

The Gospel of John

6:28-40

Welcome back to this week's study in the book of John.
As with this study and all bible studies, remember to pray before you start.

A little reminder of what happened in the last few studies.
Remember Jesus had fed 5,000 men plus women and children and then He sent them all away for the night. Jesus then walked on water as He met the disciples that night in the midst of a storm.
The following day all those 5,000+ people went looking for Jesus, not because of what He did or said, but because of the food He gave them and Jesus told them.

✎ **John 6:27** *"Do not labor for the food which perishes, but for the food which endures to everlasting life, which the Son of Man will give you, because God the Father has set His seal on Him."*

So starting off in this week's study, we read their response to Jesus.

✎ **John 6:28** *Then they said to Him, "What shall we do, that we may work the works of God?"*

This seems to be a typical question even today.

"What do I do to make God happy?" or "What does God want me to do?"

Good questions, because we should always want to be pleasing to God. Jesus tells us in the next verse.

✎ **John 6:29** *Jesus answered and said to them, "This is the work of God, that you believe in Him whom He sent."*

"Wait a minute, you mean all I have to do is believe in Jesus? I do that already. But doesn't God want me to go into the mission field or help those in need. What about serving in the church, doesn't God want me to do that?"

We seem to be so set on works, that we forget what really makes God happy, and that's by believing in His Son Jesus.

When we get caught up in works we tend to forget why we are doing them in the first place. Remember Jesus' word to the church in Ephesus?

† **Rev 2:2-3** *"I know your works, your labor, your patience, and that you cannot bear those who are evil. And you have tested those who say they are apostles*

and are not, and have found them liars; and you have persevered and have patience, and have labored for My name's sake and have not become weary."

Reading this, it sounds like they are doing good things, and some, if not all of them are doing also. But Jesus had one word for them.

† **Rev 2:4-5** *Nevertheless I have this against you, that you have left your first love. Remember therefore from where you have fallen; repent and do the first works, or else I will come to you quickly and remove your lampstand from its place-- unless you repent.*

The church in Ephesus were doing all of the things they were suppose to be, but they got so caught up in doing that they forgot why or for Who they were doing them for. So yes, you may believe in Jesus, but are you so caught up in doing that you don't have the relationship you once had with Jesus?

Think of it as a marriage. In the beginning when you are dating, you will do anything to please the other person, because you are so much in love with him or her. Then you get married and at the beginning you still do for them for the same reason, but as the months and years go by, you start doing out of habit and not out of love. Soon it becomes more of a burden than an honor to serve your spouse but you still do because you know it's what you are suppose to do.

It can be the same with our relationship with Jesus. At the beginning we are on fire for Jesus, because we are so thankful for all He did for us and because we love Him. As time goes on, we will continue to do, but forgetting why and start doing it more out of habit and because we think we are suppose to. Then when we are going through trials or temptations, we do, thinking we will make God happy with our works and that joy we once had with Jesus would return and it will get us through the trial. You have now become works oriented and legalistic.

Jesus says to you: *"Remember therefore from where you have fallen; repent and do the first works"*

"How do I do this?" you may be asking.

First Jesus says to "**Remember**", think back on your relationship or walk with the Lord. As you look back, you will start to see how you slowly left Jesus and got caught up in works or doing out of habit. Maybe you got so busy that you no longer read your bible or prayed as much, thinking, "*That's OK because God will understand because I'm doing all this work for Him*" or maybe you got so caught up in doing that you became too busy to see the needs of those around you, maybe even your family.

I remember one time a pastor asked me to list my ministries in order of importance, the first thing I said was that my family was my first ministry. This shocked him, because I was on the worship team, teaching a home bible study, in a men's group and teaching on the Internet all at the same time. Men we must always remember that our first ministry is

to our families, if we neglect them, then God will not bless the other things we are doing or want to do.

I do have to be honest with you though; even as I write this, the Lord has laid upon my heart to practice what I teach.

“Lord, may I be more faithful to my family and their needs and always have them be my first ministry. May I love them as You do!”

Second Jesus says to **“repent”** which means to turn around and go the other way. It could even mean that you need to stop some or all of the things you are doing right now. For some this may be a hard thing to do, but I would encourage you all to ask the Lord and be obedient to what He tells you.

We sometimes think that if we don’t do it that it won’t get done. Once again, we forget that God is in charge and that God will supply. If God wants you to stop doing something, rest assured that He has someone else in mind to take your place. God will always find someone to do the job. After all, He found you didn’t He!

Finally, Jesus says to **“do the first works”** and what is the first work?

✠ **John 6:29** *Jesus answered and said to them, "This is the work of God, that you believe in Him whom He sent."*

Believe in Jesus and have the Love and relationship you once had with Him!

So all these men ask Jesus a good question, and they heard Jesus’ response. So what do they say to this?

