

Seeking to be Fed

John 6: 22-29

As we continue to consider the passages where Jesus proclaimed, “Verily, verily,” we come to events that follow a very familiar account in the life and ministry of Jesus. Our text this evening follows the feeding of the 5,000 and Jesus walking on the midst of the sea in the raging storm. These events lead into a great discussion between Jesus and the multitude.

It is evident to the multitude that Jesus is not an ordinary man. He possesses power and abilities that mere mortals do not. The multitudes’ physical needs were met, but they missed the greater picture. They failed to see Jesus for who He was. They failed to look through eyes of faith to the Messiah.

This passage has great application for our day as well. We live in an age where most are concerned with the “here and now.” Many today are driven by their wants and desires. Their lives are dictated by the need to satisfy the flesh. Even Christians aren’t immune to this mindset. We may have a spiritual perspective on life, but it is often distorted by current, pressing needs.

I want to look in on the conversation Jesus has with the multitude and examine the [contrasts](#) He discloses as we consider the thought: [Seeking to be Fed](#).

I. The Desire of the Multitude (22-25) – The opening verses reveals the inner desire of the multitude that followed Jesus. Their desire is consistent with the desires of many today. Consider:

A. The Miracle (1-14) – In order to fully understand their desire, we must look back at the miracle that had taken place the day before. A great company had followed Jesus into a remote, mountainous region. It was getting late and they hadn’t eaten all day. Jesus was concerned with their physical well being and commanded them to sit down. Jesus took the lunch of a lad, five barley loaves and two small fish, and blessed them in order to feed the multitude. Jesus multiplied the meager supply, feeding all that were there, 5,000 men not counting women and children. After all had eaten, there remained 12 baskets full of leftovers.

- These experienced a great miracle, without question, but it met only their physical need. There was never any thought on a spiritual level. Sadly that is the perception of many today as well. There is little thought given to the Lord until a pressing physical need arises. Even then, many only seek the Lord in regard to their physical need, never sensing a spiritual need.

B. The Mentality (22-24) – After the great miracle, Jesus commanded the disciples to cross over the Sea of Galilee unto the other side. During the night a storm arose and Jesus came to them walking on the sea. When the multitude awoke, Jesus was no longer with them. They immediately set out in search of Him, coming to Capernaum. They knew He had fed them the day before and they were in search of the next meal. In fact, Jesus knew they were so consumed with His ability to feed them that they would desire to make Him their King, [v.15](#). They were only interested in what they could get from Jesus.

- The same is true for many in our day. Often people choose churches based on what they are willing to offer or provide for them. Some seek to bargain with the Lord, promising to be faithful to attend church if God will provide for their needs. Few are more interested in serving the Lord than they are in what He will provide. I pray we are not here simply to receive. May we have a desire to give of ourselves in service to the Lord and others!

C. The Mystery (25) – The people were curious as to how and when the Lord came to Capernaum. They wondered how Jesus had escaped them, and yet none gave any thought to His being the Messiah. Clearly His works and wonders were beyond explanation, and yet they failed to see Jesus for who He really was. Faith had yet to enter their lives.

- Hopefully we are not as the multitude in that we fail to see Jesus for who He is. I know that many today do not know Christ as they should. However, there is an application for us as well. It is impossible to completely track the hand of God. Our Lord does things within our lives that are beyond explanation, and many times beyond comprehension. Rather than questioning the mysteries or determining to understand all the Lord does, we should simply respond in faith. Follow when we see His hand clearly in our lives and trust Him when we don't! [For we walk by faith, not by sight.](#)

II. The Dispute of the Master (26-27) – Jesus knows their hearts and He challenges them concerning their desires. Notice:

A. Jesus' Perception (26) – The multitude was successful in locating Jesus at Capernaum, but He was well aware of why they came. They were not there in regard to their spiritual needs; they had not come seeking the Messiah and the spiritual bread that He gives. These had come in order to satisfy their physical desires. Simply, they were hungry and wanted to eat.

