

When is enough, enough? Have you ever noticed that some people seem to spend their whole lives chasing something? Instead of being satisfied, they always seem to want more. It isn't enough to have a job. They want a better job. It isn't enough to have a home. They want a better home, whatever that means. They aren't satisfied with what their children are doing. They're pushing their children to do more. Have you ever noticed that some people never seem satisfied? And it almost seems the more you have, the more you want. Are you one of those who is living from one goal to the next? Has life become one pursuit after another? Lacking the joy and contentment because there's never enough? Jesus came to show us a different way. The gospel offers an alternative to the endless pursuit for something more. It teaches us that it is possible to be content regardless of our circumstances. Because through the gospel, we learn Jesus Christ is the only source of lasting satisfaction. When you truly take in who Jesus is and what he offers, you will find Jesus is the bread of life. We're on our second week in John chapter 6, and as the crowds are chasing satisfaction, Jesus explains he is the bread of life. And he alone offers lasting satisfaction in this life. This week is a continuation of the story from last week's study, where Jesus fed a miracle-chasing crowd of 5,000 plus on the mountainside. They're following Jesus because they'd seen the signs and wonders. And sure enough, Jesus did not disappoint because he fed the crowd before he withdrew from the crowd. And now the crowd is chasing Jesus again. That's where we pick up the story. John chapter 6 verses 22 through 40 breaks into three divisions. In the first division, the crowd is seeking bread, not Jesus. And in the second division, Jesus explains the crowd is needing Jesus, not bread. And in the third division, the crowd is learning Jesus satisfies.

Now let's open our Bibles to John chapter 6, and in verses 22 to 26, we meet a curious and hungry crowd.

Jesus fed the crowd the day before, and they're on the move again. When the crowd realized that Jesus was nowhere to be found, they had to kapurnum. And when they find him, they are confused as to how he got there. In fact, they say, Rabbi, which means teacher. When did you get here? Now, if you're reading this story from Scripture, it could sound like they're looking for Jesus because they want to learn from him because they call him Rabbi, which means teacher. But Jesus, who knows the hearts and motives of all people, doesn't let that stand. He is not fooled. The crowd is not seeking Jesus for his teaching. The crowd has not followed Jesus across the lake as a sign of respect. Listen to

what Jesus says in verse 26. You are looking for me, not because you saw the signs they performed, but because you ate the loaves and had your fill. It turns out this crowd is not seeking Jesus.

They are seeking bread. They are looking for fast, free food. And they may just be fooling themselves by calling Jesus Rabbi, but they are not fooling Jesus. In a show of grace, Jesus, instead of being offended by their motives, takes the opportunity to teach the crowd.

Instead of dismissing the people because their motives are wrong, he redirects their efforts and highlights the futility of what they're doing. Verse 27 says, do not work for food that spoils,

but for food that endures to eternal life, which the Son of Man will give you. Jesus warns the crowd that the pursuit they are on never ends. To work for food that spoils is to work for food that spoils. Temporary pursuits offer temporary pleasures. Their short-lived pursuits that never

bring satisfaction. This crowd is on a quest that will never end. It isn't wrong to eat a meal each day. Our bodies were made to need food, but to chase the meal or the provision of the meal, as the ultimate thing is to never be satisfied. Jesus offers an alternative to temporary pursuits.

He offers food that endures to eternal life. What does that mean? The way food temporarily brings nourishment and satisfaction to a body for the day's work. Well, Jesus offers food that brings

lasting nourishment and satisfaction now and eternally. Jesus offers the nutrients and sustenance we need for this life and the life to come. And you begin to realize even in the invitation,

this is not about our stomach. This is about our hearts. Jesus, the Son of Man, is inviting the crowd to true contentment and satisfaction that they can have now and will endure into eternal life.

Now, before we are too hard on this crowd, we must ask ourselves,

are we like them? There are entire theologies built on seeking Jesus for what he can do, not for what he is. This crowd chased him for what he could do with five loaves and two fishes.

Why are you here listening to this lecture? Is it because you are expecting him to fix all your problems, heal all your diseases, take away all your pain? Jesus would say those are temporary fixes.

There are also a lot of people who are chasing food and expecting Jesus to support their pursuit.

They're climbing the corporate ladder without any satisfaction or appreciation where God has placed them and why he placed them there. They're sacrificing their families and homes and marriages

to make more money, chasing food that spoils. All the while calling Jesus Rabbi, acting like

you want the teaching, but when it gets right down to it, you're just after a meal. But the truth is,