✠ **John 6:30-31** *Therefore they said to Him, "What sign will You perform then, that we may see it and believe You? What work will You do? Our fathers ate the manna in the desert; as it is written, 'He gave them bread from heaven to eat.'"*

These guys are still caught up in signs and wonders. The day before they saw Jesus feed 5,000 men with five small loaves of bread and two tiny fish. What more of a sign do you want? Even throughout that same day they saw Jesus heal many people, what more do they want?

What more do you want? You believe in Jesus and that He died for your sins and rose from the dead on the third day, but are you looking for more out of Him?

Remember last week Jesus said:

✠ **John 6:26** *Jesus answered them and said, "Most assuredly, I say to you, you seek Me, not because you saw the signs, but because you ate of the loaves and were filled."*

Even with their own words they confirmed this, because they were referring to God feeding the children of Israel in verse 31 for forty years in the wilderness with manna, so they wanted Jesus to do the same thing. Kind of like saying, "OK Jesus, you fed us 5,000 men once, but can you do it again?"

This is down right laziness, because if Jesus fed them everyday, then they wouldn't have to work. They even used God's word on Jesus, did you see it?

"as it is written, 'He gave them bread from heaven to eat.'"

Sound familiar? It should because it's the same thing satan did when he was tempting Jesus in the wilderness.

So was this satan speaking to Jesus here? It is very possible that he put this in their minds to use against Jesus.

Even then he could have been telling Jesus, "See if You feed them like God did, they will believe in You, so go ahead and do it again. Give them the show that they want then You will have what You came for."

But Jesus response to all of this was.

✠ ***John 6:32-33 Then Jesus said to them, "Most assuredly, I say to you, Moses did not give you the bread from heaven, but My Father gives you the true bread from heaven. For the bread of God is He who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world."***

They desired physical things, but Jesus reminds them that they shouldn't be seeking the things of this world, but rather spiritual things. We tend to think that Jesus came to provide the world with what they wanted because He fed them and healed them. But Jesus didn't come to supply all their physical needs but to offer them eternal life.

We are the same way; we think if we become Christians that all our physical needs will be met. We even quote scripture to God telling Him that He has to give us whatever we want.

But the reason we accepted Jesus was to have eternal life, not so we can have a nice house or a new car or steak and lobster instead of hamburger and fish sticks for dinner.

✠ ***1 John 3:21-22 (NLT) Dear friends, if our conscience is clear, we can come to God with bold confidence. And we will receive whatever we request because we obey him and do the things that please him.***

✠ ***John 15:7-8 "If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you. By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit; so you will be My disciples."***

We use these scriptures to try to get what we want, but if you read them thoroughly, we see that if we are in Jesus Christ, we will not desire the things of this world, but rather we would ask so that God would be glorified not or flesh.

So Jesus is giving them spiritual teaching and their response is.

✠ **John 6:34** *Then they said to Him, "Lord, give us this bread always."*

'Cool, bread that not only fills us physically but will give us eternal life.' I'm sure that's what they were thinking of. This also reminds me of another conversation Jesus had with the woman at the well.

✠ **John 4:13-15** *Jesus answered and said to her, "Whoever drinks of this water will thirst again, but whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him will never thirst. But the water that I shall give him will become in him a fountain of water springing up into everlasting life." The woman said to Him, "Sir, give me this water, that I may not thirst, nor come here to draw."*

In both cases Jesus was giving them words of life, but they were so focused on the physical needs that they couldn't get past this and hear what Jesus was really saying. You may think that Jesus is getting discouraged at this point, like He is speaking to a brick wall because they just don't get it.

I am so thankful for the Lord's patience. He goes on to further explain what He is talking about instead of just blowing them off.

✠ **John 6:35-40** *And Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life. He who comes to Me shall never hunger, and he who believes in Me shall never thirst. But I said to you that you have seen Me and yet do not believe. All that the Father gives Me will come to Me, and the one who comes to Me I will by no means cast out. For I have come down from heaven, not to do My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me. This is the will of the Father who sent Me, that of all He has given Me I should lose nothing, but should raise it up at the last day. And this is the will of Him who sent Me, that everyone who sees the Son and believes in Him may have everlasting life; and I will raise him up at the last day."*

Here is one of Jesus' I AM statements: *"I am the bread of life."*

Remember what Jesus told Nicodemus back in chapter three?

✠ **John 3:12** *"If I have told you earthly things and you do not believe, how will you believe if I tell you heavenly things?"*

Here Jesus is speaking of earthly things that they could understand. They know they need bread to survive physically, because that's the way God made man, to have to eat to survive. If not, then he would die of starvation. These men understood this, as does everyone in the world even today.

So Jesus speaks in earthly terms that they could understand explaining that, as they need physical bread to have life here on this earth, that they also need spiritual bread, which is His body to have eternal life.

