

## Don't be Fooled!

Kossuth Street Baptist Church, 30 May 2010

John 6:22-40

Introduction:

Purpose of the Gospel of John: John 20:31

### The various ways this happens in the Gospel of John (ch. 1-6):

- Calling of the first Disciple
- Calling of Philip and Nathanael
- Turning the water into wine
- Cleansing of the temple
- Nicodemus...you must be born again!
- Woman at the well...I who speak to you am he!
- Healing of the official's son
- Healing of the lame man at the pool of Bethesda
- Feeding 5,000
- Jesus walking on the water

So as we begin our look at a few verses in this 6<sup>th</sup> chapter of John's gospel, we know we are jumping into the middle of a context. To help set the stage a bit, we go back and see that because Jesus had healed the man who had been an invalid for 38 year at the pool of Bethesda, a large crowd has begun to follow Jesus. This becomes an occasion for Jesus to test his own disciples. Philip responds to the test by saying that the wages of two hundred (200) work days would not be enough to feed all of the people who were gathered. Then Andrew, who was Simon Peter's brother, comes along and states that he has found a boy with five (5) barley loaves and two (2) fish...but adds *"What are they for so many?"*

After performing the miracle where 5,000 men are fed, Jesus withdrew from the crowd and His disciples to pray. Instead of waiting for Jesus, His disciples decided to get in their boats to make the trip to Capernaum, just a little over 6 miles to the north. In the course of their journey they encounter a storm and Jesus comes walking on water to meet them in the middle of the storm. They "immediately" arrive safely at their destination....a miracle itself in addition to the feeding of the 5,000 and walking on water!

### READ JOHN 6:22-40

The crowd, desiring to see another miracle performed, pursues Jesus until they find him in Capernaum. Notice the questions in this passage in verses 25, 28, and two in verse 30. (a) *"Rabbi, when did you come here?"*, v. 25 ; (b) *"What must we do to be doing the works of God?"*, v. 28; (c) *"Then what sign do you do, that we may see and believe you?"*, v. 30; (d) *"What work do you perform?"*, v. 30

Notice in verses 22-23 the observations the crowd makes, which help them to understand that Jesus was no longer close by. In verse 24 we read they decide to pursue Jesus and get into boats and go to Capernaum . In verse 25 they ask the question:"Rabbi, when did you come here?" Now if they had asked the question: "How did you get here?" They would have heard an amazing story, in response....but clearly they were more focused on more temporal issues such as satisfying their own needs (and perhaps wondering why Jesus wasn't impressed with all the attention He was receiving).

This morning we will give structure to our discussion around four false assumptions we find in today's text. These four WRONG assumptions result in the practical outworking of four warnings which can be applied in the life of the believer and the unbeliever, alike. As we see these false assumptions, we will seek biblical instruction on how to avoid drawing the same wrong conclusions as the crowd in the passage we will examine together this morning.

### **FALSE Assumptions**

1. The hard work and effort I put into seeking Jesus demonstrates I am serious about following Him.
2. Temporal things, because they are visible and make me feel good, are the most important things in life.
3. It is impossible for me to exchange a human leader or a movement for Jesus.
4. Because I have attended church, memorized Scripture, attended prayer meetings and seen the Lord work in many ways, it is impossible that I wouldn't be a child of God.

#### **1. FALSE Assumption #1: The hard work and effort I put into seeking Jesus demonstrates I am serious about following Him. ...vv. 22-26**

- a. Jesus the problem Solver...Jesus will fix the mess I find myself in presently
- b. Jesus the Dream weaver...Jesus will give me all I've ever wanted
- c. People pleasing...For me to seek Jesus will make other people around me happy and will make them approve of me

#### ***How then should we seek Him?***

#### **2. FALSE Assumption # 2: Temporal things, because they are visible and make me feel good, are the most important things in life...(vv. 27 – 29)**

- a. They had eaten "their fill" (6:12) the day before (6: 22: "On the next day the crowd...") because of a miracle Jesus had performed...and were hungry again!

#### **On what are you getting your "fill" today?**

- b. They had desired to come and take Jesus by force to make him king because of this miracle. Making use of Jesus for their own purpose....as we read this, it horrifies us (and if it doesn't, it should!) that anyone would be so crass as to think they could take Jesus by force to make him king!!
- c. They had traveled from Tiberias to Capernaum to find Jesus (a little over 6 miles to the north), v. 24.

