

The Work of God is to Believe on Jesus

John 6:16-34 ¹⁶ When evening came, his disciples went down to the sea, ¹⁷ got into a boat, and started across the sea to Capernaum. It was now dark, and Jesus had not yet come to them. ¹⁸ The sea became rough because a strong wind was blowing. ¹⁹ When they had rowed about three or four miles, they saw Jesus walking on the sea and coming near the boat, and they were frightened. ²⁰ But he said to them, "It is I; do not be afraid." ²¹ Then they were glad to take him into the boat, and immediately the boat was at the land to which they were going. ²² On the next day the crowd that remained on the other side of the sea saw that there had been only one boat there, and that Jesus had not entered the boat with his disciples, but that his disciples had gone away alone. ²³ Other boats from Tiberias came near the place where they had eaten the bread after the Lord had given thanks. ²⁴ So when the crowd saw that Jesus was not there, nor his disciples, they themselves got into the boats and went to Capernaum, seeking Jesus. ²⁵ When they found him on the other side of the sea, they said to him, "Rabbi, when did you come here?" ²⁶ Jesus answered them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, you are seeking me, not because you saw signs, but because you ate your fill of the loaves. ²⁷ Do not labor for the food that perishes, but for the food that endures to eternal life, which the Son of Man will give to you. For on him God the Father has set his seal." ²⁸ Then they said to him, "What must we do, to be doing the works of God?" ²⁹ Jesus answered them, "This is the work of God, that you believe in him whom he has sent." ³⁰ So they said to him, "Then what sign do you do, that we may see and believe you? What work do you perform?" ³¹ Our fathers ate the manna in the wilderness; as it is written, 'He gave them bread from heaven to eat.' " ³² Jesus then said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, it was not Moses who gave you the bread from heaven, but my Father gives you the true bread from heaven. ³³ For the bread of God is he who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world." ³⁴ They said to him, "Sir, give us this bread always."

❖ Intro

➤ Children: Draw The Sermon – Do Not Be A Distraction (Starburst Today)

➤ The Purpose of This Sermon

- After Jesus walks on water He is mainly addressing this crowd of people that are following him
 - And we will see He wants them to gain Eternal Life
- **To Our Born Again Christians:**
 - There will be MASSIVE Gold Nuggets about Jesus in these verses...
 - And if You have already eaten of the Bread He is talking about...
 - I want you to Dine, this morning on the Glorious Things about Jesus.
 - I want you to Rejoice in them.
 - I want them to create within you a great appreciation for what Jesus has done for you
 - If You do not see these things... You will miss out on knowing Your Lord as You should
- **To Those Not Yet Born Again, or to Those Unsure:**
 - Learn from the Mistake of the crowd
 - Jesus says One Thing to You amidst all the other stuff going on:
 - ◆ Jesus says that **"the work of God is to believe in Him whom He has sent."**
 - ◆ I am calling you this morning to **"Believe in Him whom He has sent!"**

➤ Summary

▪ Main Points

- 1) The People Were Coming to Jesus with Wrong Motives
- 2) Jesus Continues to Intentionally Lead Them Toward Life
- 3) The Work of God is Believing on Jesus 4) Many Still Did Not Believe
- 5) Mistaking Creature for Creator 6) Jesus is the Eternal Bread

