

I. THE MISSING BREAD

A. Looks can be deceiving (vs. 24)

1. While it appeared that the crowd sincerely sought the Lord
 - a. He tells us a different story (vs. 26)
 - b. He knew their hearts and minds
2. Look at all they did
 - a. They looked for Jesus, but He wasn't there
 - b. They looked for the disciples, but they weren't there
 - c. They looked for more ships, and they weren't there
 - d. Some more boats arrived, and they took them
 - e. They traipsed all over the countryside and finally found Him
3. How had He gotten here so quickly?
 - a. Notice He never answered them
 - b. What if He had told them about the night before?
 - c. See – this crowd knew nothing about how He had prayed
 - i. In the mountain for His disciples
 - ii. Nothing about the storm-tossed ship
 - iii. Nothing about walking on water
 - iv. Nothing about Peter stepping out on faith
 - v. Nothing about the instant arrival on shore
 - d. They were a little put out with Him for leaving them
 - e. These were the “camp-followers”
 - f. They had no REAL interest
 - g. They only sought the bread to fill their bellies

B. Minds on Temporal Needs (vs. 25)

1. Matthew 6:33 – “But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.”
 - a. What are they after? Physical things
 - b. Matthew 6:31 – “Therefore take no thought, saying, What shall we eat? or, What shall we drink? or, Wherewithal shall we be clothed?”
 - c. He tells them the Father already knows our needs
2. H.O.P.E.
 - a. We would pick up a van load every Friday night
 - i. We'd feed them a snack before HOPE
 - ii. And keep the coffee flowing all night long
 - iii. We'd feed them a meal after the preaching
 - b. Every week we'd have new faces
 - c. And every week we'd never see them again.
 - d. I know – I did the intro booklet with newcomers myself

- e. We weren't a handout of soup kitchen – we preached the Gospel
- f. We would help people one time (never cash)
- 3. Maximize your Sales!
 - a. People look at church sometimes as networking opportunities
 - b. Meet new people and grow your business
 - c. Find the biggest church and join up and watch your sales soar!
 - d. I've never wanted to sell a car to a church member
 - e. It's a little too much like doing business with family
- C. He knows why they sought Him (vs. 26)
 - 1. He is the Word of God
 - a. He already knew the thoughts and intents of their hearts
 - b. He knew why
 - 2. He also knew what they needed!
 - a. If He IS the Word of God (and He is)
 - b. Then we need Him everyday
 - c. If He IS the Bread of Life (and He is)
 - d. Then WE need Him every day
 - e. More than physical bread, we need spiritual manna from above!
 - f. We can fast and miss a meal or two, but we better not miss Him!
 - 3. They were concerned about the Bread in Life
 - a. But He tells them of the Bread for Life
 - b. And then He tells them about the Bread OF Life

II. THE BREAD IN LIFE

- A. The Smell of Baking Bread
 - 1. Why is it so delicious?
 - a. I had a friend whose house sat near the Sunbeam Bakery
 - b. When the wind was just right the smell would drive you crazy
 - c. Nothing better than fresh baked
 - d. Still warm from the oven, a large pat of butter melting
 - 2. Hillbilly Bread
 - a. Brown and serve loaves – I would beg my Mom to get some
 - b. I could make a meal out of it on a frosty Saturday afternoon
 - c. Chores all done, fire in the furnace, and hot bread
 - 3. There's nothing wrong with physical food
 - a. We need food to survive
 - b. But earthly food only goes so far
 - c. Why are you hungry? You ate last Sunday.
 - 4. Jesus did not tell them not to eat (vs. 26)
 - 5. He told them they sought Him for the wrong reasons! (vs. 27)
- B. Sealed
 - 1. How was He sealed; you ask?
 - 2. With Baptism! In John 1:33. Why?

