

"For the bread of God is He who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world. They said to Him, Sir, give us this bread always." – John 6:33-34

I. Sign Seekers

- a. The people were chasing Jesus because they heard of the physical food supply and the sign.
- b. The crowds saw and ate the miracle, but they failed to recognize the sign *in* the miracle.
- c. The meaning of "sign" in this text points beyond the physical reality to the reality of revelation. The bread was given to prove a point and not just to feed the people.
- d. What the people needed was not food, but life. Food only sustains, but Jesus gives eternal life.
- e. The *point* is that is Jesus, the authentic sign, certified as genuine by the Father. He is the one who gives eternal life, *the food* that does not perish. (v.27)
- f. Jesus teaches there are two kinds of food available to us: 1) food for the body, is necessary, but not most in important; 2) food for the inner man; the spirit, is essential. (Read Isaiah 55:2)
- g. Galileans were operating on the faith, "Keep putting more in our hands and we will believe."
- h. The people wanted to "see and believe", but faith based on signs alone can lead people astray. Why? Is seeing really believing?

II. The Bread that Gives Life

- a. The source of manna was not Moses but God. The God of Moses was now among them giving them true bread. *This is the one who comes down from heaven* (Jesus).
- b. The Jews believed their works were a sign of their faith. The Galileans asked Jesus, "What work do you perform?"
- c. Faith includes all the works which God requires, but Jesus' answer directs them to *one work, believe in Him whom He has sent*. (v. 29) Jesus is the foundation of Christian faith.
- d. Unfortunately, the people saw Jesus and the provision of food as a temporary matter. Jesus declares he is the solution to our spiritual hunger as the Bread of Life.
- e. Jesus came to not save them from starvation but from damnation. The primary message of the Gospel is, *believe in the Lord Jesus and be saved*.
- f. Jesus came into the world to change our desires. Jesus did not come to be *useful*, but to be *precious*.
- g. Faith is the work most pleasing to God. God *worked* and sent His Son. We must now *work* to continuously believe in Him.
- h. *It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God*. (Matthew 4:4; Heb 10:38; 2 Cor 5:7)

III. Lessons to be Learned

- a. Today, the "Galilean mentality" still exists in the church. Some have no need for "faith exercise", because they believe, "I'm saved and I'm good." What is wrong with this kind of faith?
- b. How do we work to believe? We work to feed our faith. We work (exercise our faith) and believe in His Words; repentance dwells in faith; love of God is in faith; forgiveness of self and others is in faith; and the Holy Spirit works through our faith to accomplish the Lord's will.
- c. Jesus is the Author and Finisher of faith. We must work with Christ to fill the pages of our faith story. (2 Tim 4:7)