

Have You Found What You Are Looking For?

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John 6:30-35

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So I don't know about your kids or the kids that you used to have or the kids that you're going to have, but my oldest son, Colin, is really into dinosaurs. Can anyone relate to that? All dinosaurs. From just a picture, he can tell you the dinosaur's name and I've never seen him get stumped, not once. That's not a challenge for you to go find him now after the service to try to stump him, but I'm just saying he's into dinosaurs. So it was his birthday recently and I thought it'd be cool to get him a real Megalodon tooth. I don't know if you know what a Megalodon is, it's an ancient dinosaur shark that scientists estimate we're 60 feet long. I'm so glad those don't exist anymore. I would never go to the beach, ever, for that stuff. Well, I got it in the mail and I opened it up and I put it in my hand. I'm like, "This seems fake to me. I don't know if I can trust this thing."

Now listen, maybe the guy that sold it to me is watching right now. So just listen, I'm not saying it's fake, okay? So I'm not saying that. I'm just saying it seemed fake to me so much so that I sent it back and got a refund. Might look nice, good conversation piece. He might have been like, "Wow, that's cool, Dad." But if it's fake, I don't want it. And as I spend time in John chapter six each week, I'm more and more convinced that this whole chapter is Jesus doing evangelism to fake followers, to false Christians. They look like Christians, at least on the outside, but in reality, they're not the real thing. And Jesus warned us about this in Matthew 13, that everyone talking about heaven ain't going.

That Christianity quote may be compared to a man who sowed good seed in his field. "But when his men were sleeping, his enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat and went away. So when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared also. And the servants of the master of the house came and said to him, "Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? How then does it have weeds?" He said to them, "An enemy has done this." So the servant said to him, "Then do you want us to go and gather them?" But he said, "No, lest in gathering the weeds, you uproot the wheat along with them. Let both grow together until the harvest. And at harvest time, I will tell the reapers, gather the weeds first, bind them in bundles to be burned, but gather the wheat into my barn."

So life in a local church, life in a larger body of Christ, life on Christian Twitter and Christian Instagram is going to be filled with wheat and weeds, with true Christians and fake Christians. And that, I think, is what's going on in the background of John Six. Jesus once again is witnessing, He's declaring truth about Himself to a group of people. If you think about it, chapter three, He's doing that. He's evangelizing one curious religious leader named Nicodemus. In chapter four, He's evangelizing one outcasted woman, the woman out at a well. Chapter five, He's doing evangelism to a religious group of people who are hostile towards Him. And now chapter six, Jesus is seeking to reach people who have their own ideas about what He should be,

who He should be, or their own motives for following Him, all of which were about this life. They're all about themselves, using Jesus to get what they want, using Jesus for themselves.

Now, how do we know they're fake followers? Well, take a look at verse 26. Look at how Jesus describes them. Verse 26, "You are seeking me, not because you saw signs, but because you ate your fill of the loaves." Translation. I made you dinner last night, miraculously, and now you're back for breakfast. That's what He's saying to them. Look at verse 36. He knows what's going on inside of them so He can say this. "I said to you that you have seen me and yet do not believe." He knows their hearts, He knows their motives. He knows what's going on, that they're not really committed to Him. And now you can see this in how they respond. Look at verse 41. "So the Jews grumbled about Him because He said, 'I'm the bread that came down from heaven.' They said, 'Is not this Jesus, the son of Joseph whose father and mother we know? How does He now say, 'I have come down from heaven?'"

Here they are complaining, actually contradicting Him, saying, no, no, no, no. That's what you're saying, but we really know the truth about you. And then verse 64, He knows their hearts again. Verse 64, He says, there are some of you who do not believe. Here He is answering their objections, assaulting their motives, preaching the truth, seeking the lost. They argue with what they're saying so much so look at the result. Verse 66. Here's the result. "After all of this, many of His disciples turned back and no longer walked with Him." They walked with Him for a while, but now after this evangelistic encounter, after hearing Jesus speak the truth to them, they don't want to follow Him anymore. They're done. He didn't say what they wanted to hear. He didn't do what they wanted Him to do. And so they leave, maybe hundreds of them in that moment just left.

