Seek Jesus to fill your Soul and not just your Stomach!

(John 6:15-35)

10-13-2024

Introduction (v.15-26)

The Lord feeds the hungry stomachs of the crowd (6:5-15)

The crowd seeks the Lord to again fill their stomachs (6:16-26)

John 6:26 - Jesus answered them and said, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Ye seek me, not because ye saw the miracles, but because ye did eat of the loaves, and were filled.

**** Jesus gives more than a full stomach!***

I. Seek Jesus: He is <u>FOOD</u> which endures forever (v.27)

II. Seek Jesus: Faith in Him is the <u>"WORK"</u> which God accepts (v.28-29)

III. Seek Jesus: He is the <u>BREAD</u> which fully satisfies the hungry soul (v.30-35)

A. Jesus is <u>FREE</u> Bread (v.32a)

B. Jesus is <u>TRUE</u> Bread (v.32b)

C. Jesus is <u>HEAVENLY</u> Bread (v.33a)

D. Jesus is <u>LIFE-GIVING</u> Bread (v.33b)

E. Jesus is <u>ETERNALLY SATISFYING</u> Bread (v.34-35)

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The Lord feeds the hungry stomachs of the crowd (6:5-15)

The storm on the Sea of Galilee:

v. 18
The sudden rising of winds over the Sea of Galilee was due to the geography of that body of water, which is surrounded like a bowl with mountains. The wind dips down over the mountain ranges, stirring up the waters of Galilee.

v. 19
25 or 30 furlongs would be roughly 3 or 4 miles. The wind had blown them way off course, since Capernaum was not really that far away from the traditional site where the feeding of the 5,000 took place.

What the disciples thought would be a brief trip turned out to be an all-night affair. Jesus did not come to the rescue until the "fourth watch of the night" (Mk. 6:48), which would be somewhere between 3 to 6 a.m. Mark records the detail of Jesus seeing them toiling in towing due to he contrary wind (Mk. 6:48).

"They were afraid" – because they thought they were seeing a ghost (Mt. 14; Mk. 6).

v. 20
No need to fear when Jesus is near!

This was the same occasion in which Peter requested that he might walk on water and go to Jesus (Mt. 14:28-31).

v. 21
"Immediately the ship was at the land" – Jesus not only calmed the storm, but He gave them quick shuttle service to the shore of their destination.

After the disciples saw Jesus defying the law of gravity and walking on water and saw His instant power to calm the raging sea, they were **'amazed. . . beyond measure"** at who Jesus was, because they still hadn't understood His deity and power after He had miraculously fed the 5,000.

Mark 6:52
For they considered not the miracle of the loaves: for their heart was hardened.

v. 22
When the crowd which had been miraculously fed saw that the disciples' boat was gone and that Jesus could not be found (although they saw that He had not entered the boat), they took off for Capernaum seeking Jesus.

v. 25
"Rabbi, when camest thou hither?" They wonder, "When and how did You get here?" They knew He hadn't traveled with the disciples by boat (Mk. 6:45).

v. 26
Jesus, who knows the hearts of all men, recognized that their only motivation for seeking Him was another meal.

Not that the miraculous production of food led them to believe on Him as deity, Messiah and Savior, but that they wanted more of the temporary goods that He could provide.

We should not seek to "use" Jesus to gratify our carnal wants or our fleshly desires.

How many people will turn to Jesus in a crisis, to bail them out of the trouble they got themselves into when all along they ignored the fact that He even existed.

Multitudes call upon "Jesus" to help them with their felt needs (needs for food, finances and a fiancé) but fail to come to Him for forgiveness of sin and salvation (and such will perish when He says, 'Depart from me, I never knew you").

Prayer time for so many is a "give me" time. "Give me this" or "give me that" rather than a time to worship Jesus for who He is and to seek the spiritual and eternal blessings He wants to supply.

So many want So many want Jesus for temporal, physical, tangible, carnal benefits and not for reconciliation with God, forgiveness of sin, and the gift of eternal life in Heaven! They are earthly-wise but eternity-foolish.

Yes, God does want to satisfy your hungry stomach, and yes we should say, "Give us this day our daily bread." But He wants to give us so much more than our carnal, temporal, physical needs. For so many, Jesus is only their "free lunch," their "food stamps," their "welfare check." He needs to be Lord of your life and the Savior of your soul!

Many then, like today, want a Jesus who will be at your service to meet your carnal needs every time you snap your finger.

Jesus is not your "Genie in a bottle" (rub the bottle and out pops your genie to grant your every wish).

You do not snap your finger at Him and summon Him as your waiter or bell boy or servant!

We are His servants. We exist to wait on Him, not vice-versa.

He does not exist for you, rather you exist for Him.

So many quote that promise of God, which says that He will “give thee the desires of thy heart” (Psalm 37:4), but they forget the first part of that promise that says, “Delight thyself also in the Lord...”

The crowd seeks the Lord to again fill their stomachs (6:16-26)
John 6:26 - Jesus answered them and said, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Ye seek me, not because ye saw the miracles, but because ye did eat of the loaves, and were filled.

**** Jesus gives more than a full stomach!***

I. Seek Jesus: He is <u>FOOD</u> which endures forever (v.27)

Don’t toil for the food which lasts but for a brief time and then rots!

Don’t live your life for “perishables” but for the imperishables.

There is a food which, if taken into your life, will result in eternal life. That “food” is Jesus Christ! (cp. Jn. 6:53-58).