- If we would live in light of this truth, I am convinced our lives would be more productive for the Lord. He knows our hearts and the motives that drive us. We likely didn't come this evening

because of physical hunger, but often our motives are no better. Many today seek the Lord for their own gain and benefit. We tend to think we will reap the blessing of God as long as we are faithful to the church. There is no doubt God will bless faithfulness, but He knows why we are here and why we do what we do. If our service is nothing more than a scheme to secure His blessing, we have missed it, and likely won't receive what we desired!

B. Jesus' Proclamation (27) – In His continued response, Jesus seeks to guide them away from an emphasis on physical needs and wants toward spiritual desires and endeavors. Consider:

1. The Admonition (27a) – **Labour not for the meat which perisheth.** Jesus admonishes the multitude to consider their labor. They sought only that which pleases the flesh, that which is temporary and fleeting. He challenged them to seek those things that will last. Meals are necessary, but our physical needs are not the most pressing. Jesus is not promoting laziness, but rather being zealous for the Lord.

- You will have to agree that most place much more emphasis on the physical and social aspects of life than they do the spiritual. We must work to provide for our families, but the needs of this earthly life should not consume our being.

2. The Exhortation (27b) – **Labour... for that meat which endureth unto everlasting life.** We need to understand that Jesus is not implying that we are to work to secure our salvation. He is emphasizing the need to labor for those things that will last beyond the grave. All the material possessions and aspirations in life will wear out and decay. The spiritual works and emphasis will endure throughout eternity.

- In light of these not acknowledging Jesus as the Christ, there is the element of salvation. Jesus reveals they are to seek spiritual bread, salvation in Him, rather than seeking the things that please the flesh. Many today ignore their spiritual needs while working feverously to supply their physical wants and desires.

- There is an application for the believer as well. After receiving salvation in Christ, our eternal destiny is settled. However, we cannot ignore or neglect our spiritual obligations. We are called to be a witness for the Lord. We are called to labor in the harvest, seeking to reach others for Christ. We are expected to use the gifts and talents He gives for the advancement of the Kingdom. We must not live our lives thinking only of self!

3. The Confirmation – which the Son of man shall give unto you: for him hath God the Father sealed.

Although they have yet to understand, Jesus reveals that He is the source of spiritual bread which brings eternal life. They are seeking that which satisfies the flesh temporarily and Jesus is offering that which is eternal. He offers much more than a meal of bread and fish. He offers cleansing from sin, reconciliation to God, and eternal life.

- Our hope and assurance is in Christ and Christ alone. We cannot secure eternal life through the works we perform. We must seek Him, receiving by faith the gift of salvation, if we are to inherit eternal life!

III. The Direction in the Message (28-29) – Jesus seeks to settle all this in the hearts of the multitude. Consider:

A. The Flawed Desire (28) – After hearing the words of Christ, the multitude continues to seek personal effort and satisfaction. They desire the ability to perform the works Jesus did. Their focus remains on the physical and temporal.

- We too must understand that we cannot obtain righteousness or acceptance of God through our works. We must see Jesus as the Savior and Redeemer of mankind. We must acknowledge our sin and need of salvation. We must accept the finished work of Christ as payment for our salvation. We are not saved of works, but of grace through faith!

B. The Favored Disclosure (29) – Jesus conveys again that they must place their faith and trust in Him. If they are to receive salvation and inherit eternal life, they must believe that Jesus is the Christ. There is no greater work to accomplish. Simple faith is all that is required.

- Many today are working themselves to death seeking to please the flesh and be found acceptable to God. We are not received of the Lord based on our works. It is impossible to be acceptable to God based on personal merit or achievement. We must place our faith in Christ and believe that He secured our salvation. I am glad it isn't up to me to work my way in. I would never make it and you wouldn't either. He made the way for us. Look to Him and believe!

Conclusion: Many seek to satisfy the desires of the flesh and please the Lord through personal effort. Sadly we fail to accomplish both. There is always something else to be desired and we are incapable of securing our salvation. I pray that we see Jesus for who He is and receive what He has done. If you are hungry tonight, seek the Lord. He is the Bread of life!