- a. Baptism is a picture of the Death, Burial, and Resurrection
 - b. He began His ministry on Earth with a picture
 - c. A picture of His ULTIMATE ministry on Earth
 - d. The Cross and Glorious Resurrection demonstrated on day one!
- 3. The first thing He did dedicated to His finished WORK on the Cross
- C. It is a Gift
 - 1. Notice in vs. 27 – the Son of man shall GIVE unto you
 - a. You can't even earn it
 - b. But they still misunderstand.
 - c. They ask, "What shall we DO?"
 - 2. Man always wants to DO something for God rather than accept what God has already done for Man.
 - a. The Rich Young Ruler came to Jesus by night in Matthew 19:16 – "And, behold, one came and said unto him, Good Master, what good thing shall I do, that I may have eternal life?"
 - b. Saul of Tarsus asked in Acts 9:6 – "And he trembling and astonished said, Lord, what wilt thou have me to do? And the Lord said unto him, Arise, and go into the city, and it shall be told thee what thou must do."
 - c. The Philippian Jailor in Acts 16:30 – "And brought them out, and said, Sirs, what must I do to be saved?"
 - 3. There is NOTHING WRONG with that question
 - a. Jesus answered them plainly
 - b. They just didn't accept the answer!
 - c. Believe!
 - 4. How do we know they didn't believe? (vs. 30)
 - a. The world says "Seeing is Believing"
 - b. But FAITH says "Believe and You'll See!"
 - c. Jesus understood the bread IN life, but He wanted to tell them of the Bread they needed FOR life.

III. THE BREAD FOR LIFE

- A. Believe and You'll See
 - 1. These were not serious people. They did not seek heavenly things.
 - 2. Remember the rich man in Hell?
 - 3. He wanted Lazarus to go tell his brothers. He wanted them to see a sign!
 - 4. But Abraham told him the truth: Luke 16:31 – "And he said unto him, If they hear not Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded, though one rose from the dead."
 - 5. Let me proclaim it: One DID raise from the dead. His name is Jesus Christ
 - a. He was proclaimed dead by trained killers

- b. Certified dead by the Roman Empire
 - c. And then He arose and was seen by above 500 witnesses!
 - d. And people STILL don't believe it!
- B. Manna (vs. 31)
 - 1. You did it yesterday, can you do again today? Can you do it for 40 years?
 - 2. They were insinuating the Christ was INFERIOR to Moses
 - 3. Jesus corrects them (vs. 32)
- C. What is it?
 - 1. Give us this day our daily bread
 - a. The manna fell faithfully from God every day
 - b. And there was so much of it that some got trodden upon
 - c. We are blessed to have so much of the Word of God
 - 2. A Day in the Life of Ivan Denisovich
 - a. Alyoshka the Baptist
 - b. Had just a few pages of Scripture he hid in the walls
 - c. And we have so much – do we trod upon it like Manna?
 - d. Do we regard His Word as highly as we ought?
 - e. Psalm 138:2 – “I will worship toward thy holy temple, and praise thy name for thy lovingkindness and for thy truth: for thou hast magnified thy word above all thy name.”
 - 3. Begging
 - a. One of the verses that I have never felt I could fully explain:
 - b. Psalm 37:25 – “I have been young, and now am old; yet have I not seen the righteous forsaken, nor his seed begging bread.”
 - c. And then I realized! (vs. 35)
 - d. He is the only bread we need FOR everlasting life
 - e. Why? Because He IS the Bread of Life

IV. THE BREAD OF LIFE

- A. He set the table
 - 1. But He will make no one sit down and eat
 - 2. He is the Bread of Life. He is the Word of God
 - 3. Remember the context here
- B. Many will count these verses as Calvinist
 - 1. All that the Father give me (vs. 37)
 - 2. That refers to faith, which is a gift from God
 - 3. Ephesians 2:8 - For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God:”
 - a. Ever parse that out? Can't be “grace” since it's already not ours
 - b. Even saving FAITH is the gift of God
 - c. In other words, all the that the Father GIVES to the Son
 - 4. See? Calvinism! But wait!

5. Romans 10:17 – “So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.”
 6. But there’s “hearing” and then there’s “hearing.”
- C. Jesus explains it all with vs. 36
1. It puts vs. 37 into context.
 2. You weren’t given faith because you won’t believe.
 3. You won’t believe because you aren’t hearing God’s Word.

V. FEED UPON THE WORD

- A. Let’s feast upon His word
1. We often pray, “Lord increase my faith.”
 2. But do we treat our Bible too lightly?
 3. Faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God.”
- B. If you are here and you hunger in your soul
- C. He is the Bread of Life
- D. Psalm 34:8 – “O taste and see that the LORD is good: blessed is the man that trusteth in him.”