The world offers all kinds of cheap substitutes and imitations but only Jesus eternally satisfies.

“The son of man” – Jesus (not Mary or any saint, priest, pope or guru) alone gives everlasting life.

“Shall give you” – Eternal life is a free gift (Rom. 6:23).

To **“seal”** something is to give it your “stamp” or approval. To mark it as authentic or to validate it as of real value.

II. Seek Jesus: Faith in Him is the "WORK" which God accepts (v.28-29)

v. 28
Since they had heard the word **"labor"** (v. 27), the crowd now asks what they might do to perform the works that God approves of and accepts.

v. 29
The word **"work"** is not used here with the technical meaning of man utilizing his strength or ability to perform a job for God. Nor is Jesus teaching that "faith" is a "work" in the technical sense (faith and works are distinctly different in the Scripture – Rom. 3-4. Although one leads to the other—faith leads to works – Eph. 2:10; Ja. 2:22).

Rather, in answering their question Jesus is saying this, "Do you want to know what you must do to be approved of God? You must believe on Me!"

III. Seek Jesus: He is the BREAD which fully satisfies the hungry soul (v.30-35)

v. 30
"An evil and adulterous generation seeketh after a sign" (Mt. 12:39).

Jesus had already given sufficient signs (such as the meal they ate the day prior). But for those who refuse to believe, not all the signs in the world can persuade them.

v. 31
"Our fathers did eat manna" – Implied in their statement is a request for some more supernaturally-produced bread. God did it then, let's see you do it again.

Their statement about manna leads right into Jesus' discussion of how He is the true manna from Heaven.

A. Jesus is <u>FREE</u> Bread (v.32a)

"My Father <u>giveth</u>" (v. 32) . . . **<u>giveth</u> life"** (v. 33).

This "Wonder" bread cannot be <u>bought</u>; it's free (Isaiah 55:1-3 - Ho, every one that thirsteth, come ye to the waters, and he that hath no money; come ye, buy, and eat; yea, come, buy wine and milk without money and without price. [2] Wherefore do ye spend money for that which is not bread? and your labour for that which satisfieth not? hearken diligently unto me, and eat ye that which is good, and let your soul delight itself in fatness. [3] Incline your ear, and come unto me: hear, and your soul shall live; and I will make an everlasting covenant with you, even the sure mercies of David.)

I can't give you this bread, but I can tell you where to go to get it! Go to Jesus; believe on Him.

B. Jesus is <u>TRUE</u> Bread (v.32b)

"True bread" – speaks of bread with no deceitful additives.

This bread is <u>no</u> fake, leaven-infested, sin-cursed grain—but the real thing!

C. Jesus is HEAVENLY Bread (v.33a)

"Cometh down from Heaven" –

Seven times in this sermon, Jesus referred to His "coming down from heaven" (Jn. 6:33, 38, 41-42, 50-51, 58).

v. 32
The source of manna was not Moses but God; and God is where Jesus the true Manna came from.

There are many similarities between manna and Jesus Christ:

1) Both are supernatural (a miraculous supply)

2) Both came from above (from the sky or "heaven")

3) Both came freely and graciously

4) Both were sent by God

5) Both were needed to sustain life (manna sustained Israel for 40 years, Jesus for eternity)

6) Both had to be received

7) Both became despised by Israel (they got sick and tired of manna and of Jesus Christ)

The fact that Jesus came down from Heaven demonstrates:

1) His pre-existence
2) His deity
3) His being a gift from God

D. Jesus is LIFE-GIVING Bread (v.33b)

v. 35
Bread and water are basics for survival, and Jesus is both of these.

Just as we are dependent upon bread (food) so we don't die physically; we are dependent upon Christ so we don't die spiritually.

E. Jesus is ETERNALLY SATISFYING Bread (v.34-35)

v. 34
Like the woman at the well's request for living water (Jn. 4:15), they request an eternal supply of this living bread.

v. 35
"I am the. . ." – John's gospel shows Jesus to be the "I am" of many things.

I am the living water (Jn. 4)
I am the bread of life (Jn. 6:35)
I am the light of the world (Jn. 8:12; o:5)
I am the door (Jn. 10:7, 9)
I am the good shepherd (Jn. 10:11)
I am the resurrection and the life (Jn. 11:25)
I am the way, the truth, the life (Jn. 14:6)
I am the vine (Jn. 15:1, 5)
I am with you always (Mt. 28:20)
I am He that liveth (Rev. 1:180

Jesus is the "I am"

The old commercial "Wonder Bread" was said to build strong bodies nine ways.

Note, however: Physical bread is only temporal (v. 27). Food spoils, rots, turns to waste in your digestive system as the body extracts its limited supply of life-sustaining nutrients. Bread gets moldy and useless. However, Jesus never gets old, never runs out of sustaining power. The life He gives is permanent.

Food never fully satisfies. You always need more. So many in this world are spiritually hungry – searching for satisfaction and security. Yet they ignore their hunger pains or seek to satisfy it with religious substitutes that promise much but give nothing.

CONCLUSION:

The Bible says: “Oh taste and see that the Lord is good, blessed is the man that trusteth in Him” (Ps. 34:8).

Just as literal food must come into your body to do you any good, Jesus must come into your life by faith to give you life and satisfy you.

Believe on Him (v. 29), come to Him (v. 37) today!

You who have trusted Christ, you who have “tasted that the lord is gracious” (I Peter 2:3), are you still letting Him satisfy you?