And every time I come up here, I know I'm talking to three kinds of people. There are true Christians, there are non-Christians, and there are fake Christians. So I study and pray and preach to expose the truth and press these truths down on all of our souls because I don't want anybody here to be one of the many that Jesus talked about who believe with all their heart that they're on the road to heaven. When Jesus says no, many will be on the road on their way to destruction, even though they believe with all their heart that they're not. I can't think of anything worse than being deceived for your entire life that you are on your way to heaven only to find out one second after you die that you're not.

That can happen, and that's why Jesus is talking to these people that day in the synagogue at Capernaum. And that's why John records this conversation and puts it in this book so that all people, until Jesus returns, can examine themselves, examine their hearts, examine their motives, all in light of who Jesus is and what He said and what He did. In order to help us with this, I want to drive this message forward with the question, have you found what you're looking for? See, these people were looking for something other than Jesus. They're actually looking for Jesus to give them what they really wanted, which wasn't Him, even though He is what they really need.

When I was in high school, I played football. My senior year, to keep all of us motivated, our coaches, after every game would play the same song for us. U2's old song, I Still Haven't Found What I'm Looking For. So we win our first game and they're like, great, but play the song. Still haven't found what we're looking for. Game two, game three, Hey, you're three and 0. Great, still haven't found what you're looking for. Hey, we got to get into league. Hey, we got into league, but hey, that's not what we're looking for. We want to get into the playoffs. And we're in the playoffs, okay, now we want to win the championship. Still haven't found what we're looking for, still haven't found what we're looking for, until we actually we actually did win the championship. Then they said, Hey, we made it. We did it. We're here.

In our world today, people are looking for something to give them life. They're looking in all the wrong places, something that will make them feel right, something that will satisfy them. They look to money, they look to relationships, they look to people's opinions of them. They look to food, they look to alcohol. They look to partying and having fun. They looked to gender reassignment surgeries. They looked to causes like justice or liberty. They look and they look and they look and they still haven't found what they're looking for. And what they often find is emptiness because what they need can only be found in Christ.

Let's look at this reality in verse 30. "So they said to Him, then what sign do you do that we may see and believe you?" Notice it says, believe you and not believe in you. What work do you perform? So in verse 27, Jesus says, I will give the you eternal life. And what they do is say, okay, prove it. Do a miracle. Perform a miracle. Now, you might think if you're following the the whole thing going on that day, just the night before these people were in the audience when Jesus miraculously fed some 20,000 people with five little cakes of bread and two little fish. You might think that would be enough for them since those people were there, since those people ate that meal, but it wasn't enough. Actually by this time they have seen many miracles, not just that one.

Look at chapter six verse two. It talks about these people being present for healings, plural. You see that? So they've seen these healings, plural, people getting healed from their sickness. Then there's this miraculous feeding. And then notice verse 27. Jesus says that they saw signs, plural. So this is not just one miracle, these people have seen Him do multiple miracles. And in fact, at this time in Jesus' ministry, He's been doing miracles all around the Sea of Galilee. He's been healing sick people all the time. He's been freeing people from demonic oppression. He's even raised dead people. These people were there for that. They know it because they saw with their own eyes or they heard the reports from people. They knew who this guy is and here's all of that. And it's not enough, not enough for them to believe that He could give them eternal life. It's almost like they weren't there the night before. It's almost like they didn't live in that region. It's almost like they're just meeting Him for the first time. "Hey, can you do a miracle for me?" He's like, "You've seen me do many miracles. What are you talking about?" Well, they need more proof, more evidence, more credentials that He could give them eternal life. And so they they want Him to do that. And so what they do, in verse 31, is remind Him of an event in Exodus 16,

verse 31, He says, our fathers ate the manna in the wilderness. As it is written, He gave them bread from heaven to eat.

