

*"What shall we do, that we might work the works of God?
Jesus answered and said unto them, This is the work of
God, that ye believe on him whom he hath sent."*

What we learn from this text today is this:

THE CALL TO ETERNAL LIFE AND EVERYTHING IT BRINGS IS A CALL TO TRUST NOT IN YOUR WORKS BUT COMPLETELY IN JESUS, AND THOSE WHO DO TRUST HIM ARE THE SECURE GIFT OF GOD THE FATHER TO THE SON.

I believe there are 3 major parts to this narrative.

Part #1 - The crowd goes after Jesus looking for temporary satisfaction. **6:22-24**

V. 22 - This is the very day after Jesus fed the five thousand and the morning after Jesus had walked on water.

Vv. 23-24 - Many people of the crowd that had been fed went looking for Jesus because they wanted more food from Him. They thought He was going to set up the Kingdom for Israel and free Israel from Rome, but they did not understand that Jesus came the first time to be a sacrificial lamb who would die on a cross in order to provide dead people with eternal life.

Part #2 - Jesus confronts the crowd's true motive for following Him. **6:25-34**

V. 25 - The people were surprised to find Jesus in the synagogue in Capernaum (6:59). They knew the disciples had left the night before but had Jesus stay back. When they woke up the next day and couldn't find Jesus, they took off to Capernaum knowing that's where Jesus had sent His disciples. I bet they thought they would find the disciples and then wait for Jesus to show up. When they got there, Jesus was already there. They wondered how Jesus was able to be there before them.

V. 26 - They tried to ask Him about how He got there before them, but Jesus doesn't answer the question. Jesus kept the event of the walking on water private between Him and the disciples. Jesus doesn't brag about how He got there. Instead, He moves past that and gets to the heart of the issue. He tells the crowd the only reason they are following Him is because they wanted their physical needs met.

V. 27 -Jesus told them that their focus was set on the wrong thing. They were following Him only to have their physical needs met.

Some people follow after Jesus for all the wrong reasons. They want to follow Jesus so they can get money. Some people think that if they seek after Jesus then they will never get sick. Others come after Jesus because they think it will gain them a better reputation in town or give them better business at work. Those are all the wrong reasons. Jesus told them, "stop coming to me for that. That is not what I am here to give. Come after me for what will last for eternity. Come after me for eternal life. That is what I am here to give you: eternal life."

When Jesus said that God the Father had set His seal on Him, I believe He means to say that God the Father had sent the Son to speak the words of the Father to a dying world. Jesus' words were like a letter from God the Father, and God the Father's stamp of approval sealed that letter (12:49-50). Jesus was communicating words from the Father, and those words were this: "life everlasting. Don't get so caught up on the temporary matters of life, I'm here to give you eternal life. Do you want it?"

V. 28 - The crowd of people, after being called out by Jesus, says "Ok, we want eternal life. Just tell us what to do then. You said work for the food that endures to eternal life. Tell us what work it is we ought to do."

That's the way a lot of people view eternal life still today. What must we do? What's the process? Just tell me what I need to do.

V. 29 - Jesus answered them, "This is the work of God, that you believe in Him who He has sent." They ask him, "what works should we do?" Jesus responds, "there is not a list of works. In fact, the work is of God. God does the work of salvation by having you believe in me." Note: Faith is not a work of man that earns him eternal life (Ephesians 2:8-9).

Vv. 30-31 - The people heard Jesus say believe, but they didn't think He had earned their belief. They said, "we'll believe in you, if we see you give us what we want. Prove to us that you are worth believing in." Apparently, the healings and the event with the fish and bread was not enough in their mind. They wanted forty years worth of miracle food before they would believe in Jesus. (see: Exodus 16:15).

V. 32-33 - Jesus responded to their proposal by telling them they were wrong about Moses. It wasn't Moses that gave them the bread. It was God. God had sent the bread in Moses' day, and it is God who again is sending bread from heaven in Jesus' day. Jesus' Father, God the Father, was once again giving bread from heaven, but this time, it wasn't to sustain the people of Israel in physical life, it was to sustain the people of the world in spiritual life.

