

John 6:22-40 SS Notes, January 12, 2008

- Just too much to say about John 6.
 - Deity of Christ
 - Compassion of God consistently shown
 - Response of true disciples
 - Response of false disciples
 - Don't waste your life – what are you working for?
 - Sovereign plan of God, mystery of conversion
 - Does this foreshadow and establish transubstantiation Eucharist?
 - Powerful preaching of Jesus
 - Salvation and eternal life – Believe. Believe. Believe.
- Summarize verses 22-24. Read starting with 25 and go through 40.
- These folks wanted to follow Jesus and were quite resourceful at it; but their motives were wrong.
- Where was their focus?
- One way we can examine ourselves is by looking at the fruit of motives.
- An indication of a false disciple is their almost complete focus on things of the world vice the things of God.
 - What do we talk about?
 - What do we think about?
 - What do we read?
 - What do we dream about?
- Do we want God or the things God gives us?
- Is he Lord or Genie?
- Focus on worldly things makes us an easy target for false promises of personal prosperity.
- How did Jesus respond?

Verses 26-27:

- Important! Listen up! Pay attention! (amen, αμην, amen).
- Jumps right over their superficial and irrelevant question and gets right to the heart of the matter: they, like many of us, are focused on the physical, here and now, not the spiritual, eternal life to come – real life. There will come a time when we will hardly ever remember this life.
- “These people, like many today, clearly felt that the most important thing in life is to keep alive, to be healthy, strong and economically sufficient. That was what life was all about, they thought. Clearly this is the majority view of people all over the world today: This is why people work. The Scriptures are always up to date. In this election year, candidates are being evaluated by the voters, not on their integrity, or their character, or what they propose to do about improving the moral conditions of this country, but on what will they do about the economy, how they will improve living conditions.”
- Jesus did not need anyone to tell him what was in a man, omniscient Jesus knew these people's hearts.
- We cannot seek God for things, but only for him.
- Nothing, nothing is to come between you and God: not family, wealth, health, well being, peace, world causes, acts of mercy, even his gift of eternal life.
- The question is posed in EE from God, “Why should I let you into my heaven?” for the unbeliever.
- I have often thought that a similar question should be asked of us believers: “Why do you want to be in my heaven?” What is our motive?
- Do we want intimacy and the closest possible fellowship and happiness with our Creator, or do we want the things he provides?
- Our Lord wills that every person be active and diligent in the service in which providence has placed him. This is not an excuse to go on the dole.
- But it is his will also that employment and all the concerns of life be subservient to the interest of our relationship with God and the eternal destination of our soul. What is it that lives forever?
- Our souls! And our new body... one day.
- What food can our souls receive for eternal life?

- Everything that can be possessed, except the salvation of God, is a perishing thing; this is its essential character. But when the earth and its produce are burned up, this bread of Christ, his grace and salvation, will remain eternally. This is the portion after which an immortal soul should seek. Grace and salvation = “soul food”
- Jesus says don’t work for food that perishes (goes away), but work for food that will be with you now and through your eternal life, and I will give you that food.
- “... God the Father has placed his seal of approval.” By this expression our Lord points out the commission which, as Messiah, he received from the Father to be prophet, king, and priest to an ignorant and sinful world.
- We could spend a lot of time discussing “what are we working for?” Are we wasting our lives? And he’s not just interested in us working for *our* eternal life, but also investing ourselves in others’ eternal lives. Phil 2:4.

Only one life,
 ‘Twill soon be past,
 Only what’s done
 For Christ will last.

Focus on what really matters!!
 Eternal life with God!!

Such a great question for us to hear/read/ponder!!

Verse 28:

- Some say the people were really confused here, warped, clouded, but I don’t think so. I think they asked a very appropriate question. What must we do to do this work of God? It is a legitimate question to ask what must I do to be saved? What must I do to inherit eternal life? But you have to be ready for the answer!
- [Work the works of God?] That is, Divine works, or such as God can approve.

Verse 29:

- This is the work of God, that ye believe on him whom he hath sent. There is nothing in which you can be employed that is more acceptable to God than in yielding to the evidence set before you, acknowledging Jesus as Messiah and the savior of the lost world, and yielding to him as Lord of your life, i.e., “believing in him.”
- There is nothing in which you can be employed that is more acceptable to God than in
 - Yielding to the evidence set before you
 - Acknowledging Jesus as Messiah, the Son of God, and the savior of sinners
 - Recognizing that Jesus is present in your life, yielding to him Lordship of your life.
 - Trusting what Jesus says
 - Obeying his commandments – respond
- This is **believing!**

Here is God (the Almighty) standing in a synagogue taking the time to reason with and teach this obstinate, unbelieving crowd. Talk about love!! (read chap 1 from Lucado’s latest)

Verse 30:

- Give us some proof that you are from God. Why should we believe you?
- Now this is where I say the crowd is deluded! These people had seen and heard incredible things and yet they still doubted. Brazen! Spiritually blind! Matt 12:39 – Unbelief is never satisfied, no matter the evidence.
- Luke 16:31 and Mark 15:32 say it all.

Verse 31:

- Exodus 16 – neat read. People still grumbling. Has anything changed? Neh 9:15; Ps 78:24; 105:40.
- Their argument seems to run thus: You have, we grant, fed five thousand men with five loaves and two small fishes, but what is this in comparison to what Moses did in the desert, who for forty years fed more than a million persons with bread from heaven; do something like this and we will believe in you as we have believed in Moses.
- “What you did yesterday was merely to give us bread and fish -- common, everyday food. There is nothing unusual about bread and fish, although multiplying it was a bit out of the ordinary. But Moses fed our fathers forty years on manna, food from heaven. Bread and fish come from the earth, but manna comes from heaven. What are you going to do to top that?”

