

## **Why Bother With Jesus?**

### **John 6:22-29**

22 On the following day, when the people who were standing on the other side of the sea saw that there was no other boat there, except that one which His disciples had entered, and that Jesus had not entered the boat with His disciples, but His disciples had gone away alone — 23 however, other boats came from Tiberias, near the place where they ate bread after the Lord had given thanks — 24 when the people therefore saw that Jesus was not there, nor His disciples, they also got into boats and came to Capernaum, seeking Jesus. 25 And 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 and said, "Most assuredly, I say to you, you seek Me, not because you saw the signs, but because you ate of the loaves and were filled. 27 Do not labor for the food which perishes, but for the food which endures to everlasting life, which the Son of Man will give you, because God the Father has set His seal on Him."

28 Then they said to Him, "What shall we do, that we may work the works of God?"

29 Jesus answered and said to them, "This is the work of God, that you believe in Him whom He sent." NKJV

- I. Notice how persistently they seek Him.
  - A. Jesus steals away by night and the next day they cannot find Him.
  - B. But this does not dissuade them.
  - C. They will make Him king.
  - D. They will help Him fulfill His destiny.
- II. But Jesus looks beyond their seeming dedication.
  - A. He knows their thoughts and hearts.
    - 1. John 2:23-25 23 Now when He was in Jerusalem at the Passover, during the feast, many believed in His name when they saw the signs which He did. 24 But Jesus did not commit Himself to them, because He knew all men, 25 and had no need that anyone should testify of man, for He knew what was in man. NKJV
    - 2. We do not like to admit it but we are for ourselves by nature.
    - 3. They seek him for all the wrong reasons.
  - B. Jesus is omniscient
    - 1. He know the thoughts and intents of our very heart.
    - 2. He knows us better than we do ourselves, for we often fool ourselves.
  - C. But He still died for us.

1. His love is not based on our works, thank God.
2. He is not waiting for us to get it all worked out.
3. He is waiting for us to humble ourselves and accept His sacrifice for our sins.
4. To rely 100% on Him and His mercy.

III. People do not always seek Jesus for the right reasons.

- A. This is something that every preacher and church needs to be aware of.
- B. Some seek Jesus for what they can get out of it.
  1. Have you ever heard someone say after a worship service, I just didn't get anything out of that.
  2. Well did they come to get or to give.
    - a. We are to give Him praise.
    - b. We are to give Him our undivided attention.
    - c. We are to give Him the sacrifice of praise.
- C. I have known Christians who were looking to Jesus for a boat, more money, better career etc.
  1. No people have not changed in 2000 years.
  2. If in Jesus presence, before His mighty miracles, after His matchless teaching, they would still seek Him for all the wrong reasons, how far might people stray today.

IV. They ate the loaves but missed the sign (miracle pointing to Jesus).

- A. Jesus said you ate the loaves but missed the significance of the sign.
- B. They were only concerned with their stomach.
  1. Now is that wrong.
  2. Should we quit eating or planning to eat.
  3. No, but we need to get in perspective.
  4. We eat so we can serve Jesus, not serve Jesus so we can eat.
- C. Do we miss what God has done in our lives because we are just looking for more and more and more.
  1. Do we take His bountiful blessings for granted.
  2. Are we like the spoiled child that always has one more item on their list or I WANT.
- D. We serve a Great God and have a Wonderful Savior.

1. Oh please do not reduce God to the servant whose job is to take care of our needs.
  2. He does that but it is not His job.
  3. It is His mercy and grace to us, for if He gave us what we deserved we would not make another 5 minutes.
- V. Jesus cautions them to differentiate between what is temporary and what is eternal.
- A. We are like children playing with their mother's expensive jewelry and thinking that the toy trinkets are of more value than the gems they imitate.
  - B. All you need to do is look at what people get paid to see that we are not thinking about food that has an eternal effect.
- VI. Jesus tells them that He alone is the source of this eternally significant food. V-27b
- A. Regardless of what our anti-Jesus society believes today Jesus is the only way.
  - B. But does our life reflect our belief in Him?
  - C. Where do we spend our time, our money, our affections.
  - D. Can people see our love for Jesus, our dedication to His kingdom.
  - E. Or do they see people dedicated to the kingdoms of this world.
- VII. Jesus has been sealed by the Father.
- A. John 6:27 That is, marked out and authenticated for that transcendent office, to impart to the world the bread of an everlasting life, and this in the character of "the Son of Man." JFB
  - B. John 6:27 Sealing by God is rare in the New Testament (2 Cor 1:22; Eph 1:13; 4:30). It is not clear to what item, if any single one, John refers when the Father set his seal of approval on the Son. It was done at his baptism when the Holy Spirit came upon him and the Father spoke to him. RWP
  - C. John 6:27 The English Revised Version (1885) makes the sentence culminate properly in "God:" "for Him the Father, even God, hath sealed." According to the strict Greek order it is: "for Him the Father sealed, even God." Vincent
  - D. John 6:27 By this expression, our Lord points out the commission which, as the Messiah, he received from the Father, to be prophet and priest to an ignorant, sinful world. As a person who wishes to communicate his mind to another who is at a distance writes a letter, seals it with his own seal, and sends it directed to the person for whom it was written, so Christ, who lay in the bosom of the Father, came to interpret the divine will to man, bearing the image, superscription, and seal of God, in the immaculate holiness of his nature, unsullied truth of his doctrine, and in the astonishing evidence of his miracles. Adam Clarke's Commentary
- VIII. What shall we do, that we may work the works of God?

- A. John 6:28 The idea of doing something to merit salvation is one of the last that the sinner ever surrenders. Barnes
- B. Robertson says they are asking what they might do to continue to work the works of God.
  - 1. There may have been an element of vague sincerity in this question in spite of their supercilious attitude. RWP

IX. To believe on Him is to do the work of God.

- A. Above all else.
- B. Before all else.
- C. Without this you cannot do what pleases God.