



SERIES: September 2022 – February 2023 Believe

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Monday, October 31, 2022

Scripture: John 6:22-27

TITLE: Is Jesus the Burger King?

I have traveled a lot in my years of ministry. When I began traveling I would bring home gifts for my kids. They were always excited to have dad home but I noticed that over time there was more excitement about what was in the luggage than the one who brought home the luggage.

If we're not careful, we can be more caught up with what God can do for us than about who God is. We get fixated on God being a genie in a bottle rather than a Savior who conquered sin.

Jesus is going to attack this issue as we begin to look at a potentially confusing and troubling passage from John 6. Let's pick the story up in John 6:22-25.

The Gospel's content takes care of eternity. The Gospel's scope takes care of history.

On the next day the crowd that remained on the other side of the sea saw that there had been only one boat there, and that Jesus had not entered the boat with his disciples, but that his disciples had gone away alone. Other boats from Tiberias came near the place where they had eaten the bread after the Lord had given thanks. So when the crowd saw that Jesus was not there, nor his disciples, they themselves got into the boats and went to Capernaum, seeking Jesus. When they found him on the other side of the sea, they said to him, "Rabbi, when did you come here?"

You may remember that in the first few verses of John 6, Jesus fed 5,000 men not counting women and children. The people have been fed. There are leftovers. A true miracle that the people and the disciples witnessed. What's the response? The people go crazy. They are Jesus freaks. They want Jesus to be their king. The problem is they aren't looking for a Savior King. They want the Burger King.

Well, here is the next morning. Jesus isn't there. The disciples aren't there. They want to go find him. Their best guess is Capernaum because that's His headquarters or home base. They find Jesus. And say, "Hey Jesus! What are you doing here? We were over there. Why did you take off. Remember, we really like your show. When did you get here?"

Jesus answers them in John 6:26-27.

Jesus answered them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, you are seeking me, not because you saw signs, but because you ate your fill of the loaves. Do not work for the food that

perishes, but for the food that endures to eternal life, which the Son of Man will give to you. For on him God the Father has set his seal.”

Jesus lays the smack down. He says, You aren't coming to me because your hearts are full. You are coming to me because your bellies are full. You've missed it. I'm not the Burger King. I'm the Savior King. I'm God. I'm the Savior. I'm not the genie from Aladdin. I'm God. I'm here to provide you with eternal life not eternal buffets.

Notice that Jesus says, eternal life is not earned but given by Jesus. It's a gift. In John 3:16, eternal life is received through belief in the Son. In Ephesians 2, we confirm that salvation is by grace alone through faith alone. It cannot be earned.

Here's the problem. For those who aren't saved, they try to earn their way to God. It's all about religion, self-deification, and performance. Jesus says, “Wrong. It's a gift.”

For those of us who are Christians, we fill our lives with the wrong things. Not necessarily bad things. Just not the right thing in priority or quantity.

So here's my challenge for you today: get your priorities straight. If you're not a Christian, consider Jesus' offer of salvation by grace. It's yours for the taking. Will you receive it?

For those who are Christians, will you pursue Christ instead of the perishable things. Don't say you don't have time for Bible study, church, prayer, Christian community or outreach. You find time for Netflix, social media, Candy Crush, golf, or a fiction novel. It's all about priority and quantity.

So get your priorities straight today. Jesus is our Savior King. Let's treat him like it.