(34) Jesus explained that the manna of Israel was a picture of the true bread that would come out of heaven to give life to the world. After Jesus explained this, I believe the crowd was starting to

see it, but they didn't quite understand the eternal life that Jesus was talking about. They asked for Jesus to continually give them the bread that sustains physical life. Little did they know though, physical bread isn't something Jesus would give them. Rather, Jesus is the bread. He is the bread that sustains someone for eternal life.

Part #3 - Jesus calls the chosen among the crowd to come to Him in faith for eternal life.
6:35-40

V. 35 - While the crowd came to Jesus looking for Him to give them an endless supply of food, they didn't realize that Jesus is the endless supply of food. Jesus said, "if you want that bread that endures to eternal life, it's Me. I am that bread. You want eternal life? Come to Me. Come to me and, spiritually speaking, your soul won't hunger any more. Believe in Me and, spiritually speaking, your soul will never thirst again. Bread might satisfy you physically for a day or two, but I am the only one who will satisfy you spiritually for an eternity."

V. 36 - He told the crowd that they had already seen all they needed to see. They had seen His healing signs, they had seen and tasted the sign of the bread and the fish. They had seen Jesus do all they needed to see, and yet, they refused to believe in Him as the one who could give them eternal life.

V. 37 - In His explanation of why they hadn't believed in Him, Jesus moved on to say that there is more to coming to Jesus and believing in Him than one might think. Jesus explains that those who come to Him are those who have been given to Him by the Father. God the Father is in a process of giving people to the Son. Those individuals who are given to Jesus are the ones who will come to Jesus. Notice too, that Jesus said "all" that the Father gives will come. Every person who is a gift of God the Father to the Son will come in God's timing.

Jesus didn't forget to say that the individuals who come to Jesus will certainly not be cast out. Jesus will not reject anyone who comes to Him in faith. Jesus said, "I will certainly (NASB) not cast out, I will never (ESV) cast out." If you have come to Jesus and believed in Him, know this with confidence, He will never cast you out of the eternal life He gives.

Why can we be confident that we will never be cast out if we have believed in Him? Jesus explains in verse 38.

V. 38 - Jesus came down to earth from heaven to fulfill the will of the Father. Jesus, during His time on earth, completely submitted Himself under the authority of the Father, doing only what the Father called Him to do. Jesus was fully man and fully God. I imagine that Jesus, being fully a man, was tempted at times to reject people, but He didn't submit to the temptation. He, being fully God, perfectly submitted to the perfect will of the Father. Jesus won't cast out those who come to Him, because He does the will of the Father.

If Jesus came to do the will of the Father, what is the will of the Father? Jesus gives us the answer in verse 39.

V. 39 -The Father's will is that Jesus will not lose anyone who the Father has given to Him. This is a wonderful text on the security of the believer. Jesus is the one who holds our salvation. He is the one keeping track of it, and it is the will of the Father for Him to never lose us.

Not only will Jesus not lose those given to Him, but they will be raised up by Him to new life on the last day.

If the will of the Father is that Jesus loses none of those who the Father gives to Him, who are those that are given to Jesus by the Father? Jesus answers that question in verse 40.

V. 40 - Those who look on the Son and believe in Him are the ones given to the Son by the Father. It is the will of the Father that Jesus never loses those whom the Father has given Him. It also is the will of the Father, that those who see the Son for who He really is and believe in Him are the ones who have eternal life. The ones who have eternal life will be raised back to life by Jesus Himself. When He says the last day, He is talking about that day when the believers in Jesus will be given new physical bodies fit for eternity.

If you are on the verge of starving to death, then the answer is simple. Come to the table and eat food. That will sustain you and prevent you from experiencing physical death. That is the physical picture of the spiritual reality. This is the spiritual reality. Every person faces a sentence of eternal condemnation (Romans 6:23). If you are on the verge of eternal death, then the answer is simple. Come to Jesus. He is the food. He will sustain you and prevent you from experiencing eternal death.

The question is: Will you come to Him in faith for eternal life?