

**Lighthouse Bible Church**

**March 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2013**

**John 6: 22 – 29**

***Scripture Reading Matthew 16: 24 - 26***

**‘Believe in Him whom He sent’**

**Stand – Read – Pray**

As we look back at this passage, there has been a lot that has taken place over the last 24 hour period of time.

Jesus and His disciples feed nearly 20,000 people with 5 loaves & 2 fish after Jesus had spent the day healing and teaching them.

As a result, they want to take Him by force and make Him a king.

Because Jesus knows they want to do that, He sends the disciples away and then sends the crowds away and goes up on a mountain alone to pray.

We saw last time that after the disciples got into the boat, a strong wind pulled them to the center of the Sea of Galilee and then the miracle of Jesus walking on the water to them took place.

We saw that Peter wanted to be with Jesus and asked Jesus if he could come out of the boat to Him. Jesus said come and another miracle took place, Peter got out of the boat and walked on the water, as if on dry ground.

We saw another miracle take place as Jesus got into the boat with the disciples; the wind stopped instantly.

Then we saw one last miracle; the boat was immediately at the shore. They were in the middle of the Sea of Galilee and instantly they were at shore.

We saw that the response of the disciples to what they had just seen was the proper response to the display of power of Jesus and that was to worship Him and acknowledge Him for who He truly is.

You see, this passage is a contrast between the true disciple of Jesus Christ and the hypocritical follower of Jesus. The true disciple sees our Lord for who He is and that causes him to desire to worship Him for who He is, the Son of God, God in human form. It is someone who desires to obey the Lord, even in difficult circumstances.

The hypocritical follower of Christ sees Jesus only for what they can get out of Him, for how He can help them, for what He can do for them. And that is the group that we are introduced to in our passage here this morning. We saw the true disciples in Verses 16 – 21 and now we are going to see the hypocritical, selfish, unbelieving followers in Verses 22 – 29.

So we want to pick it up now where Jesus and His disciples are on the other side of the Sea of Galilee and it is the next day and we see these hypocritical followers looking for Jesus. Look at it starting in Verse 22 – 24.

**Verse 22 - 24: 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, however, other boats came from Tiberias, near the place where they ate bread after the Lord had given thanks. When the people therefore saw that Jesus was not there, nor His disciples, they also got into boats and came to Capernaum seeking Jesus.**

What you have here is some of the people that had been fed with the 5 loaves and 2 fish coming back the next day looking for breakfast, looking for Jesus for some more food.

But I want you to notice something interesting that Matthew and Mark both record and they record it twice.

When Jesus told the disciples to get into the boat it says **then He sent the multitudes away and after He sent the multitudes away**. Both **Matthew 14: 22 – 23** and **Mark 6: 45 – 46** record that.

So what are they doing back the next day? You know what that says about those hypocritical followers? They are disobedient to what Jesus had instructed them to do. He says go away and they come back, and they came back for purely selfish reasons as we shall see.

That is one very clear distinction between a true follower of Christ and a hypocritical follower; their willingness to obey or their willingness to selfishly disobey. By the way a true follower of Christ is marked by one of obedience, right? We will see later in:

**John 14: 15, 23** Jesus say **if you love Me, (what) keep My commandments ... If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word.**

**John 15: 10, 14** **if you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love... You are My friends if you do whatever I command you.**

These hypocritical followers of Jesus come back to the place where they were fed dinner and expecting Him to be there to feed them breakfast and He's not there. Which tells you that He didn't tell them to come back in the morning, they just came back for more food. He told them to leave and they came back anyway.

They are all looking around and they don't see the boat that the disciples left in and they know that Jesus didn't get into the boat with the disciples so they are standing around wondering where Jesus got off too.