So if you're not familiar with the story, in Exodus 16, the people of Israel have just left Egypt and they have left Egypt with signs and wonders unlike anything the world has ever seen, supernatural plagues that destroyed the world's superpower of the day. And then with whatever's left over, that army is chasing after the people of Israel and the Red Sea opens up and 2 million plus people walk across, cover the Egyptian army and they are safe. They are free. They have real freedom from tyranny. And the very next day it seems, next chapter, chapter 16, they're in the middle of the desert wishing that they were slaves in Egypt again because at least we had food there and we're out here and we're going to die. They had the visible presence of God. They lived in the visible presence of God. There was a pillar of a cloud by day and fire by night. They saw God with their own physical eyes all day, every day. And even then they're going, it'd be better if we were back under the thumb of Pharaoh doing what he wants us to do because at least we had food. And God, in His kindness, says, Exodus 16:4, "I'm going to rain bread from heaven down on them." And that's what He did. Six mornings a week for 40 years, heavenly bread just showed up on the ground every morning so that 2 million plus people could eat.

Now, the people talking to Jesus that day bring that up because that's what they want Jesus to do for them. If you're the Messiah, give us bread from heaven like Moses did. You fed thousands of us one meal on one day, great. Now do that every day just like Moses did for our ancestors. They even use scripture to make this something that Jesus would do. Verse 31, He gave them bread from heaven. It's a mixture of Old Testament scriptures, but the point is, Moses gave us food from heaven. And if you're the one Moses said was going to come, if you're the Messiah, then you need to do that for us too. In fact, that's what the rabbis told them at the time. When the Messiah comes, the manna from heaven miracle will come back with Him. So what they're saying to Jesus, 30 and 31, they say, last night was impressive. That's great, but that was just the appetizer. Make it rain, Jesus, make it rain food. Give us an unending supply of food. That'll be impressive. And then we'll, notice verse 31, then we'll believe you. Not believe in you, but we'll believe you. We'll start to take you seriously. And as you consider that, let's all, point #1)

Realize, realize, not examine. Realize some will keep demanding proof for truth they already know. Some people will keep demanding proof from you for truth they already know. You ever met anybody like that? Don't tell me because they might be sitting next to you. No matter what proof you give them, no matter what answer you give to their question, it is never good enough.

Think about these people there that day, what they saw the night before, being fed miraculously, not good enough. They demanded more proof for a truth they should have already known, that Jesus is the son of God. They've been surrounded by His miraculous activity for months at this point. And it's not good enough, they want more. Doing what God can only do, miraculously feeding and filling the bellies of 20 plus thousand people with five cakes of bread and two small fish, walking on the water should have been enough, but no. They want more. That's why Paul, First Corinthians 1:22 says, "Jews demand miraculous signs to prove that Christianity is true."

And do you remember what Jesus said about people that demand a sign, that demand miracles? He calls them, Matthew 12:39, "an evil and adulterous generation" that asks for a miracle to prove that He's legit. Which means if that's true, that we can take those concepts evil and adulterous and we can read that into this text because that would be His opinion of these people, that this is evil and adulterous to ask for a sign. Now, you're like, well, how's that possible? Really? Why is that? Think about it. They're adulterous in the sense that on the outside they were committed to God, living for God, we're God's people. But in reality, they were their own God. How do you know that, because their God shows up and they want Him to do their will. You are here to do what I want, Jesus. Well, that's evil, that's evil. That's a denial of the truth and a perversion of why God made us in the first place, which is to love and honor Him by doing His will, not ours.

So on the outside they they look like they'll believe, but in reality they're not going to believe. They even say, we'll believe you, we'll give you some credibility, but that's as far as we'll get if you do this miracle, give us food every single day forever. Like, like we'll give you a little bit. See, in their rebellion against God and commitment to self as God means that there's no amount of proof that's ever going to be sufficient, really. Why, because deep down, it's not an evidence thing, it's not a proof thing, it's it's a heart thing. They want a God who submits to them, who does what they want, who thinks what they think about things. That's why Jesus doesn't jump through their hoops that day. Man, how easy would it be for Him to just go, "Okay, fine, there you go, raining bread. Believe me now?"

He could have done that easily, but what would that have done? It would've told them that it was right for them to reject Him until He gives them the proof that they wanted. They are the standard instead of God. The only God who doesn't satisfy them because they want a God made in their image rather than God making them in His image. And until that happens, they're just going to keep Jesus at arms' distance. Yeah, we'll believe you, like you're credible and some of the stuff you're saying is right, but they're not going to believe in Him. They're not going to commit their lives to Him despite overwhelming proof.