You see in order to make bread you must kill the grain that is growing in order to make it into bread. So Jesus had to die that we may eat of His body.

Now understand that Jesus NEVER refers to this as physically eating His body. I know of some religions that teach and believe that when you take communion that you are actually eating Jesus' flesh physically. I don't know how this works, I suppose they think this little wafer turns to flesh as they take it and the juice turns to blood as they drink it. If this were the case, then they would have been cutting up pieces of Jesus' body when He died and would eat it. But the disciples knew better than this. They knew that the bread and juice represented what Jesus did in the cross and that Jesus never said to physically eat flesh or drink His blood.

✎ *He who comes to Me shall never hunger, and he who believes in Me shall never thirst.*

Know I have been a Christian since I was 19 years old (over half of my life) and for those 35+ years that I have been a Christian, I still get hungry and thirsty physically everyday. But that emptiness I used to have spiritually is no longer there. Because my hunger and thirst to know God and have eternal life has been fulfilled with Jesus Christ in my life!

✎ *But I said to you that you have seen Me and yet do not believe. All that the Father gives Me will come to Me, and the one who comes to Me I will by no means cast out.*

All of these 5,000 men had seen Jesus, heard His words and saw the miracles that He performed, but still they didn't believe in Him. We tend to want to see signs and wonders before we will truly believe or trust God in a situation. "God please just show me a sign or speak to me in an audible voice so I can hear you. Then I will believe and do."

But as Jesus told Thomas:

✠ **John 20:29** *Jesus said to him, "Thomas, because you have seen Me, you have believed. Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."*

I have never physically seen Jesus, yet I believe. You have never seen Jesus physically yet you also believe. Jesus says that we are blessed. Also as a believer it's cool to know that God gave us to Jesus, did you see that in verse 37?

✎ *"All that the Father gives Me will come to Me"*

But even better is that Jesus will NEVER reject anyone who wants to come to Him.

✎ *"the one who comes to Me I will by no means cast out."*

Maybe you think that you sinned too much to come to Jesus and that He would never want anything to do with you. Well you just read it from God's word and from the quoting from the mouth of Jesus.

He will not reject you!

Now you have no excuse other than you choose to reject Him. I pray you won't but that you would accept Jesus' love for you. Just pray this prayer and know that He will not reject you.

Jesus, I know that I am a sinner. I never thought that you would ever want anything to do with someone like me. But as I just read in Your word that You will not reject me. Thank You Jesus. I ask You to please forgive me for my sins. I believe that You died on the cross for all of my sins and rose from the dead on the third day just as You also said that You would. Please be my Lord and Savior and please fill me with Your Holy Spirit. May I tell others about You and Your love for me and them too. Thank You Jesus. I ask this in Your name. AMEN!

If you just prayed that prayer, know from the words of Jesus that He has accepted you and has NOT rejected you. You are now a Christian, welcome to the family of God. I would like to encourage you to read God's word and pray everyday. Also find a good bible teaching church to go to, and go tell someone what you just did and share the Love of Jesus with him or her.

Jesus goes on to say.

✎ "For I have come down from heaven, not to do My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me. This is the will of the Father who sent Me, that of all He has given Me I should lose nothing, but should raise it up at the last day. And this is the will of Him who sent Me, that everyone who sees the Son and believes in Him may have everlasting life; and I will raise him up at the last day."

We tend to want to do for the Lord and ask Him to bless what we are doing instead of seeking what He wants us to do.

This has been something I have been struggling with lately. I want to do so much for the Lord because I love Him. But I also want to know what He wants me to do so that I'm in His will and not my own. I know I am to teach His word here on the Internet, but I am just asking if there is more He wants me to do. God knows my heart and I know He will let me know.

For you, I would encourage you to ask the Lord what He wants you to do and if you are in His will, or doing your own.

So how do you know what God wants you to do? Jesus tells us in verse 40.

✎ "that everyone who sees the Son and believes in Him may have everlasting life."

"Wait a minute, you said that we are blessed if we haven't seen Jesus and believe in Him. How can I show others Jesus if they can't see Him either?"

Jesus said:

† **John 8:12** *Then Jesus spoke to them again, saying, "I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life."*

† **Matt 5:14-16** *You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.*

We are all example of Jesus, and we should be praying everyday that the light of Jesus would shine through us so that others would see Jesus in us.

As others see the light of Jesus in us, we share this light with them so that they too can have the light shining in them.

Simply put, Jesus lives in us and we should be showing others Jesus in our lives. As they see Jesus in us, they should want Him also and we share Jesus with them and they will be saved just as we are as they believe in Him.

Well that's it for this week. Next week we will continue in chapter six, as we will read more on the eating of the blood and body of Jesus. We will also see that the Jews did not like this at all.

May God richly bless you in His love, grace and mercy and may the light of Jesus shine through you for all to see!