

John 6:22-71...²² The next day, the crowd that had stayed on the other side of the sea knew there had been only one boat. They also knew that Jesus had not boarded the boat with His disciples, but that His disciples had gone off alone. ²³ Some boats from Tiberias came near the place where they ate the bread after the Lord gave thanks. ²⁴ When the crowd saw that neither Jesus nor His disciples were there, they got into the boats and went to Capernaum looking for Jesus. ²⁵ When they found Him on the other side of the sea, they said to Him, “Rabbi, when did You get here?” ²⁶ Jesus answered, “**I assure you: You are looking for Me, not because you saw the signs, but because you ate the loaves and were filled.**” ²⁷ **Don’t work for the food that perishes but for the food that lasts for eternal life, which the Son of Man will give you, because God the Father has set His seal of approval on Him.**” ²⁸ “What can we do to perform the works of God?” they asked. ²⁹ Jesus replied, “**This is the work of God—that you believe in the One He has sent.**” ³⁰ “What sign then are You going to do so we may see and believe You?” they asked. “What are You going to perform?” ³¹ Our fathers ate the manna in the wilderness, just as it is written: He gave them bread from heaven to eat.” ³² Jesus said to them, “**I assure you: Moses didn’t give you the bread from heaven, but My Father gives you the real bread from heaven.**” ³³ **For the bread of God is the One who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world.**” ³⁴ Then they said, “Sir, give us this bread always!” ³⁵ “**I am the bread of life,**” Jesus told them. “**No one who comes to Me will ever be hungry, and no one who believes in Me will ever be thirsty again.**” ³⁶ But as I told you, you’ve seen Me, and yet you do not believe. ³⁷ Everyone the Father gives Me will come to Me, and the one who comes to Me I will never cast out. ³⁸ For I have come down from heaven, not to do My will, but the will of Him who sent Me. ³⁹ This is the will of Him who sent Me: that I should lose none of those He has given Me but should raise them up on the last day. ⁴⁰ For this is the will of My Father: that everyone who sees the Son and believes in Him may have eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day.” ⁴¹ Therefore the Jews started complaining about Him because He said, “**I am the bread that came down from heaven.**” ⁴² They were saying, “Isn’t this Jesus the son of Joseph, whose father and mother we know? How can He now say, ‘**I have come down from heaven**’?” ⁴³ Jesus answered them, “**Stop complaining among yourselves.**” ⁴⁴ **No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him, and I will raise him up on the last day.** ⁴⁵ It is written in the Prophets: And they will all be taught by God. Everyone who has listened to and learned from the Father comes to Me—” ⁴⁶ not that anyone has seen the Father except the One who is from God. He has seen the Father. ⁴⁷ “**I assure you: Anyone who believes has eternal life.**” ⁴⁸ **I am the bread of life.** ⁴⁹ Your fathers ate the manna in the wilderness, and they died. ⁵⁰ This is the bread that comes down from heaven so that anyone may eat of it and not die. ⁵¹ **I am the living bread that came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread he will live forever. The bread that I will give for the life of the world is My flesh.**” ⁵² At that, the Jews argued among themselves, “How can this man give us His flesh to eat?” ⁵³ So Jesus said to them, “**I assure you: Unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink His blood, you do not have life in yourselves.**” ⁵⁴ **Anyone who eats My flesh and drinks My blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day,** ⁵⁵ because My flesh is real food and My blood is real drink. ⁵⁶ **The one who eats My flesh and drinks My blood lives in Me, and I in him.** ⁵⁷ Just as the living Father sent Me and I live because of the Father, so the one who feeds on Me will live because of Me. ⁵⁸ **This is the bread that came down from heaven; it is not like the manna your fathers ate—and they died. The one who eats this bread will live forever.**” ⁵⁹ He said these things while teaching in the synagogue in Capernaum. ⁶⁰ Therefore, when many of His disciples heard this, they said, “This teaching is hard! Who can accept it?” ⁶¹ Jesus, knowing in Himself that His disciples were complaining about this, asked them, “**Does this offend you?**” ⁶² **Then what if you were to observe the Son of Man ascending to where He was before?** ⁶³ **The Spirit is the One who gives life. The flesh doesn’t help at all. The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and are life.** ⁶⁴ **But there are some among you who don’t believe.**” (For Jesus knew from the beginning those who would not believe and the one who would betray Him.) ⁶⁵ He said, “**This is why I told you that no one can come to Me unless it is granted to him by the Father.**” ⁶⁶ From that moment many of His disciples turned back and no longer accompanied Him. ⁶⁷ Therefore Jesus said to the Twelve, “**You don’t want to go away too, do you?**” ⁶⁸ Simon Peter answered, “Lord, to Whom would we go? You have the words of eternal life. ⁶⁹ We have come to believe and know that You are the Holy One of God!” ⁷⁰ Jesus replied to them, “**Didn’t I choose you, the Twelve? Yet one of you is the Devil!**” ⁷¹ He was referring to Judas, Simon Iscariot’s son, one of the Twelve, because he was going to betray Him.

