

In The Beginning Was The Word

John 6:22-40

INTRODUCTION: JESUS IS THE TRUE BREAD FROM HEAVEN

This was the time after the Lord had fed the 5 thousand. It was the time that the disciples were told by the Lord to take the ship on their own and he would meet them on the other side at Capernaum.

As we study the following passage of John 6:22-40, it is also a stark reminder of how little people are prepared to believe. It shows how little faith they had. They like most people wanted to see proof before they would believe something. Yet the apostle Paul said that faith is the evidence of things unseen.

Hebrews 11:1 *Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.*

Clearly this is not what the disciples had in mind neither the people that stood by watching Jesus.

1. How is it then that people want to see for themselves, and not take God at His word.
2. The simple answer to that question is one of unbelief.

When a person approaches a situation and has no intention of embracing the truth then that person has already come with unbelief and have hardened their heart.

We saw that already in the previous same incident that took place with the disciples when Jesus walked to the on the water.

Mark 6:47-49

⁴⁷ And when even was come, the ship was in the midst of the sea, and he alone on the land.

⁴⁸ **And he saw them toiling in rowing**; for the wind was contrary unto them: and **about the fourth watch of the night** he cometh unto them, walking upon the sea, and would have passed by them.

⁴⁹ But when they saw him walking upon the sea, they supposed it had been a spirit, and cried out:

⁵⁰ For they all saw him, and were troubled. And immediately he talked with them, and saith unto them, Be of good cheer: it is I; be not afraid.

⁵¹ And he went up unto them into the ship; and the wind ceased: and they were sore amazed in themselves beyond measure, and wondered.

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

- It becomes evident here in our morning text today that these unfolding verses speak of the same kind of unbelieving people. Mostly the Jews of course.

John 6:22-40

²² **The day following, when the people which stood on the other side of the sea saw that there was none other boat there, save that one whereinto his disciples were entered, and that Jesus went not with his disciples into the boat, but that his disciples were gone away alone;**

1. These people waiting on shore line confirm for us again that the disciples had taken the only boat available and that they left by themselves as instructed by the Lord to go to Capernaum.
2. It illustrates a truth for us to see that the disciples did obey Jesus, and go by themselves.
3. And it also illustrates to us that they even knew that Jesus had stayed behind after the only boat had left.
4. Therefore they had still understood Jesus to be on this side of the shore.
5. The people had gathered on this shoreline hoping to still see Jesus as he would come down from the mountains where he went to pray. They were nine the wiser.

²³ **(Howbeit there came other boats from Tiberias nigh unto the place where they did eat bread, after that the Lord had given thanks:)**

1. This verse is a confirmation of the people gathering at the same place where Jesus had fed the 5000.
2. Perhaps they wanted to be fed again. They had remembered the fact that as Jesus had fed them, it was as a result of Him giving thanks to His father as the miracle was applied to the bread that was multiplied.
3. Tiberius was a shipping port not too far from where the miracle of the feeding had taken place, and this was one of the reasons for the people gathering there.
4. A lot of boats for a lot of people.

²⁴ **When the people therefore saw that Jesus was not there, neither his disciples, they also took shipping, and came to Capernaum, seeking for Jesus.**

1. The evidence is plain for us to see that they were definitely looking for Jesus.
2. They needed another miracle, perhaps to be fed again on this new day.
3. The fact that when the other ships came, it came with new people, perhaps also wanting to be fed. The fact that the scripture in this verse refers to the fact that the disciples were not there indicates to us, that those were the new people which had arrived by the ships from Tiberius and they were the ones who did not know about the disciples leaving to go to Capernaum.
4. Never the less, they were all seeking Jesus.
5. It is obvious to the people that Jesus said he was going to see his disciples, so when they could not find him there on the land where he was, some of them

remembered that Jesus said he would see his disciples at Capernaum, hence that's where they went.

6. The people stranded on the shore had hitched a ride with the ships from Tiberius (they also took shipping) to go to Capernaum.