❖ Recap

- **The Purpose of John's Gospel is**
 - John 20:31³¹ but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.
- **We Continue Seeing Jesus Being so Intentional with where He goes and what He does**
 - He is even intentional about the time and places that He works...
 - Because He has come to seek and to save that which is lost...
- **Last Week:**
 - **The Misunderstood Miracle**
 - He Tested the Disciples and they Failed the Test
 - We Saw the Generosity of the Little Boy... Jesus making a lot out of a little
 - The Miracle Declared who He was: The Prophet to come
 - The people wanted to make Him King.... But... Jesus Withdrew.... Because He came to die...
 - Jesus uses this Miracle to intentionally point to Himself as the Bread of Life.
 - ◆ And he will do this throughout the rest of chapter 6
- **After Jesus Withdrew.... The Disciples Left as Well....**
 - ¹⁶When evening came, his disciples went down to the sea, ¹⁷got into a boat, and started across the sea to Capernaum. It was now dark, and Jesus had not yet come to them. ¹⁸The sea became rough because a strong wind was blowing. ¹⁹When they had rowed about three or four miles, they saw Jesus walking on the sea and coming near the boat, and they were frightened. ²⁰But he said to them, "It is I; do not be afraid." ²¹Then they were glad to take him into the boat, and immediately the boat was at the land to which they were going.

❖ Jesus Will Be There For His Followers

- **Jesus had left the crowd...**
 - We know from John here that the people wanted Him to become King
 - We learn from Matthew and Mark that He went to be alone so He could pray by himself
- **They were having a bit of a tough time...**
 - I assume they were nervous about the wind and waves...
 - As we have seen one time when Jesus was sleeping on the boat they were afraid they would die
 - But, we see their fear kick in when they saw Jesus walking on the water...
- **What does this little snippet tell us about Jesus and His working with His Followers**
 - When the winds are rough and the waves beating down on you.
 - Jesus comes to tell us, "Do not be Afraid"
 - And HE gets into the boat with us.
 - And He can cause the wind and waves to die down...
 - Their Response.... "They were glad to take him into the boat..."
- **From John's Perspective**
 - As soon as He got in they were immediately where they were going...
- **Application:**
 - Don't let the trials and tough times that come your way get you afraid...
 - You have nothing to fear... Unless you are not one of His children...
 - Take your fears and worries and cares to Jesus...
 - 1 Peter 5:7⁷ casting all your anxieties on him, because he cares for you.

❖ The People Were Seeking Jesus

- ²²On the next day the crowd that remained on the other side of the sea saw that there had been only one boat there, and that Jesus had not entered the boat with his disciples, but that his disciples had gone away alone. ²³Other boats from Tiberias came near the place where they had

eaten the bread after the Lord had given thanks. ²⁴ So when the crowd saw that Jesus was not there, nor his disciples, they themselves got into the boats and went to Capernaum, seeking Jesus. ²⁵ When they found him on the other side of the sea, they said to him, “Rabbi, when did you come here?”

➤ **The People Went Looking for Jesus**

- These guys were paying attention...
- They noticed that there was only one boat before
- And now there were no boats.... And Jesus didn't get in the boat...
- I think they were confused at this point...

➤ **After the Lord had Given Thanks**

- John describes the miracle that had just happened... as the place **After the Lord had given thanks..**
 - I think He trying to teach us that we are to be thankful for the things God has given us.

➤ **The crowd wondered how He crossed the Sea**

- He did not get into the only boat
 - **Rabbi, When did you come here?**
- Who knows if they ever found out...
 - But, He just walked across the water as we know...
- I would have wondered the same thing

➤ **So, they found themselves some boats and went looking for Him...**

- They had become quite the persistent group...
- They were kindof like that kid that doesn't go home at supper time...
- And he stays at your house at supper time, so you have to feed him cause you feel for him
- Then you try to get rid of him... but he follows you around like a puppy

➤ **It was a good thing for them to be persistent...**

- There was just one main problem...

❖ **1) The People Were Coming to Jesus With Wrong Motives**

- ²⁶ Jesus answered them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, you are seeking me, not because you saw signs, but because you ate your fill of the loaves.