And that's what happened here last night. I was talking to a guy after the last service and he said, "I have never thought that Christianity was false. My entire life, I have believed that it is true, but tonight I want to commit my life to Jesus." That he knew there was a difference between knowing the facts and committing your life to the one that those facts are about. And that's these people, Hey, we know the truth and yeah, we'll give you some credibility there, Jesus. No, that's just like demons. Demons believe Jesus. They believe that what He is saying is true. They know what He's saying is true, but they don't believe in Jesus, right. They don't believe Him as Savior and Lord. They are committed to attacking His will in the world rather than accomplishing it. So if you have a child like this or a spouse or a coworker, friend, just know that your experience is not unique at all. Jesus dealt with people that just kept, Hey, I need more proof, more evidence, more proof, not good enough. Give me more. And I want you to notice something. How long did He talk to them? Like 50 verses, 50 verses. Yes, at some point it becomes giving pearls to pigs, giving these precious truths to people that just trample them. But here, Jesus keeps giving them

proof. He keeps telling them the truth about who He is and what He did and what He said. They keep doing that and He keeps doing that and they keep rejecting it until they actually walk away. They didn't want Him. They didn't want the truth. They wanted someone who would give them what they want, which is a free never-ending supply of food that lasts forever. And again, remember in a context where there are no grocery stores, where your entire existence revolved around the fight to get and eat food and they're thinking, this is my ticket to never deal with that again. And Jesus does not give them that very important thing, but He kept giving them Himself, which is what you do with these kinds of people that just, I need more proof, I need more of it. I need more and more and more, just keep giving them Jesus over and over again, pointing them to Christ over and over again. Either they will walk away or they will believe.

Today is no different. If you think about it, people want what they want and they want a Jesus who will give them what they want and support their will no matter what it is that they want. So if they want disobedience, He wants me to be happy. If they want rebellion, He's just looking down on me smiling. If what they want is unbiblical, God loves me unconditionally. If what they want is evil and they know it, He'll forgive. If it's perversion, He doesn't want me to feel bad about myself. If it's straight up selfish like these people, they will twist scripture. They'll twist something like He will supply all of my needs according to His riches and glory so I need that Rolls Royce.

Don't be surprised when you meet people like this. They are everywhere. They they were in front of Jesus on this day. They want a God like one of those pointy box things. If you see, I don't know what they're called. People have been telling me and I keep forgetting, but they're those plastic things that have those pointy, pointy little pins all throughout. When you put it on your hand and you put it up and it's a picture of your hand. You know what I'm talking about? They want a life-sized one of those that they can walk into to create an image of themselves, put it right next to them and say, "That's the kind of God I'll serve and until I get that God, forget it." They want a God after their own image that molds to their desires. They'll even use the Bible out of context to make their case. Just know that it is adulterous and idolatrous and just know whatever it is that they're rejecting Jesus to have is never going to satisfy.

Notice what Jesus does with them. He doesn't even answer them. He doesn't dignify any of their statements. Verse 32, He just says, "Truly, truly, I say to you, to you who are trying to use me to get what you want. No proof is ever enough. I say to you, it was not Moses who gave you the bread from heaven, but my Father gives you the true bread from heaven." So to their demands for more proof, Jesus asserts His authority. He says, truly, truly. I say to you, it's like what I'm about to say is fact, it's reality. And then He says, Moses gave your ancestors nothing. God gave them the manna from heaven. And you think about it in the context, since I gave you bread from heaven last night, that makes me God. They're stuck on the human instrument instead of stuck on the God who supplies the needs of their ancestors. And here He's saying, okay, God supplied the needs of your ancestors. I supplied your needs last night. I did what only God can do, therefore, you should be listening to me as God. And yet they weren't. And what He does in verse 35, notice He identifies himself as as the bread of life. And what He does in verses 32 and 33 is He

builds to this conclusion. He entices them by describing how great this bread is and how much it'll bless them and satisfy them. That's verses 32 and 33. And then after He does that, He reveals to them that He is the bread that He's been talking about all along.