In the meantime John explains that a bunch of boats had come over from Tiberias on the south west shore of the Sea of Galilee and the people got in to those boats and **came to Capernaum seeking Jesus.**

Again, they were not seeking Him because they wanted to worship Him or acknowledge who He was, they came because they wanted more healing and more food and maybe still to have Him rule over them as their king. So look at:

**Verse 25: and when they found Him on the other side of the sea, they said to Him ‘Rabbi, when did You come here?’**

They knew He didn’t get into the boat with the disciples. They knew there were no other boats at the time to get into. They knew He didn’t walk around the north side of the Sea and around because many of them were still there. How did you get over here, when did you come here?

Notice that Jesus doesn’t answer that question. Can you imagine if He would have? Can you imagine if He would have said ‘I walked’. They would have said ‘wait, we were all around here and we didn’t see you walk’, ‘there were no crowds following you, we would have seen you’. ‘O, I walked across the Sea of Galilee’ to the disciples boat and then the boat went immediately to the shore’.

Jesus doesn’t even answer their question, but He does address the issue of the reason that they are following Him. He addresses their selfish, self-centered motives for following Him and exposes the hypocrisy in their seeking of Him. Look at Verse 26.

**Verse 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 rebukes the crowd by saying ‘listen, you saw the miracles, you saw the signs, but you didn’t conclude that I was the Son of God as a result. You were blinded by your own superficial desire for food and miracles that you missed the true spiritual significance of My healing and miracles and the teaching I was sharing with you’.

He says ‘you are following Me because **you ate the loaves and were filled**. You are following Me only for what you can get out of this whole deal, and in this case, another free meal to fill your stomach.

By the way, this is more than just a mild rebuke. Jesus says you ‘ate of the loaves and were filled’. That phrase **were filled** is one word in the Greek, *chortadzo* and it comes from *chortos* which means grass or hay. It is fodder, used for feeding cattle.

You know what Jesus is saying, He is saying ‘you are like a whole heard of cattle that were fed and now you are hungry again and you are coming back for more. The only thing you are interested in is your next meal and full belly’.

That is why they were there the next day, for more food and when they didn’t find Him, they began seeking Him for their next meal, for their next full stomach. They sought Jesus for food and healing not for worship and reverence for who He is.

One writer said “The miracles which Jesus performed were proofs that he came from God. To seek him because they had seen them, and were convinced by them that he was the Messiah, would have been proper; but to follow him simply because their wants were supplied was mere selfishness of a gross kind. Yet, many seek religion from no better motive than this.

They suppose that it will add to their earthly happiness, or they seek only to escape from suffering or from the convictions of conscience, or they seek for heaven only as a place of enjoyment, and regard religion as valuable only for this. All this is mere selfishness. Religion does not forbid our regarding our own happiness, or seeking it in any proper way; but when this is the only or the prevailing motive, it is evident that we have never yet sought God for who He is. We are aiming at the loaves and fishes, and not at the honor of God and the good of his kingdom; and if this is the only or the main motive of our entering the church, we cannot be Christians.” *Esword Barnes*. Then notice what Jesus says in Verse 27.

**Verse 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 says to them ‘don’t labor or work for the food which perishes’. He’s not saying don’t work for food, that would contradict what scriptures says, what He is saying is don’t labor toward the goal of being filled up with the physical food.

He is saying, don’t be satisfied with just physical things. It is like the woman at the well, Jesus was not talking about physical water to her, He was talking about the **living water that you would never thirst again**. He was talking about her salvation and that is what He is talking about here.

He says labor **for the food which endures to everlasting life**. Jesus says physical food satisfies the physical and then you have to feed it again and again. He says seek the spiritual food that I can provide that will **endure to everlasting life**. He says ‘seek what can satisfy the inner being and not the belly, seek for that spiritual food for everlasting life. It is like ‘man shall not live by bread alone but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God’.

The sad thing is, our society today is so wrapped up, so preoccupied in food, in feeding the physical, in physical things, that the spiritual feeding of the soul is lost somewhere in the food franchises.