➤ **You are seeking me, not because you saw the signs...**

- **These guys were not like the group back in John 3 that believed on him because of the signs...**
 - Yet many of those still didn't believe in Him correctly...
 - They believed in the name of Jesus the Miracle Worker...
 - But not Jesus the SON of God... The One Who gives eternal life...
- This group is not even there because He fed 5000 people from 5 pieces of bread and two fish...
- They missed the Sign that pointed to Who He Is

➤ **But Because you ate your fill of the loaves**

- Jesus says, that these people are seeking Jesus, because they want earthly gains...
- Jesus is trying to tell them, He did not come here for that
 - All His works and miracles are to lead people to eternal life...
 - Not wanting this temporary life more...
 - Or finding ways to be more comfortable in this life...

➤ **Do you, or Did you come to Jesus because you wanted more earthly stuff.**

- And you saw that an association with Jesus would help you get more stuff...
- Maybe it is physical stuff that you buy...
- Or maybe it is social standing... Or maybe it is more respect...

➤ **If... You do not come to Jesus**

- Because of who He is... then you have not truly come to Jesus...

- He is the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world....
- We must come to Him because we all will perish when we pass from this temporary life w/o Him

❖ **Jesus Continues to Intentionally Lead Them Toward Life**

- ²⁷ **Do not labor for the food that perishes, but for the food that endures to eternal life, which the Son of Man will give to you. For on him God the Father has set his seal."**
- **Jesus is so patient....**
 - He doesn't just simply write them off... He begins to reason with them
 - And to teach them... to give them wisdom and instruction...
 - And if they would only listen.... He says...
- **Do Not Labor for Perishing Food**
 - They had the same problem that many have today...
 - They are storing up things that will pass away...
 - The most important thing for them is not eternity, but rather right now...
- **Laboring for Eternal food**
 - Put your energy into getting the food that lasts forever
 - Search for the food that endures...
- **Jesus gives Eternal Food**
 - It is the Son of Man that gives this to you...
 - And this is Jesus favorite title for himself throughout the gospels...
 - The title had Messianic qualities to it, but it also pointed out His humility
 - Jesus wanted them to see He is identifying himself with them...
- **God Has set His Seal on Jesus**
 - Jesus, is simply letting them know... that the Father, whom they worship
 - Sent Him to these people... **He has set His seal on Him...**
 - And what He does and says are true...
- **How much effort do we put into eternal things...**
 - You may say... I ate of the ternal bread that Jesus is offering...
 - Then why do you spend so much time worrying about the here and not eternity
- **We are to live like we do not belong here... Like this is not our home**
 - **Matthew 6:19-20** ¹⁹ **"Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal,** ²⁰ **but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal.**

❖ **The Crowd wanted to do the Works of God**

- ²⁸ **Then they said to him, "What must we do, to be doing the works of God?"**
- **Why do they ask this Question?**
 - They wanted to make sure they were doing all the things God wanted them to do.
 - They lived by the law of Moses, and all the laws that had been made up since.
 - They were looking for a new revelation... They already thought He was a Prophet like Moses...
- **The People wanted something to do...**
 - They were expecting Jesus to give them some instructions...
 - And then they could go out and get to work, and be doing the works of God....
- **The people mistook Work for Faith**
 - They wanted to labor and earn their reward...
 - They were looking for Jesus to give them an answer, and they would be able to fulfill it
 - With their own power...
- **Jesus answer is a shock....**

❖ The Work of God is Believing on Jesus

- ²⁹ Jesus answered them, “This is the work of God, that you believe in him whom he has sent.”

➤ The Work of God IS: That You believe in Him whom He has sent

- Very simply...
 - John 1:12 ¹² But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God,
 - Romans 10:11 ¹¹ For the Scripture says, “Everyone who believes in him will not be put to shame.”
 - Romans 10:13 ¹³ For “everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.”
 - John 3:15 ¹⁵ that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.
 - John 3:16 ¹⁶ “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.
 - John 3:18 ¹⁸ Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God.
 - John 3:36 ³⁶ Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life; whoever does not obey the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God remains on him.
- ### ➤ And He continues throughout the book of John saying this
- And We see people believing on Him...
 - Close to 18 more times just in John

❖ Many Still Did Not Believe

- ³⁰ So they said to him, “Then what sign do you do, that we may see and believe you? What work do you perform?”