²⁵ **And when they had found him on the other side of the sea, they said unto him, Rabbi, when camest thou hither?**

1. True to form, and to His word, they had found Jesus on the other.
2. Their first question was that of mystery. They were very intrigued as to how the Lord had come to be on this side of the ocean when there were no boats, and no ships available to carry him, and they knew that Jesus had not gone with his disciples, so they were very curious as to how he got there.
3. The second way they addressed Jesus was the term used "Rabbi". This term is used in the sense of a great teacher, or a learned scholar in the Jews religion. They had addressed Jesus as a man who had great learning about him, as a result wanted to share in capabilities. Such as being fed.
4. They had not seen Jesus leave the sea shore and crossing on foot into the ocean.
5. They certainly did not see the Lord rescue the perishing disciples on that previous stormy night at sea.
6. Had the Lord not encountered the stricken ship at sea, he could have easily carried on walking the whole length of the sea, or he could just have appeared by his own power on the other side of Capernaum.

Mark 6:47-48

⁴⁷ And when even was come, the ship was in the midst of the sea, and he alone on the land.

⁴⁸ And he saw them toiling in rowing; for the wind was contrary unto them: and about the fourth watch of the night he cometh unto them, walking upon the sea, and would have passed by them.

7. To the Lord a miracle is not a miracle to himself when he does something supernaturally, it is only a miracle to us humans which are mortal.

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.**

1. The Lords wisdom is not about answering his reasoning or capabilities but about questioning our own.
2. Jesus did not succumb to their questioning but instead challenged them in their unbelief.
3. Of a truth the Lord said to them out of verse 26 in our text, " **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.**
4. Material things are often the greatest down failure in our lives. We want to hold onto things that fill our immediate physical needs, but yet we forget like they did

the real need of having the Lord at your side and being fed spiritually should be more important.

5. Even a physical miracle the Lord said was not enough to convince them of a spiritual need. It was the filling of your “physical belly” which is the flesh which what was more important.
6. People today just like then like to use the Lord as a tool to gain riches here on earth, in a name it and claim it scheme. But that is not what the wants for our lives, and we should not claim it.

Matthew 6:19-20

¹⁹ Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal: ²⁰ But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal:

- The trouble with all generations is that of serving yourself. It is the sin in our lives which confronts us and pulls us into that direction. This is not the direction that we should give into even though we are being pulled by sin into that direction.
- Instead we need to pray that the Lord will gives us the strength to resist temptation and be guided by His spirit to do that which is right.

Galatians 5:16-18

¹⁶ This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh.

¹⁷ For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other: so that ye cannot do the things that ye would.

¹⁸ But if ye be led of the Spirit, ye are not under the law.

1. The answer the Lord Jesus had given to those multitudes who had followed him to the new shores of Capernaum was this in verse 27 of our text.
2. He did not tell they how he got there, but instead spent very little time in responding to them in the way of righteousness of salvation.
3. Look what the Lord said in verse 27.

²⁷ Labour not for the meat which perisheth, but for that meat which endureth unto everlasting life, which the Son of man shall give unto you: for him hath God the Father sealed.

1. The re two kinds of meat the Lord explains.
2. Meat that perishes and meat that last eternally.
3. The explanation is this. Meat that perishes is the here and now desires. These desires however they seem important to you have no eternal value and therefore they will rot and perish daily. If this is your desire it means that every day the things that you do will have no value and mean nothing when the end comes one day in death.

4. On the other hand, meat that does not perish is the spiritual meat that is satisfying and fills the hunger and desire of righteousness which leads to salvation. The meat that endures is the meat that the Lord says, **endureth unto everlasting life.**

When a person comes to the Lord for forgiveness, it is the Lord who will give that person everlasting life. The reason is because, that “**which the Son of man shall give unto you: for him hath God the Father sealed.**”

5. When we come to Christ our Lord for salvation it is God the Father who endorses that relationship with His Son.

²⁸ **Then said they unto him, What shall we do, that we might work the works of God?**

1. When the multitudes came to Jesus and responded to His answers. They asked him with an attitude of work.
2. What shall **WE DO** that we might work the works of God?
3. They were fixated with having **to do some kind of work** to earn God's merit.
4. Their emphasis was on themselves. What must THEY DO.
5. Their reply was not what they had expected in verse 29.

