

## I AM The Bread of Life

John 6: 30-58

### What does it take for us to believe?

We see the people in v30 were seeking a sign. This is despite that fact that they have just witnessed Jesus feed 20,000 people from a box lunch. Seeking and responding to signs are dealt with differently in the scriptures. Some have made the case that there is something more noble or better to blind faith than for having faith as a result of a sign. The scriptural text often used by those making this case is Jesus' statement to Thomas after the resurrection (John 20:29). But is this a commentary on responding to signs in general, or is Jesus commenting on seeking signs?

Jesus does comment elsewhere on seeking signs. Mat 12:39 and Mat 16:4 are two distinct times where Jesus indicated that it is wrong to seek signs. If you examine the context for both of these statements you will find that the religious leaders were opposing Jesus. They were basically declaring that He would have to refute their preconceived position or opinion by unequivocally demonstrating to them that they were wrong by giving them a miracle. Look at John 20 and see if Thomas' challenge was not similar. Thomas was saying essentially, "I don't believe and I won't believe unless you prove me wrong by a miraculous sign."

Elsewhere however, there is no condemnation whatever to people responding to signs that they weren't seeking in order to refute their disbelief. A few examples would be found in John 2:11 & 23; John 20:8, John 20:30-31.

Have you ever sought a sign to believe in God in any way? Clearly you have not sought signs to believe in Him for salvation. However, have you ever been convicted by the Holy Spirit that God wanted you to take a step of faith that would require you to die to yourself a little (deny yourself) in order to move to another level in your walk with the Lord, but you felt that only if God would show you a sign would you be willing to be obedient?

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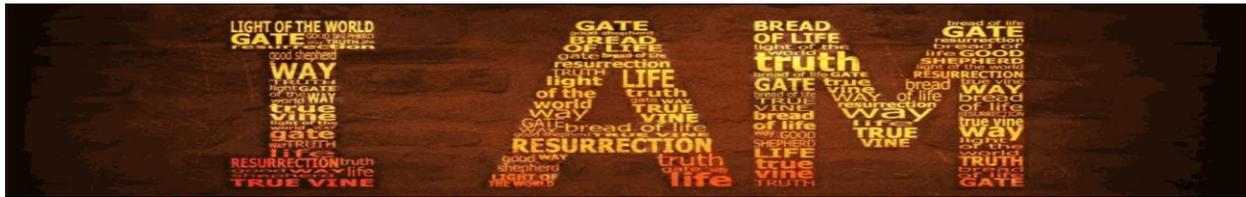
Holding back our obedience to the Lord until we receive a sign from Him is wickedness. It is a lack of faith that puts into question how much we really believe in Him.

Has there ever been a time in your life where in response to something you experienced, you believed? Did seeing the "sign" provide you with the faith to take another step of obedience in your walk with the Lord? These experiences you should remember. They are the witness of our walk that we should be prepared to give an account of when we are asked for the hope within us (1 Peter 3:15). They are also the things that we can lean on when we are walking through trying times. In those times, rather than









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What is the benefit to remembering specifically what Jesus did for us on that terrible night of judgment so long ago?

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