➤ The Most shocking thing about Jesus Answer: Believing is the Work....

- Is that they still didn’t believe...

➤ They are looking for a sign to believe in....

- They are still continually infatuated with the outward sign...
- And not what the sign or miracle is telling you about the One doing the Miracle...

➤ The Signs were to point people to the nature of who Jesus is...

- And to some within the Bible.... They got it...
- **After Jesus walked on the water:**
 - Matthew 14:33 ³³ And those in the boat worshiped him, saying, “Truly you are the Son of God.”
- **After the calming of the terrible storm:**
 - Luke 8:25 ²⁵ He said to them, “Where is your faith?” And they were afraid, and they marveled, saying to one another, “Who then is this, that he commands even winds and water, and they obey him?”

➤ What about us?

- Do we still lack in our faith?
 - Because we have failed to see that Jesus is working around us daily....
 - Providing for us... And drawing us closer to Him...
 - Answering our prayers...
- Believers: Do you pray for things and have God answer them, but never notice that He did it?
 - And never thank Him for those things...

❖ Mistaking Creature for Creator

- ³¹ Our fathers ate the manna in the wilderness; as it is written, ‘He gave them bread from heaven to eat.’ ” ³² Jesus then said to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, it was not Moses who gave you the bread from heaven, but my Father gives you the true bread from heaven.

➤ Jesus Response Reveals Their Heart

- He knew that in their heart... their belief and trust was more on Moses
- Than the true provider...
- Man has a tendency to need to be familiar with its religion...
- And we love to make idols of things that were made by God...
- They held the belief that it was Moses that had given them the bread..
- **Jesus is trying to correct their bad Theology... (Understanding of God)**
 - Look to God.... Jesus is Saying.... God is going to give you what you need...
- **Paul gives a strong Indictment against such thinking:**
 - **Romans 1:21-25** (²¹ For although they knew God, they did not honor him as God or give thanks to him, but they became futile in their thinking, and their foolish hearts were darkened. ²² Claiming to be wise, they became fools, ²³ and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images resembling mortal man and birds and animals and creeping things. ²⁴ Therefore God gave them up in the lusts of their hearts to impurity, to the dishonoring of their bodies among themselves, ²⁵ because they exchanged the truth about God for a lie and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever! Amen.
- **What thing that God has made for your enjoyment do you worship....**
 - What things have we idolized in our lives
 - That should be seen as gifts from God, and an opportunity to worship God

❖ **Jesus is the Eternal Bread**

- ³³ For the bread of God is he who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world.” ³⁴ They said to him, “Sir, give us this bread always.”
- **The Gospel is summed up right here**
 - The Bread of God is He who comes down from heaven and gives life to the World.
 - Jesus is pointing back to His initial coming... (Incarnation)
 - Phil 2 says He humbled himself to become a man..... God became man
 - And Jesus is pointing forward to His death on the cross.....
 - It is through His death, that we can have life...
- **Gives Life to the World.**
 - The beaten body, and blood of Jesus give life to all who believe...
 - **His sacrifice: Satisfied the wrath of God on sinful man...**
 - Because God is Holy and Just, He must punish Sin...
 - So Jesus takes the punishment for us...
 - And the Bible says that this is enough
 - And that it is pleasing to God
- Sadly, their answer indicates they still do not understand unto believing

❖ **Invitation**

- **Do you understand today?**
 - Do you see Jesus the Son of God and Savior of the World in these scriptures?
 - If so, Respond today
- **Believers**
 - Do you see the great and marvelous things about Jesus.
 - Do you see His great love toward mankind
 - Do you see Him being intentional to reach the lost
 - Do you see Him trying to persuade them and give them understanding into who He is...
 - Have you made idols of the gifts He has given You?
 - We must also confess