Well, what we're going to do is we're going to start with the conclusion and work back to see how Jesus got to that conclusion. So to a group of people who wanted a Jesus in their own image, who wanted Him to get what they really wanted, which wasn't Him, but never-ending pasta ball, pasta, you know food whose motives were selfish and idolatrous. He tells them, point #2) ***Eat and enjoy Jesus, the bread of life. Eat and enjoy Jesus, the bread of life.*** Eating in this chapter is a metaphor for believing in Jesus, not just believing Him, like chewing on what He has to say and assessing it. No, this is eating Him, taking Him in completely, committing yourself to Him. This is what He is driving them towards. But how does He do it? He entices them by describing bread and He uses bread as a metaphor for Himself. And He gives nine descriptions, nine enticing explanations for who He is so that they will believe. Just go through these quickly.

The first one, to a world dominated by lies, dominated by the fake, ***Jesus is the real bread.*** The real bread. Verse 32, notice it says, "My Father gives you the true, the genuine, the real bread from heaven." The real bread, He's saying it's not the physical stuff, it's Him. He is the truth, not imaginary. He is the genuine, not the fake. It's not just that He is the fulfillment of the manna in the Old Testament. But in a world full of lies that are disguised as promises to fulfill you and satisfy you, Jesus says, those are all lies. I'm the real thing. I'm the real thing. He'll say it later, John 14:6, that He is the truth.

Second, to a world dominated by seeking their own path to salvation, ***Jesus is the provided bread.*** Number two, the provided bread. Verse 32, notice it says, "My Father gives you the true bread from heaven." And notice verse 33, the bread is called, "the bread of God." Why, because it's His bread. It's connected to Him because this bread comes from Him. And God is offering, notice that word gives, it's present tense, meaning He's offering that bread to people in that moment. He's like, you don't have to wait anymore. The Messiah is here. You waited hundreds of years, maybe even over a thousand years. No, the time of waiting is over. The time of receiving is here in their very midst and its present tense. Meaning it's offered now. It's offered today. The Father sent his son to be the savior of the world. This bread, this Jesus is offered today, provided as a gift of God's mercy to rebels against the one that we owe our very existence to.

Third, to a world that wants something beyond itself that knows deep down it was created for something bigger than itself. ***Jesus is the eternal bread.*** Eternal bread. Verse 32, notice it says, this bread "came from heaven." Verse 33, it "comes down from heaven." We've seen this before. This is a reference to Jesus being eternal, never having a beginning, existing before he was born. You and I, we did not exist before we were born. We existed in our mother's womb. We came from nothing in our mother's womb, not Jesus. He existed before He was born because He existed forever in heaven. And that is important because it is only an eternal one who can give us eternal life. Only an eternal one, which makes Jesus, fourth, ***the saving bread.*** The saving bread,

the bread that gives not relief from physical hunger and saves one's earthly life, but the bread that gives divine and supernatural life. Life in place of spiritual and eternal death. To a world in rebellion against God, a world that is in spiritual danger, a world that is lost in spiritually dead in its sins, Jesus offers spiritual life, life fit for the next life, a life that never ends.

In Greek, there are two words for life. One is the word we get biology from that refers to physical life, but that's not this word. That's not this word in verse 33. This word is a different word. It means real life, fulfilled life, satisfied, God's life given to us. And to a world dominated by groups and factions and parties and conflict among different people and conflict among nations, fifth, ***Jesus is universal bread***. He's universal bread. Verse 33, He gives life what to the world. Gives life to the world, which means that He's not He's not just for the Jewish people. Like the manna was, just for the Jewish people. Was it raining bread all over the world just for the Jewish people? He says, "No, this manna, this bread is the true bread because it gives life to the world, even Gentiles. All people groups, all tribes, all languages, all nations, all kinds of people because all are dead in their sin. Every ethnicity, every socioeconomic group, men and women, everything that divides one group from another, Jesus is the uniter, the one bread that saves and satisfies everyone.

