

LESSON 11: JOHN 6:22-40
MAY 16, 2018

OVERVIEW

- . Introduction to the discourse
- . The first questioning stage of the discourse – John 6:25-40

INTRODUCTION TO THE DISCOURSE

- . Outline to the John 6:22-71 discourse
 - . The historical introduction – John 6:22-24
 - . The first stage of the discourse could be called the questioning stage
John 6:25-40
 - . The second stage of the discussion might be called the criticizing stage
John 6:41-51
 - . The third stage could be called the contentious stage – John 6: 52-59
 - . The final segment of the chapter deals with the crisis following the
discourse – John 6:60-71
- . The historical introduction to the discourse – John 6:22-24
 - . At the end of the episode involving the feeding of the five thousand, there
was a large energized mob
 - . The energy of this group was probably more intense and tumultuous
than what is described in this passage
 - . These people were excited about what they just witnessed and had
their own ideas of how to capitalize on it
 - . They saw Jesus as the one to lead them to political victory over their
enemies
 - . Jesus sent the disciples out in their boat to get out of harms way
 - . The people also noticed that Jesus had not gone with them
 - . Many stayed over night to see what might come of the next day
 - . The next day these people realized that Jesus was also gone and the
word was He over in Capernaum teaching in the synagogue
 - . Several people, mystified, hired boats to take them to Capernaum

THE FIRST QUESTIONING STAGE OF THE DISCOURSE – JOHN 6:25-40

- . This first stage consists of four questions asked by the crowd, followed by Christ's response
 - . The first question/answer deals with the *aim* of the true Christian
 - . The second question/answer deals with the *method* of working for God
 - . The third deals with the *assurance* of divine authority in regard's to one's faith
 - . The fourth deals with the *fulfillment* experienced in the Christian life
- . The first question/answer dealing with the *aim* of the true Christian
John 6:25-27
 - . The question: "Rabbi, when did you get here?"
 - . The answer involves six important points
 - . "I tell you the truth" – always precedes a very important point
 - . "You are looking for me, not because . . ." - Jesus knows their hearts and knows they are more interested in the material and physical than spiritual
 - . They wanted the spectacular
 - . They were hoping this was just the beginning of something spectacular
 - . They were thinking more from an earthly perspective
 - . There is probably little or no hunger for righteousness
 - . "Do not work for food that spoils" - here Jesus is telling them to cease directing the whole effort of your life into seeking material gain and temporary satisfaction
 - . To concentrate on perishable, physical satisfaction is to guarantee that one's emotional mindset will also share in the same temporary, perishing satisfaction
 - . "But for food that endures to eternal life" – the food that Jesus offers, and for which He wants them to work, does not spoil or perish
 - . The word 'work' here implies to strive for
 - . "Which the Son of Man will give you" – this is a gift that Jesus is promising He can give us
 - . It is a gift that is given to us freely if we choose to seek Him
 - . "On Him God has placed His seal" – Jesus is making an extraordinary statement here claiming that He has been given the authority from God Himself to give eternal life to those who seek him
 - . To receive Jesus is to receive God
- . The second question/answer dealing with the *method* of working for God
John 6:28-29
 - . The question: "What must we do to do the works of God?"
 - . The plural "works" reveals the people's superficiality and legalism as they seek a list of works of merit they can do themselves to entitle them to the reward being fed

- . The reply: "The work of God is this: to believe in the one he has sent"
 - . This describes the method by which God desires us to work for Him
 - . The method by which we can redeem ourselves and sanctify ourselves in God's eyes is to take His gift, believe in His Son, and to choose to seek Him in everything we do
 - . True faith is so alive that it will manifest itself in our works
 - . The "good" Jews listening to this were conditioned to believe that only through a deliberate daily life of being obedient to the law and doing good works, in God's eyes, will lead to good faith and bringing one closer to God
 - . Jesus is saying the only work God wants from us is to accept the gift God is offering us, surrender our will to the one He is offering, make daily choices to be obedient to the One, and then our faith should manifest itself through our works

- . The third question/answer deals with the *assurance* of divine authority in regards to one's faith – John 6:30-33
 - . The question: "What miraculous sign . . . what will you give?"
 - . Jews, schooled in Old Testament history, knew of the things Moses did to give signs that God was with them
 - . That knew that Moses kept them alive in the wilderness for forty years by feeding them manna
 - . The Jews were putting way too much emphasis on Moses forgetting that it was God who worked through Moses
 - . The people were looking for a sign(s) showing that Jesus was greater than Moses and the true Messiah
 - . They were demanding physical assurance before they signed on
 - . The reply: "I tell you the truth . . . gives life to the world"
 - . God, not Moses, gave the gift of manna
 - . Manna was perishable food
 - . The bread Jesus is offering is true bread from Heaven offering eternal nourishment
 - . The bread of God is He who gives life to the world
 - . This is a gift not directed just at the Jews but the world

- . The fourth question/answer speaks to the *fulfillment* experienced in the Christian life – John 6:34-40
 - . The request: "Sir, from now on give us this bread."
 - . This request was still on the level of material food
 - . The replay: "I am the bread of Life . . ."
 - . The Jews asked for something from Christ, whereas Christ offers Himself
 - . The gift they were asking for was already there, they just needed to receive it
 - . This is the first of the "I am" statements

- . "He who comes to me will never go hungry . . . never be thirsty"
 - . This statement implies it is a once for all action
 - . His work is redeeming us from the guilt and power of sin
 - . This is the bread that can completely satisfy the human heart
- . "You have seen me, and still you do not believe"
 - . There is a condition that must be fulfilled in God's sight before the individual receives the gift and that is faith in what we're asking for
 - . The Jews were asking for this bread but did not have faith in the One they were approaching
 - . They did not expect to receive eternal life from Jesus
- . "Whoever comes to me I will never drive away"
- . "I will raise him up at the last day" – John 6:39-40
 - . The person who surrenders his life to Jesus receives present fulfillment through a new life, new incentives, new power, new emotional fulfillment, and development of personality
 - . This new person finds themselves thinking a little less of self and a little more of someone else

NEXT LESSON: WEDNESDAY, JUNE 6, 2018 – JOHN 6:41-71