#### ***For what then should we be working? How are they obtained?***

- (a) The greatest problem the human being faces is the broken relationship which exists with the Creator-Owner because of sin.
- (b) While there are solutions which **SEEM** to fix the problem quickly, this problem can only *satisfactorily and completely* be settled God's way.
- (c) We are human beings...NOT human doings! Believe in him whom God has sent!!
  - a. To believe I must...know God exists...that He is holy and righteous.
  - b. To believe I must...know that I am sinful...my sin has separated me from my Creator-Owner....that my sin makes me a target of my Creator's just anger.
  - c. To believe I must...know that Jesus is the One and Only Son of God who was sent into the world to perfectly live the law of God and to offer Himself as a sacrifice for many...and that on the third day, He came back to life...and that He will come again as the appointed Judge!

- d. To believe I must...respond in faith to the loving command and gracious invitation of my Creator-Owner to be reconciled to Him and receive eternal life by trusting in Jesus Christ alone and repenting of my sin.

3. **FALSE Assumption # 3: It is impossible for me to replace Jesus with some other movement or human leader. (even good ones!)...(vv. 30 – 35)**

**Don't miss how Jesus presents Himself in the Gospel of John:**

- I am the bread of life (6:35)
- I am the light of the world (8:12)
- I am the door (10:7, 9)
- I am the good shepherd (10:11, 14)
- I am the resurrection and the life, (11:25)
- I am the way, the truth and the life (14:6)
- I am the (true) vine (15:1,5)

***What are the identifying signs of daily bread?***

4. **FALSE Assumption # 4: Because I have attended church, memorized Scripture, attended prayer meetings and seen the Lord work in many ways around me, I can be assured I am a child of God. (vv. 36 - 40)**
- a. Seeing IS **NOT** always believing! **v. 36**
  - b. The Gospel is **ALWAYS** successful! (100%), **v. 37a**
  - c. **No** sin is too great to be forgiven!, **v. 37b**

***What evidence should we consider which points to Jesus as the One and Only Savior and Lord?***

- (a) Don't miss the evidence in the book of John...let alone, the entire Bible!
- (b) Don't miss the evidence in His church!
- (c) Don't miss the evidence in your families!
- (d) Don't miss the evidence in trials and suffering!
- (e) Don't miss the evidence in changed lives all around you!

**Who then can be saved? vv. 38-40**

- Jesus will lose nothing of all that God the Father has given to Him...He will raise them up on the last day!
- **EVERYONE** who looks on the Son...and believes in him will have eternal life...He will raise whoever believes in him up on the last day!

**Practical WARNINGS**

1. **Beware of seeking Jesus for wrong reasons...(vv. 22-26)**
2. **Beware of working for temporal things, rather than that which lasts for eternity...(vv. 27 – 29)**
3. **Beware of trusting in the wrong source (even a seemingly good one!) for your daily bread, and not recognizing the real Source of it! ..(vv. 30 – 35)**
4. **Beware of missing the evidence all around you pointing you to the One and Only Savior and Lord, Jesus! (vv. 36 - 40)**

## Small Group Questions

1. What observations, impressions or questions do you have from the study today?
2. Read John 6:1-59 as a group. What terms or concepts are significant, cause questions or stand out to you for some reason?
3. How does the main idea of the Gospel of John (found in chapter 20, verse 31) impact the passage under consideration (John 6:1-59)?
4. What four questions are asked of Jesus by the crowd? What do these questions teach us? What can we learn to avoid from how the crowd questioned Jesus?
5. Review the four main points from today's message. How has the world's influence in our thinking dulled our senses to actually believe some of the FALSE assumptions we looked at in the study? What specific steps can you, as a believer, take to counteract the influence of the world's thinking in your life? What practical steps can you share with the other group members to encourage them in their daily walk with Christ?
6. Evaluate the statement: *"The hard work and effort I put into seeking Jesus demonstrates I am serious about following Him"* Are there symptoms of this kind of thinking in your own life? If so, what instruction does the Bible give to us (even today's passage!) on how to aggressively deal with it?
7. Identify the key elements of the Gospel found in today's passage (John 6:22-40). Was there a particular aspect which had an impact on your life personally, if so, why?
8. How important is Jesus to obtaining eternal life? What role does He play in this? How is His importance reflected in your daily living? What changes is the Holy Spirit leading you to make so that His importance can be clearly seen in your life?
9. What other human leaders or movements might you be tempted to exchange in place of Jesus? What do you think causes you to do this? What specific passages from the sword of the Spirit assist you in your battle against these besetting tendencies?
10. Perhaps reading this passage of Scripture has made you realize that you have grown dull and weak in your response to the many evidences of God's mercy and grace all around you. Can you identify some of the evidences of God's grace in your life right now? How might you respond to these evidences in worship and adoration? What are the characteristics of God you learn from a reflection such as this?
11. In what ways should you respond to the study of the Word of God today? How will you put what you learned into practice this week?