We all know someone (maybe ourselves?) that just seems to ‘miss the point’ on a joke, comment or a situation. It is sometimes very humorous when it happens to someone else of course). This passage could be entitled:

Adventures in Missing the Point

“We begin the chapter by noting that Jesus becomes the original Inventor of fast-food; He opens a one-shot, free-for-all-comers, franchise on a hillside in Tiberias. Not only does He dish out the food, He does so in a most unusual fashion, feeding thousand’s of people with five barley loaves and a couple fish. Enough food is left over to supply us all for a nice after-church potluck dinner, and the Bible says that this miracle is a sign to the people. Sensing that the people fed there were about to grab Him by force and make Him an earthly king, Jesus excuses Himself and gets out of there, into the wilderness by Himself. The disciples don’t know where He has gone, and so when night time comes, they decide to take a boat and cross the Sea of Galilee in search of Him. As seemed to be the case often with them, as they got out into the sea, a storm arose, and caused them a lot of hard rowing. In the midst of all this, Jesus comes strolling by on the top of the water, as though nothing were unusual about that (of course, for Jesus, there was nothing unusual about that!). This freaks out the disciples, but Jesus tells them that everything is cool, He hops into the boat, and the Bible says that the little ship immediately at the place where the disciples were headed. By this time, the miracles are piling up in one chapter. Next day, all of the folks who had enjoyed the sumptuous fish feast began to search for Jesus, and the Bible tells us that they hopped into their rowboats and dinghies and canoes and headed across the lake in search of Jesus. Finally, they found Him, and thus embarked on their adventures in missing the point!

People were

➤ Hungry, but missed the point

“They were moved to seek Jesus because their bellies were full, not because their hearts were. Jesus effectively tells them, “hey, you’re looking for Me because I fed you a nice big meal, but you missed the point, the sign. Don’t spend so much of your time worrying about your three squares a day, but instead, concern yourself with the food of eternal life, which I will give to you.” To which we can well imagine they responded with a long, collective, “huh?” They were hungry, but they missed the point about the bread, that it was a sign to them.

.....They were Fixated on the Product, Not the Person

“What does this mean? It means that, when Jesus fed five thousand people with five loaves and a few fish, it was a sign — that is, it was like a beam of glory streaming out from the person of Jesus Christ. It was like a ray of light coming out from Jesus. And when the crowds saw the loaves and felt the pleasures of a full stomach, and thought about what it would be like to have a king who could fill their stomach like that every day, they were thrilled. But what they didn’t do, when they looked at the sign, was to let their eyes run up the beam of glory from the pleasure in their belly to the treasure of Christ. They didn’t follow the ray of light back up to the beauty of the sun. What they did was fixate on the product of the miracle, not the person of the miracle. And so the sign ceased to be a sign for them. And Jesus said, “You are seeking me, not because you saw signs, but because you ate your fill of the loaves.” <https://www.desiringgod.org/messages/do-not-labor-for-the-food-that-perishes>