Well, you think after all that, you're hearing all of these grand and lofty things that Jesus is saying, how do you think these people are going to respond? Look at verse 34. They freak out. "Sir, give us this bread always. Give us this all the time, every day. Never stop. Give us an unending supply of food." They are enticed, all right. He has He has enticed them. He said like, Hey, look at how wonderful this would be. You're coming here for bread. I'll give you bread. Give us this endless buffet of food that we don't have to work for. It's like the woman at the well in John 4:15 who wants an endless supply of water so she doesn't have to go to the well every day. But they miss it because they're again thinking about their bellies. This is a shallow, superficial, temporary rush of emotion based on what they think Jesus is saying, that He's going to meet their earthly selfish needs rather than saving their dead souls. So Jesus confronts this selfishness, confronts this superficial desire for this never-ending supply of bread by saying to them, verse 35, "I am the bread of life."

So to a world wanting a true relationship with deity, a world that knows there's something more to this whole thing, Jesus is divine bread. Divine bread. Those words, I am, in verse 35, do far more than just identify Jesus. These are an echo of the burning bush. These are words that go all the way back to Exodus chapter three, where Moses, this bush is on fire, but it's not being consumed. He knows it's God. God is speaking through it. And Moses says to Him, who should I tell the people sent me? Who is it that is sending me? And God says, "This is my name. My name is, I am who I am." And this is Jesus taking that and saying, that's me. I am the great I am. I am Yahweh in the flesh.

Seventh, to a world that thinks there are many ways to have a relationship with God and whatever path you like will get you there. Seventh, ***Jesus is necessary bread***. He's necessary. He's critical. He's essential. Those words, I am mean I and I only, me and only me. He alone and

no one else is the bread that gives life because He's the only way to salvation, the only way to be forgiven for your sins, the only way to have eternal life.

Eighth, in a world looking for contentment, seeking fulfillment and joy from every dry and empty and toxic source imaginable, ***Jesus is satisfying bread***. Satisfying bread, look at verse 35. "I'm the bread of life. Whoever comes to me shall not hunger. And whoever believes in me shall never thirst." The dry and toxic wells of this world all scream empty promises of satisfaction that cannot ever do what Jesus only can do. He fills the emptiness. He alone satisfies the longings. He meets the desires. He is the source of real supernatural life. That inner ache, that inner question, is this all there really is? Is there a God? Do I matter? Is there some reason why I'm here? All of that is gone in Christ once and for all. Once and for all replaced with what your heart truly is craving, which is the God who made you and loves you and knows what's best for you. What's best for you is Him.

And it's not just this world, ninth, to a world where every good thing comes to an end, ***Jesus is permanent bread***. Look at verse 35 again. "I am the bread of life, whoever comes to me shall not hunger. And whoever believes in me shall never thirst." They wanted an endless supply of physical bread. And He says, "I'm going to meet the deepest need that you have and I'm going to do it forever and ever. You see, in our world, you ever say, that that was the best meal I've ever had. You ever say that? And a couple hours later, what did you do? You had another one. It's like a good trip, good vacation. That was great. Got to come home next day. It's like a good day. It's always tomorrow. It's a great experience. There's always a need for more. Each one never permanently satisfies. It almost gets there, but permanent satisfaction is like just out of reach. Not in Jesus.

Those words in the text not and never are emphasized in the sentence. And they're the most decisive way of saying that something is not ever going to happen. So you will not ever hunger again deep in your soul. You will never thirst again for spiritual life and spiritual vitality and sustenance. You will have it all and you will have it forever when you eat and enjoy Jesus, the bread of life. Yeah, you'll want more of God in your life because you'll taste and you'll see the Lord is good and you'll want more, but you will never want Him as in He's gone and I got to get Him back. No, Jesus is the bread, the spiritual life, the spiritual nourishment, the spiritual fulfillment that is permanently and forever yours in Him.

Listen, no priest can do that for you. No ritual can do that for you. No organization, no prophet, no pastor can do that for you. No seminar, no retreat, no religious leader, no world leader. Nobody can do that for you. No active confirmation, no baptism, no list of good works. No religious ceremony can do that for you. And listen, no surgery can do that for you. No movement, no relationship, no amount of money, no ladder climbing in your career, no degree, no accomplishment can do that for you either. All the promises of life and satisfaction found in the things of this world ended up being toxic wells and rancid food that do not and cannot deliver. But Jesus can and Jesus does because He's the bread of life.