²⁹ Jesus answered and said unto them, **This is the work of God, that ye believe on him whom he hath sent.**

1. The answer was what they had heard before.
 2. **This is the work of God, that ye believe on him whom he hath sent.**
 3. Jesus had told them before and was telling them again. If you want to call it a work? Then this is the work? Believe on Him who God the Father has sent.
 4. In other words the Lord was saying to them believe on me for everlasting life.
 5. The gospel message has not changed.
- Oh what hard hearts are out there.
 - There are hard hearts then and there are certainly hard hearts today.
 - Look at the stages of unbelief again with me in verse 30.

³⁰ **They said therefore unto him, What sign shewest thou then, that we may see, and believe thee? what dost thou work?**

1. Again a sign was needed for them to believe, but how many signs did they want.
2. Was not feeding the 5000 enough. Was not the other miracles that they had witnessed enough signs?
3. How many signs do you need when trouble is around the corner and the warning sign has already told you that there is danger ahead.
4. Well for the Jews there was never enough signs and never enough laws for them to follow after righteousness.

In this verse they wanted a new sign. A sign that was never done before. Maybe they wanted even a bigger meal than before. The question from them all in verse 30 was

“what dost thou work?”. In other words we are waiting for you to impress us with this new sign we want? So what sign are you going to work?

5. They never really wanted to believe because they were comparing the Lord with Moses. And that is one of their problems.
6. Look at how the Jews and those multitudes condemn themselves by their own scriptures or writings. Jesus refers them back to them.

John 5:45-47

⁴⁵ Do not think that I will accuse you to the Father: there is one that accuseth you, even Moses, in whom ye trust.

⁴⁶ For had ye believed Moses, ye would have believed me; for he wrote of me.

⁴⁷ But if ye believe not his writings, how shall ye believe my words?

Here is their Excuse.

³¹ **Our fathers did eat manna in the desert; as it is written, He gave them bread from heaven to eat.**

1. It is true that their fathers did eat manna in the desert.
2. But it is not true that Moses gave them that bread as they were purporting or alleging.
3. They had misread their writings as well as the scriptures.
4. And the Lord begins to correct them in that regard as we see in verse 32.

³² **Then Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Moses gave you not that bread from heaven; but my Father giveth you the true bread from heaven.**

1. The Lord's reply is as follows.
2. **“Moses gave you not that bread from heaven”**
3. The Lord uses this opportunity not only to set the record straight who provided for who, but he also uses this opportunity like so many others we have seen in the Bible and in the book of John to share with them their need of salvation.
4. Here the Lord refers in verse 32 to **but my Father giveth you the true bread from heaven.**
5. In other words just as God provided for them in the desert with the falling bread from heaven which was the manna. Here the Lord is saying the true bread which is Himself is a picture of the living eternal bread of life which is capable of feeding you the salvation of eternal life. Just like the woman at the well.

The Lord Explains himself in verse 33.

³³ **For the bread of God is he which cometh down from heaven, and giveth life unto the world.**

1. The life Jesus came to bring is eternal life.

2. It is not a life based on a king who will take the needs of the people here on earth and satisfy them here and now.
3. He is not a king just to satisfy your earthly needs. He is a heavenly king worthy to be worshipped.

³⁴ Then said they unto him, Lord, evermore give us this bread.

³⁵ And Jesus said unto them, I am the bread of life: he that cometh to me shall never hunger; and he that believeth on me shall never thirst.

³⁶ **But I said unto you, That ye also have seen me, and believe not.**

³⁷ All that the Father giveth me shall come to me; and him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out.

³⁸ For I came down from heaven, not to do mine own will, but the will of him that sent me.

³⁹ **And this is the Father's will which hath sent me, that of all which he hath given me I should lose nothing, but should raise it up again at the last day.**

⁴⁰ **And this is the will of him that sent me, that every one which seeth the Son, and believeth on him, may have everlasting life: and I will raise him up at the last day.**

Unbelief is what sets people apart in Gods eyes.

PRAYER.....CLOSE