➤ Working, but missed the point

“Well, what do we have to do to work for this eternal life food stuff?” And Jesus graciously answers that question, pointing them to the reality that working the work of God involves believing in Himself. This is vital for us, and answers an important question: what makes a work “good”? We read, for instance, in Ephesians 2 at one point Paul making remarks about “good works” in what might be called a disparaging way, but then two verses later, in verse ten, he says that God has created us in Christ Jesus to do good works—that is why we are here! Paul confused? Paul talking out of two sides of his mouth? No. Here is the difference in a nutshell: “good works” attempted in order to prove ourselves good enough to atone for our sins are not good and acceptable works before God at all. There is no amount of good that we can do to “make it up to God” for the bad we have done. If we’ve got 20 rotten eggs in a skillet, we can’t throw in 40 and make the massive omelet a good one! So a work done to attempt to curry favor with God is worthless. On the other hand, deeds that we do out of humble gratitude for what God has already done for us in Christ are what can rightly be called “good works”! Jesus points them to the fact that the initial “good work” that they can do is no work at all, but simple faith in Himself. But that doesn’t cut it for them, for they were...(Adapted from SermonCentral.com)

➤ Looking, but missed the point

“Jews were always looking for a sign. “Give us a sign, and we’ll believe you”, they said, while the miracle food was still in their digestive tracts! It wasn’t the want of evidence that kept them from Christ; it was the want of faith! “Seeing is believing” was their motto, as it is of many today. It was Thomas’ motto; “unless I see the nail prints in Jesus’ hands, and thrust my hand into His side, I will not believe that He is truly risen from the grave!” Well, Jesus gave him what He asked for, and then gave him a one-two combination that was both comforting and convicting at the same time: “you have seen and believed; blessed are those who have not seen, and yet believe!” Where the world says “seeing is believing”, Jesus says, “believing is seeing!” Without faith, it is not just highly unlikely that you will please God; it is impossible!

Moving further, we read the words of the crowd regarding the manna. It was popular among the Jews to credit Moses with the provision of the manna that had sustained the people of Israel wandering in the desert for forty years. In fact, it was a Jewish tradition that, when the Messiah came, He would renew the miracle of the manna. Did some wonder if Jesus was going to keep doing this, since He had already effectively done it once? But Jesus corrected their thinking. One, it was God, not Moses, Who deserved the credit for the manna; two, God was still in the bread-making business; three, the true bread wasn’t manna, but Jesus! Moses for forty years was instrumental in supplying manna from God; Jesus for all time is the true Manna, spiritual food Jesus, the Son of God very clearly shows us that He is the answer for all, He is the Bread of Life”. (SermonCentral)

....Jesus Is the Treasure, Not His Gifts

“This gospel is written to reveal the glory of Christ — not mainly the glory of his gifts — so that we would not make this mistake, but would see Christ himself as our Treasure — our all-satisfying Bread from heaven — and have eternal life. <https://www.desiringgod.org/messages/do-not-labor-for-the-food-that-perishes>

John 6:27... “²⁷ Don’t work for the food that perishes but for the food that lasts for eternal life, which the Son of Man will give you, because God the Father has set His seal of approval on Him.

The key question this morning is: What are you hungry for?

1. Are you hungry for His provision or His person? (v.25-40, 52-59)
2. Are you hungry for the temporary or the eternal? (v. 43-51)
3. Are you hungry for the flesh or the spirit? (v. 60-70)

We all search, desire and need nourishment both physically and spiritually. But we must take the initiative. If I were to place a plate of fresh, hot, buttery biscuits in front of you, would you just sit there and look at it, or would you actually reach out and eat?

- “Thinking about eating is not the same as eating
- Knowing nutritional facts is not the same as eating
- Understanding how food is processed by the body is not the same as eating

In the same manner...

- Thinking about Jesus is not the same as believing
- Knowing facts about Jesus is not the same as believing
- Understanding how Jesus saves a person is not the same as believing”

(Carter & Wredberg. *Christ-Centered Commentary: John. P. 154*)

Saint Augustine is quoted as saying “*You, O God, have made us for Yourself, and our hearts find no peace until they rest in You*”

“*O God, You have made us to hunger for you, and our starving souls find no true nourishment until they feast on You*”. Only Jesus can fill the emptiness inside” (Carter & Wredberg. P. 158)

Are You Satisfied With Jesus?

Bottom Line: (*Ibid. p. 164*) We must Confess our Faith in Jesus We must Commit to Following Jesus