

Jesus, the Bread of Life

John 6:22-40

October 2, 2022

1. Be Careful Not to Seek Jesus for the Wrong Reason (22-27).
 - a. The crowd pursues Jesus (22-24)
 - i. The crowd is still hungry physically, and politically.
 - ii. The crowd still had plans to make Jesus their King (cf. 6:15).
 - iii. The crowd takes great pains to cross the Sea to find Jesus.
 - b. Jesus rebukes the crowd (25-27)
 - i. The crowd wanted to know how Jesus crossed the Sea of Galilee without a boat (25).
 - ii. Jesus rebukes the crowd for their self-centered pursuit (26-27)
 1. The crowd followed Jesus for selfish reasons (26).
 - a. They wanted a miracle worker to fill their stomachs.
 - b. They wanted a king to cause them to rule over their enemies.
 2. Jesus challenges the crowd to pursue Him for the right reasons (27).
 - a. Don't live for the food which passes away.
 - b. Live for the food that produces eternal life which only Jesus has the authority to give (27).
2. Understand the Work that God Accepts (28-29)
 - a. The crowd wanted to imitate the works of God for their own selfish reasons (28).
 - i. "Work the works of God" is emphatic and shows their idolatrous focus on what they can do.
 - ii. Jesus has just revealed what He can do, and all they can think about is what they want to do.
 - b. Belief in Jesus is the work of God (29).
 - i. Faith in our own works falls short because our works are flawed and self-centered (Romans 3:23).
 - ii. Faith in the work of Jesus is all that God will accept (cf. 1:12).
3. Understand the Source of Eternal Life (30-33)
 - a. Rather than believe in Jesus, the crowd asks for another sign to authenticate Himself (30-31).
 - i. The crowd is not satisfied with Jesus' miracle of feeding the multitude the day before.
 - ii. They want bread "from heaven" likely on an ongoing basis (Exodus 16; Psalm 78:24).
 - b. Jesus makes it clear that God is the source of bread from heaven, not Moses (32).
 - i. The Jews believed that Moses was the first redeemer, and the coming Prophet would be the second redeemer.
 1. Mankind is prone to elevate religious leaders over God Himself.
 2. The Jews elevated the traditions of the elders over the Word of God, just as many "Christian" religions elevate the teachings of their prophet or religious leader over the Word of God today.
 - ii. Jesus destroys this concept by claiming that there is only one redeemer, God Himself.
 - c. Jesus makes it clear that He is the bread from Heaven that God is giving to the world (33).
 - i. Jesus is the fulfillment of the manna that God gave to sustain Israel in the wilderness.
 - ii. Jesus is infinitely better than manna.
 1. Whereas Israel had to collect bread daily, Jesus came to earth once.
 2. Whereas manna would provide temporary sustenance, Jesus provides eternal life.
 3. Whereas manna was for Israel, Jesus offers this life to the entire world (cf. 3:16).

4. Find Satisfaction in Jesus, the Bread of Life (34-40)
 - a. The crowd responds to Jesus' revelation with sarcasm (34).
 - i. They refuse to believe that Jesus is better than the manna of the Old Testament.
 - ii. They insist that Jesus recreate the manna from heaven for them indefinitely.
 - b. Jesus responds that He is the Bread of Life (35).
 - i. Those that come to Him will be completely satisfied (cf. Isa 55).
 - ii. Those that believe on Him will have their thirst quenched.
 - iii. Tragically, the crowd could see Jesus standing before them, but they refused to believe on Him (36).
 - iv. Those who believe on Jesus will be kept secure eternally (37).
 - v. Those who believe on Jesus will receive resurrection bodies and live with Him eternally (38-40).

Conclusion:

1. Are you seeking Jesus for the wrong reasons?
2. What is the basis of your trust? Your works, or the work of Jesus?
3. Who are you trusting for eternal life? Jesus, or some other religious teacher or religious system?
4. Have you found satisfaction in Jesus?