Just as God provided all the ingredients for physical bread in this world, so He provided the bread of life by sending His Son into the world. Just as bread saves from physical hunger, so Jesus, the bread of life, saves people from spiritual hunger for forgiveness, spiritual hunger for meaning, and for a relationship with the God who made you and loves you. As bread is a universal food eaten all over the world by all kinds of people, rich and poor, men and women, young and old, Chinese and African, Indian and Mexican and everything else, so Jesus has come to give eternal life to the world.

As bread is a necessary part of the Jewish diet and really still is, even if you're gluten intolerant or you're on a keto diet, you still need a little bit of carbs, right? Just like necessary food, bread is, so Jesus is necessary crucial, essential for eternal life. Without Jesus, nobody has eternal life. As bread is satisfying. Who doesn't like a fresh piece of bread, a little butter on it, a little jam sandwich? Lunch is soon, right? It's the last time I got to think about that. That's great. Just as bread satisfies hunger, so Jesus, the bread of life, satisfies the soul's quest for God. And even though with physical bread you will hunger again, with Jesus, you will never hunger. You will never thirst again for God, for forgiveness, for meaning, for truth. Because in Jesus, you have it all and have it forever.

Isn't it brilliant, He takes this ordinary thing that was a part of their ordinary lives, bread, just ordinary part of our lives, and He transforms it into a picture of Him. So I hope now when you go home and you look at your counter and you see that loaf of bread or you go to lunch and that bread is given to you at your table, that when you look at that, you're reminded of the Savior. That He is the truth, He's the real thing provided for you. The eternal one who gives you eternal life and saves you from all of your sins, that He is the God man, God Himself come to save rebels from the punishment awaiting us for our sins. That He's the only way to ever be saved from our sins. And He is the only one who never-endingly satisfies. And when you have Him, you have everything. You have everything that really matters when you have Him. But if you don't have Him, you could have the entire world and really have nothing if you don't have Him.

Okay, well, after all of that, how do I have Him? Verse 35, again. "I'm the bread of life. Whoever comes to me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in me shall never thirst." Coming to Jesus isn't a physical thing. It happens in your soul. You come to Him by moving away from your rebellion, by being done with your justifications, by being done with the never-ending proofs, being done with the emptiness of a life lived in total domination to self. And verse 35, you believe in Him. You trust in Him. You commit your life to Him. You trust that He and He alone is and will be all of these things for you because that's what He actually is.

It's Isaiah 55:1 which says, "Come everyone who thirsts, come to the waters. And he who has no money, come buy and eat. Come buy wine and milk without money, without price. He asked the question, why do you spend your money for that which is not bread? And your labor for that which does not satisfy? Listen diligently to me and eat what is good and delight yourself in rich food, incline your ear and come to me. Hear that your soul may live." You are made to have life, true and eternal life. And if you haven't found what you're looking for, what you're looking for is

Jesus. If you're not a Christian or if this text has been revealing that you're actually a fake Christian, listen, bread not eaten cannot satisfy your hunger. A Jesus that is known but not believed in will not do any of this for you. So come to Him. Believe in Him. Commit your life to Him. He came to give life to the world. The question is, do you have that life? Let's pray.

That's the question, Jesus, and that is what you did with these people that day. You talked about all the blessings, all the greatness, all the kindness that is offered to a world of rebels who would come to you, believe in you for eternal life. Jesus, it is a truly remarkable thing that we can see these truths in the text, truths that are not just in the text, but truths that are really about us. That we would see these things, but we could also just walk away like we didn't see it. Your word is like a mirror, it shows us what we really are. So give each of us the grace, the courage to respond the way that this text would have us respond. Thank you for what we're going to celebrate now, some baptisms, people who by your grace did respond to these truths, came to you, believed in you, committed their lives to you. We celebrate your work in their lives in a minute, but please do that same work in us. Do this, please, I pray for our good and for the glory of your name. Amen.

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