seeking Jesus for who he is is the only eternally satisfying pursuit. Again, seeking Jesus for who he is is the only eternally satisfying pursuit. I recently had the privilege of meeting two men I know that God had put in front of me to put a mirror to my life. The first man was the head of his family in a culture where that means that hundreds, if not thousands, look up to him as the authority over the family. He has at least five advanced level degrees from top tier universities on three different continents and has only worked and desire is to walk alongside people so they can know Christ. He could easily be a national leader whose name we all read about in the papers, but the decisions he's made with his life have all been made with the motive so that people might know Jesus. In the same week, I met another man who turned down being an ambassador in his country in order to teach BSF classes. He knew that while the president of his country had offered him a much sought after position, the bread of life offered him something that would never perish, spoil, or fade. If Jesus were standing before you today, what would he identify as your true pursuit? Why are you chasing a better job? Why are you chasing a new title? What are you mad about because Jesus isn't meeting your expectation and is instead inviting you to go deeper and feast on him? You're in the position to hear this lecture because in some way you are curious about what Jesus will teach you through his word, what he is revealing in you as you listen. Will you accept his invitation to lay down the temporary pursuits of this life and seek him for something deeper and longer lasting? Jesus points out that the crowd is seeking bread, not Jesus, but Jesus then explains to the crowd what they are needing is Jesus, not bread, in Division II. Jesus told them to work for food that endures, and that sparks a crowd's curiosity in Verses 28 and 29. What must we do to do the work God requires? And it is hard to know on face value if this is an honest question or an arrogant question, but they appear to be ready to rise to the challenge. Tell us the work that's required for that kind of food and we will do it, but the answer isn't what they expect because Jesus answers, the work of God is to believe in the one he has sent. Do you wonder what their faces look like as they heard that answer? I mean, what kind of answer is that? The work is to believe? What does that even mean? Jesus is saying the work is to have a continual and growing belief in the one he has sent. Believe he is who he says he is. Trust him. You might be thinking that isn't work, and that would be exactly the point. What God is looking for is faith or trust, not work. Jesus is inviting his listeners into a continual and growing belief in who he is.

And while they may have been confused, we don't have to be. We have the scriptures in their fullness, and salvation and eternal life isn't something you work for or earn. It is granted by faith in Jesus, the Son of Man, the bread of life, the one whom God has sent. That is, to believe in him is to know eternal satisfaction. Unfortunately, our society has messed with the idea of belief, making it a weak word when it comes to Jesus. We all know people who say they believe in Jesus, but it appears that they live however they want to live. They say and do whatever they want to say and do. Their lives show little evidence that they actually understand who Jesus is much less believing him. And sometimes it is only really evident when you are in the presence of someone who really believes in Jesus. And you can see the radical transformation that it has had on their life. Jesus says this is the work. Believe. Believe in the one he has sent. But their curiosity turns to negotiation. As they consider the invitation to believe, they ask, what sign will you give us? Show us something, Jesus. You know, like Moses, who gave our ancestors bread from heaven. It seems like they are still chasing a meal. Feed us Jesus and that will prove it to us.

But Jesus, who knows the motives of all people, knows this isn't true and he isn't taking the bait. Instead, he graciously continues to teach them. Jesus explains, it wasn't Moses who supernaturally provided bread in the desert. Verse 32, very truly I tell you, it is not Moses who has given you the bread from heaven. But it is my father who gives you the true bread from heaven. For the bread of God is the bread that comes down from heaven and gives life to the world. It's not an accident. This crowd goes back to Moses and manna from heaven. You might be surprised if you were going to go back into Deuteronomy to find out why God gave them bread from heaven in the first place. Deuteronomy

chapter 8 verses 2 to 3 says, remember how the Lord your God led you all the way in the desert these 40 years to humble you and to test you in order to know what was in your heart. Whether or not you would keep his commandments. He humbled you, causing you to hunger and then feeding you manna, which neither you nor your fathers had known to teach you that man does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of the Lord. God gave them manna, bread from heaven, so they would learn about their need for God himself. God gave them manna, so they would look to God. Just like Jesus had done, he gave them bread, so they would learn about their need for

him, not their need for bread. God gave them manna to prepare them to receive Jesus, the bread of life when he comes. Even the manna pointed to Jesus. But the crowd still thinks this is about bread, and so they ask in verse 34, sir, give us this bread and Jesus, who has led them to this point, makes a promise in verse 35 and 36. He says, I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never go hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty. But you have seen me and you still do not believe. In this declaration, Jesus is saying, I am the true bread of heaven. I have come from God. I am God. I am the one who gives life to the world. Jesus was so clear. But maybe you are wondering, how can it be that Jesus can offer true and lasting satisfaction? Can it be true? There's no lasting satisfaction to be found apart from Jesus? It is true, and our cultures are dangerously working against that truth. Advertising and marketing are all about helping you realize all your unmet needs. Climbing the corporate ladder is more about chasing more. Social media is a tool we invite into the private parts of our home to remind us that we are missing out on things. Everything in our culture seems to be working against the truth, and even professing believers seem to not be ever satisfied. It can happen to all of us. Jesus says, come to him. Take him in. As deliberately as we would take and eat a piece of bread, take him in. We do that in our profession of belief, and we do that as a daily practice of life. That's quite a promise, because if it's true, then it means that Christ is the answer to the emptiness. It means that Christ satisfies the relentless pursuit for something new. Christ is the real answer to what drives the desire for the promotion. Christ is the real answer to the needs you are trying to get your spouse to meet. Christ is the real answer to why you have decided to renovate your home. Christ is the real answer to when you were deeply frustrated that your kids aren't making more the opportunities that they have been given. While those things are not inherently bad or good, when we ask them to deliver in ways they were never meant to, we will never be satisfied. This is not a promise that if you believe in Jesus, you will have everything that you want. This is a promise that when you believe in Jesus, you will have the spiritual strength that you need to continue in the life and work that he has for you. You see, the truth is, feasting on Jesus provides a spiritual strength to do the work he has for you. Feasting on Jesus provides a spiritual strength to do the work he has for you. We have so much junk food in our lives, candy, soft drinks, and everyone knows that if you fill up on those things, you will be malnourished. But why is it that we can't see all the spiritual



