



S O A M A Z I N G

GRACE SO AMAZING TO FOLLOW JESUS

Jn. 6:66-69

Jn. 6:66 From that *time* many of his disciples went back, and walked no more with him.

67 Then said Jesus unto the twelve, Will ye also go away?

68 Then Simon Peter answered him, Lord, to whom shall we go? thou hast the words of eternal life.

69 And we believe and are sure that thou art that Christ, the Son of the living God.

A couple of weeks ago we began looking at this chapter to consider what the Bible says about the different attitudes and motives of the followers of Christ. What we have seen so far are the following: Some followed Him due to...

1. the sensationalism of His miracles;
2. simply out of selfishness for what they could personally benefit;
3. some followed Him from a faulty perspective of false supposition;
4. a few followed Him due to a proper understanding of His purpose and relationship with mankind according to the Scriptures.

We continued looking at chapter six to observe the submissiveness of the disciples and the ramifications of them following God's will, even though they encountered a horrible storm while following the directions of the Savior. The challenge of the storm revealed the hardness of the disciples' hearts in that they neglected to consider the feeding of the 5,000.

Last week we observed that after calming the storm, the Lord Jesus was confronted by followers who were "seeking for Jesus" (6:24) and approached Him with several questions. We observed the first two:

1. HOW DID YOU GET HERE? WE ARE CURIOUS.

2. WHAT WORKS CAN BE DONE TO MERIT GOD'S FAVOR?

The Lord Jesus graciously answered them with very pointed replies: “You have ulterior motives and need to focus on eternal values” and the only “works” you can do is “believe on him whom he hath sent.” Acknowledge God’s program, not your interpretation of it!

This morning, we consider a very important confrontation between Jesus, His disciples, and a third question that typical Jewish followers presented...

3. CAN YOU GIVE US A SIGN THAT WE CAN SEE, BELIEVE, AND WORK?

Jn. 6:30 They said therefore unto him, **What sign shewest thou then, that we may see, and believe thee? what dost thou work?**

31 Our fathers did eat manna in the desert; as it is written, He gave them bread from heaven to eat.

❖ Wanting a “sign” is a typical Jewish challenge.

1 Cor. 1:22 For **the Jews require a sign**, and the Greeks seek after wisdom:

Jn. 4:48 Then said Jesus unto him, **Except ye see signs and wonders, ye will not believe.**

❖ They had just seen a “sign” in the feeding of the 5,000!

❖ The religious followers missed the obvious “sign”, so Jesus elaborated on it.

- ❖ While asking the question about a “sign,” the “seekers” make an inaccurate statement about God’s provision of the manna. Jesus corrects them:

Jn. 6:32 Then Jesus said unto them, **Verily, verily, I say unto you**, Moses gave you not that bread from heaven; but **my Father giveth you the true bread from heaven.**
33 For **the bread of God is he which cometh down from heaven**, and giveth life unto the world.

- ❖ Jesus emphasized the “true bread” which is Himself.

Jn. 6:34 Then said they unto him, **Lord, evermore give us this bread.**

- ❖ The “followers” were still “seeking” more bread for their stomachs, not for eternity.
- ❖ The “seekers” asked the Lord for the “bread of God...which cometh down from heaven.”
- ❖ Jesus clarified WHO is the bread:

Jn. 6:35 And **Jesus said unto them, I am the bread of life:** he that cometh to me shall never hunger; and **he that believeth on me shall never thirst.**

36 **But I said unto you, That ye also have seen me, and believe not.**

37 All that the Father giveth me shall come to me; and **him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out.**

38 For I came down from heaven, not to do mine own will, but the will of him that sent me. 39 And this is the Father's will which hath sent me, that of all which he hath given me I should lose nothing, but should raise it up again at the last day.

40 And this is the will of him that sent me, that every one which seeth the Son, and believeth on him, may have everlasting life: and I will raise him up at the last day.

❖ To receive the bread “from heaven” is to receive the Lord Jesus Christ.

- ❖ There are two important verbs that Jesus indicated were required – “...cometh...believeth.”
 - “cometh to me” requires repentance by leaving behind the world of sin and pursuing holiness by approaching the Savior.

Isa. 59:1 Behold, the LORD'S hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; neither his ear heavy, that it cannot hear:

2 But **your iniquities have separated between you and your God**, and your sins have hid *his* face from you, that he will not hear.

1 Thess. 1:9 For they themselves shew of us what manner of entering in we had unto you, and how **ye turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God;**

- “believeth on me” requires faith focused upon the eternal source of spiritual satisfaction – the Lord Jesus Christ.
- ❖ In v. 36, Jesus stated that they “have seen me, and believe not.” The “followers” were NOT ignorant of truth but refused to believe what they had seen.

“It ain't the parts of the Bible that I can't understand that bother me, it's the parts that I do understand.” — Mark Twain

<https://www.goodreads.com/quotes/85747-it-ain-t-the-parts-of-the-bible-that-i-can-t>

❖ In v. 37, Jesus issued a wonderful promise to all who “seek Him” – “...and **him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out.**” The fellowship follows the repentance.

Jer. 29:13 And ye shall seek me, and find *me*, when **ye shall search for me with all your heart.**

❖ In v. 40, Jesus reiterated the truth that the “followers” needed to know.

- ❖ After Jesus gave an excellent clarification of Himself as the “bread of life,” the Jews “murmured at him” and the verification that Jesus gave of Himself as the “bread which came down from heaven.”

Jn. 6:41 **The Jews then murmured at him**, because he said, I am the bread which came down from heaven.

42 And they said, Is not this Jesus, the son of Joseph, whose father and mother we know? how is it then that he saith, I came down from heaven?

❖ The Jews were murmuring just like their forefathers during the Exodus:

Ex. 16:2 And **the whole congregation of the children of Israel murmured** against Moses and Aaron in the wilderness: ...

8 And Moses said, *This shall be*, when the LORD shall give you in the evening flesh to eat, and in the morning bread to the full; for that **the LORD heareth your murmurings which ye murmur against him: and what *are* we? your murmurings *are* not against us, but against the LORD.**

9 And Moses spake unto Aaron, Say unto all the congregation of the children of Israel, Come near before the LORD: for **he hath heard your murmurings.**

Num. 11:4 And the mixt multitude that *was* among them fell a lusting: and the children of Israel also wept again, and said, Who shall give us flesh to eat?
5 We remember the fish, which we did eat in Egypt freely; the cucumbers, and the melons, and the leeks, and the onions, and the garlick:
6 But now our soul *is* dried away: ***there is nothing at all, beside this manna***, *before* our eyes.

- ❖ The religious followers murmured at Jesus because of spiritual ignorance and unbelief.
- ❖ The religious followers seemed to forget that their forefathers “loathed” the manna.

Num. 21:5 And the people spake against God, and against Moses, Wherefore have ye brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? for *there is* no bread, neither *is there any* water; and **our soul loatheth this light bread.**

- ❖ Religious followers today are deceived by spiritual ignorance and unbelief, following man-made traditions and diversions from truth.
- ❖ The religious followers failed to comprehend the truth before their eyes, murmuring at God's plan and provision for all of eternity.

Summary

- ❖ Religious followers were inquisitive about a “sign,” having not considered the feeding of the 5,000. Both the disciples and the Jews totally missed the ramifications of that miracle.
- ❖ Jesus was very pointed in correcting those who misunderstood His teaching.

Conclusion

Rom. 14:17 For the kingdom of God is not meat and drink; but **righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost.**

18 For he that in these things serveth Christ *is* acceptable to God, and approved of men.

19 **Let us therefore follow after the things which make for peace,** and things wherewith one may edify another.