



SERIES: September 2022 – February 2023 Believe

SPEAKER: NAT CRAWFORD

Wednesday, November 2, 2022

Scripture: John 6:32-34

TITLE: Right Desires Wrong Solutions

What would you think if I said I was hungry, so I started buying stuff on Amazon? What would you think if I said how thirsty I was, so I sat down and scrolled on social media for hours? You would think either my cravings were misunderstood, or I was seriously confused about what satisfies.

Well, Jesus experienced something very similar to these examples in John 6. What was happening?

Let's pick up the conversation between Jesus and crowd in John 6:32-34.

Jesus then said to them, "Truly, truly, 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. For the bread of God is he who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world." They said to him, "Sir, give us this bread always."

The crowds have followed Jesus because of his miracles. They want more miracles if they are to consider him anything more than just a Manna King. A social justice warrior for the people. They want their bellies full instead of their souls saved.

So Jesus responds to their request for a sign like Moses performed in the wilderness. Jesus says in verse 32: "Truly, truly." In other words, "listen up people." This is serious what I'm about to say. Moses didn't provide the bread. He was simply the conduit for it. He was the guy who placed the call. God was the provider. My father. The same person who fed the Israelites in the wilderness is the one who sent me: the true bread from heaven.

This exchange is very much like the woman at the well. She was thirsty. Jesus offers her living water. She wants that water that never runs out. He says, "No no. I am the living water. This quenches your spiritual thirst."

These people want their hunger addressed. They want some challah or barley cakes. Jesus says, "Don't settle. That's not going to meet your greatest hunger and need. You need me! I am the real bread from heaven." God the Father sent the manna. God, my Father, the same God has sent me.

They just don't get it. Because in verse 34. They say, "Jesus, just give us the bread and keep giving it. We don't care what you call it. Feed us. We are hungry."

What they missed is what most of us miss. Yes, we need to eat. God made us that way. But this hunger is a window into our greatest hunger and need: spiritual healing. Every one of us struggles with trying to fill our need for God with movies, social media, activities, sex, money, a house, stuff, and so on. But it never fulfills us.

How about you? How are you pursuing the wrong things to fill your need for God and the love of Jesus? We all do it. What are the activities, time fillers, money suckers that don't ever satisfy but you continue to pursue? Ask God to help you get your priorities right. Jesus Christ offers life and life to the fullest. He offers you the bread of heaven which is better than the bread of Amazon or Kroger.

When we pursue and find fulfillment in the bread that Jesus offers, we will win the day.