As **Matthew 16: 26** asks **what would it profit a man if he gains the whole world and (what) loses his own soul?** Or the parable Jesus gave of the rich man in **Luke 12: 13 – 21** *Read*

We as Christians even get caught up in that. We are not thankful for what we have, we don't give thanks for what God has provided us and it is, in part, because we can go to any store, any corner and get whatever we want. Hot, Cold, charbroiled, regular, medium, large, extra large, supersize. Some want to satisfy the body and miss the true feeding of the soul.

But only true **food which endures to everlasting life** comes from the provider of eternal life and that is Jesus alone. The middle of Verse 27 says **which the Son of Man will give you because God the Father has set His seal on Him.** The provider of everlasting life is the source of everlasting life. Jesus is going to tell them shortly that HE is the bread of life.

And the reason that Jesus is the only source of everlasting life and the reason that He can give the spiritual food which endures to everlasting life is **because God the Father has set His seal on Him.**

God has approved Him, God has authorized Him, God has testified to the genuineness of Christ as His Son and through the miracles He has done to be the only One appointed by God as the source and means of everlasting life. **Acts 2: 22** says **Jesus was attested to by God BY miracles, wonders and signs which God did through Him in your midst.**

Jesus here is talking about eternal life and notice what these hypocritical, unbelieving followers of Christ ask Him about how to have eternal life. And notice this, that is always the mark of a hypocritical, unbelieving follower of Jesus and that is they think they can **work** their way to heaven. Look at Verse 28.

**Verse 28: then they said to Him ‘what shall we DO that we may work the works of God?’**

Notice that they said ‘what shall WE do’ ‘that WE may work’. It is all about them and what they can do to please God and earn favor with God and somehow work their way into heaven and everlasting life. What can we do?

It is like the rich young ruler of **Matthew 19: 16 what good thing shall I do that I may inherit eternal life?** Or the lawyer in **Luke 10: 25 who asked what shall I do to have eternal life?** It is the same question that is being asked and the same doctrine that is being taught in many churches today; that you can **earn** or **buy** or **pray** or **pay** or **work** your way into heaven.

You know these verses **Ephesians 2: 8 – 9 and Titus 3: 5 not by works of righteousness which we have done but according to His mercy He saved us.**

Jesus says the only one work, one thing that can save you from your sin and be the way to eternal life in heaven and it is in **Verse 29: Jesus answered and said to them, this is the work of God, that you believe in Him whom He sent.**

Listen, salvation and eternal life can only be through the grace of God alone, through faith alone and in Christ alone. The Bible says very clearly in **Romans 3: 20 that by the works of the law no flesh will be justified in His sight.** In **Galatians 2: 16 it says knowing that a man is not justified or made righteous by the works of the law but by faith in Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Christ Jesus, that we might be justified by faith and not by the works of the law; for by the works of the law no flesh shall be justified.**



Our entrance into heaven does not come from human effort or achievement or good works or living a moral life or being religious but by faith in Christ that produces good works that evidence that someone has been born again as **Ephesians 2: 10** says.

Jesus says ‘there is nothing you can DO to work your way to everlasting life’ and until they were ready to receive that and do more than believe that He was a miracle worker that could heal and feed them, they were lost in their sin.

No different than anyone today who wants Jesus on their own terms, who wants a Jesus who can help them or make their life better or who feel they are good enough or religious enough or moral enough to get to heaven. You cannot either.

Gospel here.

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Introduction and Review:

Verses 22 – 24: On the following day

Matthew 14: 22 – 23, Mark 6: 45 – 46  
John 14: 15, 23, John 15: 10, 14

Verses 25 – 27: You seek Me because you ate..

Matthew 16: 26, Luke 12: 13 – 21  
Acts 2: 22

Verse 28: What shall we DO...

Matthew 19: 16, Luke 10: 25  
Ephesians 2: 8 – 9, Titus 3: 5

Verse 29 Believe in Him whom He sent

Romans 3: 20, Galatians 2: 16  
Ephesians 2: 10

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