
John 6:22-27: Context

John 5: Crippled man, 38 years, Jesus healed on the Sabbath Day, greatly angered the Jews. So angry, they wanted to kill the Lord. John 5:17-18

John 6: A great multitude followed Jesus because they saw His miracles; they found Him sitting on a mountain teaching His disciples. It was right after they found the Lord that He fed all 5,000 of them with 5 loaves of bread and 2 small fish.

Our text took place on the other side of the Sea of Galilee AFTER the Lord fed this multitude. After this feeding miracle...

The Lord Jesus departed into a mountain alone, people-King-force!

Disciples-boat to the other side of the sea of Galilee.

Disciples-Storm, Jesus came walking on the water, Capernaum.

This is where we pick up, John 6:22: "The Day Following".

The multitude looked all over the place for Jesus; couldn't find Him; they knew that His disciples had left in a boat, and they also knew that Jesus didn't go with them. Eventually, they also went by boats to the other, and found the Lord.

John 6:25

Note that Jesus didn't answer their question, instead, He revealed to them the wrong intentions of their hearts. John 6:26. You diligently sought for me and found me, but for the wrong reasons.

And you know what brethren, we are often faced with needy people today, who will seek out a church, but for all the wrong reasons.

Many seek churches to find the Jesus who will only fill their bellies, pay their bills, or give them money... rather than seeking the Jesus whom they really need... who will save them from their sins and care for the needs of their destitute and famished souls.

It troubles me when we find ourselves faced with someone who has come asking for help! I am not troubled because of them; I am troubled because I want to do the right thing by the Lord!

The last thing I want us to be is hardened against poor and needy people, who most often don't know their greatest need.

Take the example of the Lord; He fed them, and then afterward they followed Him to the other side of the Sea of Galilee. I think the Lord wanted them to follow Him, but for the right reason!

But they didn't seek after Jesus because they saw His miracles, and to ask Him if He was their long-awaited Messiah; the salvation of their souls wasn't even on their minds, they just wanted to be fed again! And yet, even knowing their hearts, He still used that opportunity to speak truth to their souls... compassionately and patiently.

Right here is where I want us to learn to love the poor and needy like Christ love them!

Beloved, there will be needy people who will come to this gathering for the wrong reasons; when they do, we need to take that opportunity to tell them the truth about Christ, and give them what they did not come seeking for, and what they do need!

And... We need to guard ourselves against being "Calloused Christians" in our hearts toward those who MAY very well BE seeking to take advantage of us as a church, who are not sincere, but simply trying to get something for nothing.

If that's their plan, and their motives are not sincere, let us NOT lose our love and compassion for them as lost sinners, but instead, let us take advantage of those opportunities to care for their souls and tell them the truth about the Christ!

The people who traveled all the way to the other side of the Sea of Galilee seeking Christ, just wanted to eat, AGAIN. But the Lord Jesus told them they were seeking the wrong bread! He then told them about the bread that came down from heaven, Himself, which if they would eat of it, would give them eternal life. John 6:27

As Jesus taught them about Himself, they began murmuring; this may be the reaction that we get. But let us not lose the opportunity to speak to them about Christ and give them the bread of life.

Listen, there will always be poor people in the world, and they will seek out churches, we should be glad they do.

We've helped the poor before, I think we should help with food and needs for their bodies as much as we can, Jesus did; but whenever He did, He also took that time to speak to their souls!

Listen, the only Jesus that many are seeking for today is the Jesus who can fill their bellies. But when ANYONE shows up here asking for help, let us make sure that we tell them about the Christ who came into the world to save sinners! And when we do tell them about Christ, let us speak the truth to them in love!

As to their needs, we have always helped when we can, God grant us wisdom to know what we ought to do in each case.

Deuteronomy 15:7-11, Luke 10:25-37, Proverbs 19:17, 14:20-21,31, 22:9, 28:27, 29:7.

I love what Paul taught the Ephesians... work so that you may give to the poor! Ephesians 4:28, Remember James 2:5!

Brethren, more than anything, let us tell them about Christ! As for their physical needs, let us do what we can from sincere hearts!

Colossians 3:23-24: "And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men; knowing that of the Lord ye shall receive the reward of the inheritance, for ye serve the Lord Christ."