shook the crowd that had gathered around Him hoping for a King to make life easier for them. Instead Jesus presents Himself as the Bread of life who requires complete devotion. He asks them in verse 61: “does this offend you?”

As we close out this morning I want to ask you the same question.

1. Does knowing that Jesus desire is that,
 - a. you would work and strive daily to believe in Him as the true son of Man sent from Heaven by the Father
 - b. Eat and drink of Him in order to find purpose and fulfilment rather than striving for the next big thing in life

Does this offend you and your idea of what following Jesus would be like? Are you in the same place as the crowd this morning? Where, you have decided to “follow” Jesus because someone told you He can make life easier? Or you hoped that He would be a path to financial success? Or maybe because being associated with select people in a specific church would give you status and position in life that you may otherwise not have.

1. We are told in verse 60 that many of those who were following Jesus, after hearing this teaching said that this is too hard, who can follow this?

2. Then in verse 66 we see that many of them turn and leave and do not follow Him any more.
3. Not because He denied them, but because the cost of leaving behind the pursuit of personal ambitions and comfort was too high a price to pay to gain eternal life in the minds of those who left.
4. Verse 67 states that Jesus looked at the 12 and asked if they planned to leave as well.
 - a. So what about you this morning?
 - b. Are you prepared to stop striving for your ambitions in life to the point that it controls you and has become your god? Are you ready to look to Jesus and say today, I want to eat and drink of the new covenant that you have made with me, that in you alone I will find fulfillment and purpose.
 - c. Not stopping working and growing but changing the source of drive for why I am working and pushing for growth.
 - d. The crowd left because they did not see Jesus as their treasure, they left because they saw gifts and comfort as treasure.
5. Today we must cling to Jesus as the Bread of life knowing that He alone is the treasure given from the Father and that all he has to offer us is simply the spoils of His riches and not the treasure in and of itself.