- Manna tasted very much like corn flakes -- like ground coriander seed mixed with honey. Imagine eating corn flakes morning, noon and night for forty years, and thinking that was wonderful! The word “manna” itself means, “What is it?” Can you imagine eating “What is it” for forty years, every day, without fail, and then looking back on that as a great experience?

Verses 32-33:

- Important! Listen up! Pay attention! (amen, amhn, amen). Let me make this as clear as possible! Let me make sure you understand some things.
- First, God, not Moses, gave you the bread/manna.
- Second, it was not the *true* bread from heaven, only a symbol or foreshadow.
- God has now given them real/true bread from heaven nourishment of which he spoke – the fulfillment of the manna symbol.
- True bread was for the whole world, including the Gentiles.
- Matt 5:6 (hunger and thirst)
- Forget the symbol of manna, God is giving you the true bread from heaven right now!
- Gives life - didn't the manna give life? Read v. 49

Verse 34:

- Okay then, give us evermore this true bread.
- They are still thinking physical bread. Let that bread be our constant nourishment.
- John 4:13-15; 24-26.

Verse 35:

- Come on folks, don't you understand yet? Let me see if I can make this perfectly clear. **I am the bread of life!** And this is how you *get* the bread of life. Cometh and Believeth!! Synonymous.
 - Never hunger and never thirst – spiritual meaning? (there is a universal hunger for spiritual food – something more!) Speaking of the soul, not the body.
 - Perfectly satisfied in you spirit – guilt removed, judgment removed, peace of mind, sins blotted out, rest, true happiness, a perfectly wonderful future, righteousness – Matt 5:6
 - Come and believe. This is man's responsibility in the salvation process.
- Jesus was always making parallels between the physical and the spiritual worlds as analogies.
 - Bread/manna eating – Jesus believing, coming.
 - John 2:19-21; 3:3-4; 4:13-14; 23-24
 - And many others: fishers of men, most if not all his parables are this way (workers, soil, virgins, slaves, etc.) used to describe the spiritual side.
- One of the 7 great “I am” statements of Jesus: Jesus the great “I am”:
 - John 6:35; 8:12; 10:7, 9; 10:11, 14; 11:25; 14:6; 15:1,5
 - John 8:58 ... before Abraham was born, I am.

Verse 36 (big break):

- But the fact of the matter is that you have seen the evidence clearly for yourselves and yet you still don't ***believe me!***
- A strong rebuke (v. 26 is one place he told them)
- Jesus almost sounds discouraged by the incredible unbelief, but he was not as he reminded himself in this almost soliloquy. We need to be reminded just such a way. What tremendous words of encouragement when we do all we can and our loved ones and friends still don't respond in belief and faith.
- JESUS' MISSION AND OURS “WAS [IS] FIRMLY ROOTED IN THE OMNIPOTENT SOVEREIGNTY OF GOD.” (J. MacArthur)
- Thus we dive into the “mystery of conversion”:
- “We are a gift from God the Father to God the Son! We have been given and received as a token of love, a love gift.
- Fact 1: Not all who *see* Jesus will come or believe.

Verse 37:

- Fact 2: All that are chosen will come! “shall come to me”. The chosen are drawn (v. 44) (influenced by God the Holy Spirit)
- Fact 3: All who come are welcome! – “I will in no wise cast out.”

Verses 38-40:

- Another time we get a clear insight of God’s will.
- Fact 4: All who come are forever safe!
 - Because Jesus came to do this very thing – the Father’s will.
 - It is the Father’s will that Jesus will never ever lose anything that he’s been given.
 - It is the Father’s will that those who believe in Jesus will have everlasting life.
 - Jesus personally will raise believers up at the last day.

Wow!! Do you see the thread? Believe. Believe. Believe.

- As we read these verses as well as a little later, we see God’s absolute sovereignty in man’s salvation.
- It is foundational to the Christian Faith!
- I think it expounds on the TULIP acrostic: T (v.36) U (v.37) L (v.40) I (v.44) P (v.34) (I don’t think it’s much of a stretch)

To me, there is a beautiful tension that exists between man’s responsibility and God’s sovereignty, but this is how I see it:

The universe exists because of God. Man exists because of God. Jesus came, taught, died, and rose again because of God. I exist because of God. My life history and shaping occurred because of God. I was presented with the gospel of Christ because of God. My heart was shaped by God through my life experiences so that I would believe the gospel of Christ. All I had to do was something that I could not not do, believe. God is the impetus in the whole matter. Never once did he ask my permission or opinion. Yes, I am a free moral agent with responsibility: indeed! I demand that I chose God. That’s the way it looks to me, but it was God. Is it fair that some are not chosen by God? You need to ask God, the most fair, loving, just, merciful, kind entity that can ever be that question yourself. Did you or this reality have to exist? Would it be fair if God chose for you not to exist at all? The most trust worthy writing that I know says two things clearly: 1) we were born not... of the will of man, but of God; and 2) salvation does not depend on the man who wills or the man who runs, but on God who has mercy.

How do you know if you are one of the elect? Read v.37.

The beauty of these verses culminates in the fact that, as Jude 1 says, we are called and kept for Jesus Christ! Amen!