junk food in our lives? So what are you feasting on? Attention, attraction, applause, recognition.

Jesus isn't just inviting the crowds to feast on him. He's inviting you back to the table today.

Come and feast on him. Will you lay down your constant hunger for whatever it is and ask him

to satisfy you? It's not wrong to want to make something out of this life. It's not wrong to make

a lasting impact in the lives of others. It's not wrong to go on a vacation or watch a sporting

event. But if that's where your hope and your satisfaction lie, you will never be satisfied.

Jesus encounters a crowd seeking bread and teaches them they are really needing Jesus as a part of

learning that only Jesus satisfies. Division number three. Jesus has been explaining food that

endures to eternal life, and now he will explain more about what that means and how that's possible.

Verses 37 through 39 describe what it means to be received and secured. Passage says,

All those the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me, I will never drive away.

For I have come down from heaven not to do my will, but the will of him who sent me.

And this is the will of him who sent me, that I shall lose none of those he has given me,

but raise them up in that last day. In order for food to endure to eternal life,

it must mean that the food lasts into eternal life. So the first way Jesus explains food that

will last into eternal life is to say that those who come to Jesus and receive him are secured.

Jesus has already made the point that God sent him, the true bread from heaven to the world.

And now Jesus makes the point that God gives believers to Jesus. God gives the world Jesus.

God gives Jesus people who will feast on him. Did you catch that? God gives the world Jesus,

and God gives Jesus people who will feast on him. No one gets lost in the process.

Jesus is speaking about what we know as salvation, and he is saying all who call on the name of Jesus

will be saved. And just like there is no salvation unless God sends his son, there is no salvation,

unless God works in people to call on the name of the Lord. Theologians call this concept the

doctrine of election. Election in its simplest form means to choose, and the elect refers to

the category of people that we see referred to in the scriptures as God's people. So we understand

election to be those whom God chooses, not based on their merits, but based on his love.

We have many examples in scripture that enhance the verses we're reading. In Ephesians chapter

1 verse 4, Paul tells fellow believers that before the foundation of the world, God chose them to be

holy and blameless in his sight. Election is a mind-stretching doctrine because we understand

elections in human terms. When we elect someone to office, we are choosing one over another, often based on some merits in that person. However, we don't have that kind of insight into divine election. There is mystery surrounding God's election of his people. On the one hand, all those the Father gives will come to me. And on the other hand, everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved. While God makes assurances that no one who should be saved will be lost, he doesn't tell us exactly how that would happen. Election isn't meant to discourage us, it's actually meant to comfort us. And when you ask someone the story of how they became a believer, they often acknowledge God's grace. And if you ask them, why do you think he saved you? I don't know any believer who will tell you it was because they were all that amazing. No. In fact, they will admit that's a good question, and it can only be explained by something gracious in God and nothing good about them. And that's what makes election hard to dissect and fully understand. God is working in a way to draw people to himself and to give them eyes to see so they can believe. When we believe in election, we find it deeply encouraging because anyone can be saved. It's all about grace. It is not about them reforming. When we don't believe in election, we will always question God's knowledge and the wisdom of his judgment. Jesus trusts that God will accomplish his will in salvation. And that is what election means for us. Verse 40, for my Father's will is that everyone who looks to the Son and believes in Him shall have eternal life. And I will raise them up at that last day. Election means that everyone who looks to the Son and believes in Him shall have eternal life. Eternal life, another word with many facets, is eternal code for something that we look forward to someday? Is it code for life and perpetuity? It just lasts forever? No. Eternal life is a new, vibrant, and lasting quality of life. Eternal life means new eyes, new heart, new hungers, new perspectives, new tastes, new loves, new hopes, new peace. Eternal life is life where all things are new, not solved or fixed, but new, fresh, different, and it is not disrupted by death. The truth is, Jesus can and does offer lasting satisfaction to those who believe in Him. Jesus can and does offer lasting satisfaction to those who believe in Him. I expect some listening or thinking that is exactly what I want, but how does it work? Jesus invites people to feast on Him. Why are you settling for lesser things instead of feasting on Jesus? What would it look like to see Him for lasting satisfaction? Jesus, the bread

of life, offers a lasting satisfaction, not only for which the whole world longs, but also for the longings of your heart today. This lecture was written and produced by Bible Study Fellowship.

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