

DON'T BE DISTRACTED BY THE BREAD

By Deon Lieberum
Christian Centre Abbotsford

16 April 2023

Key verses: John 6:35-71

INTRODUCTION

Imagine for a moment you are Jesus and you have crowds of people following you because you've just done a miracle. You fed 5000+ people with a few loaves of bread and some fish.

You are also aware that most of these people don't really believe you are who you say you are, they're there because of what you can do for them. Even some of those who say they believe and have committed to learn from you.

They're highly impressed by your abilities and want to benefit from what you can do and teach, but as for you being the Messiah, they're not convinced!

In our portion of John today I want you to be aware that Jesus is talking to people who don't really believe in Him.

READ – John 6:26–71

Proposition: Sometimes we can be so distracted by the things that God can do for us, that we miss the one thing that we need, which is Jesus himself!

Why do I say this?

Well, it's not really me who's saying this, it's Jesus! The whole dialogue in John 6:26–71 is Jesus stressing to those who are following him because of the feeding miracle, that it's not physical bread they need, but spiritual bread, that sustains us forever.

Jesus makes some significant statements in these verses.

WHAT STATEMENTS DOES JESUS MAKE THAT ARE SO SIGNIFICANT?

1. The work of God is to believe in the Son.
 - Because what God is building has Jesus as its corner stone.
2. **"I am the bread of life"** - We need to have a realisation that Jesus is what we need.
 - Belief in Jesus is what will sustain you, not the answer to your prayers.
 - Jesus says, "You will never hunger or thirst again."
 - Meaning he will sustain you, no matter what.
 - When we come to Christ our perspective (the way we see things) changes:
Perspective: a particular attitude towards or way of regarding something; a point of view.
 - John 3:3 – Jesus says when someone is born again, they can now SEE the kingdom of God (John 3:3).

- When you are born again, your perspective changes.
- You can now perceive the Kingdom of God.
- John 6: 40 – **God’s will** (His desire) is that everyone who SEES THE SON (realises who Jesus is...) and believes in Him may have everlasting life (John 6:40)
 - Everyone who REALISES that Jesus is the SON! And puts their trust in him may have everlasting life.

Illustration – My salvation:

This happened to me on the 20th November 1994, between 7pm and 8pm:

- I had a realization that I needed Jesus to rescue me from my sin.
- The next day, my perspective had changed, forever!

Which brings me to this...

3. We CANNOT believe in Jesus unless the Father draws us!

- Vs 44: No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him; and I will raise him up at the last day.
- Vs 65: **And He said, “Therefore I have said to you that no one can come to Me unless it has been granted to him by My Father.”**

When I tell my story I like to say that God rescued me against my will.

- Why? – Because I was dead and he resurrected my spiritual corpse by dying for me and breathing the life of his spirit into me, and I was forever changed.
- How do I know the Father is drawing me?
 - You will realise He is what you need!
 - You’ll see or perceive the SON and that He is your answer.

CONCLUSION

Are we so distracted by the things that God can do for us, that we miss the one thing that we need, Jesus!?

Mark 4:18–19 says:

Now these are the ones sown among thorns; they are the ones who hear the word, and the cares of this world, the deceitfulness of riches, and the desires for other things entering in choke the word, and it becomes unfruitful.

Isn’t it interesting that our perspective can determine the fruitfulness of the Word in us?

In the end of this portion of John, in verse 66, we see that most of his followers walked away.

It’s possible that we can be taking part in the activities of the church and completely miss Jesus **because we’re** more focused on what He can do for us.

Paul says the following in his letter to the Philippians:

But what things were gain to me, these I have counted loss for Christ. Yet indeed I also count all things loss for the excellence of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them as rubbish, that I may gain Christ and be found in Him, not having my own righteousness, which is from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which is from God by faith; that I may know Him and the power of His

resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death, if, by any means, I may attain to the resurrection from the dead. (Philippians 3:7-11)

Jesus took the penalty of our sin and died on the cross for us so we could receive His righteousness. He rose from death to life to justify our righteousness. We can now stand before God the Father having been freed from sin and shame and have a relationship with Him through the sacrifice of Jesus.

Invitation:

I would like you to locate yourself. Turn on your spiritual GPS so to speak.

Are you more concerned with what Jesus can do for you, than Jesus himself? Do the cares of this world, the deceitfulness of riches, and the desires for other things have more sway on the way you live than being obedient to Jesus?

If that's you, Jesus is calling you to repent and place your trust in Him, in spite of your circumstance.

He wants to change your perspective, but He can only do that if you turn away from a sinful life and believe in Him.

If you want to receive Jesus as your Lord and Saviour, pray this:

Dear Heavenly Father, today I repent. I turn away from my sinful life and I turn to you. Thank you for sending your son Jesus Christ to die for me and for forgiving me for my sin, **it's penalty** and affects. Lord Jesus I place my trust in you. I believe you died for me. I also believe you rose from the dead, and I surrender to your lordship in my life. Amen.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. Locate yourself: What are you more focused on throughout the day –
 - The cares and concerns of life
 - Your finances or lack thereof
 - The things you wish you had (what you would spend your money on if you had some)
 - Jesus?
2. Have you had the perspective change that comes with being born again? Explain what changed when you encountered Jesus and received Him as Lord and Saviour.
3. What will you do to keep Jesus as the focus of your daily life?