

CONDEMNING BELIEFS ABOUT JESUS

A Means to What I Want Most

John 6:22-27

Introduction:

1. The Context

A) On the following day (John 6:22)

- > The day after Jesus fed 5,000 men plus women and children with 5 loaves and 2 small fish
- > The day after the miracle they are seeking and are ready to follow Jesus
- > When the crowds realize Jesus left they go to Capernaum. (John 6:23-24)

B) The next 40 verses record the interaction between Jesus and these who have followed Him

- > Jesus' teaching will interact with questions / comments / or challenges by the crowd (John 6:25, 28, 30-31, 34, 41-42, 52, 60)
- > You might believe that these seekers are true believers (John 6:36, 66)

1. The First Belief that Condemns - Jesus is the Means to What I Want Most

A) Jesus reveals the motive of these seekers (John 6:26)

- > Stated negatively – Why aren't they aren't following Jesus?

Question: What did the miracle of the loaves and fish point to or reveal?

- > Stated positively – Why are they are following Jesus? (John 6:26b)

Notice the level of their commitment

B) Jesus exhorts them to change their beliefs

- > The most important thing in your life isn't your next meal, it is your relationship with God (John 6:27)

Jesus isn't just talking the talk, He has walked the walk (Matthew 4:1-4)

- > This isn't the first time in the Bible that we have seen this condemning belief

These seekers will bring up the very story that condemns their belief (John 6:31)

The generation that received bread from heaven also wanted food more than God (Exodus 16:2-3)

> Jesus isn't condemning these seekers because they get hungry and want to eat

Remember, it was Jesus who had compassion on them and fed them the previous day

Rather, Jesus is condemning their belief that food, not God, is their greatest need

When this belief is present, Jesus is only a means to get what they want most

> These seekers don't understand this distinction yet. (John 6:28)

But Jesus continues to teach them about who He is and why He came

And when they understand Him, they leave Him (John 6:66)

Before we leave this morning we need to let Jesus' teaching sink in and evaluate our beliefs

1. Would our response to the crowds following Jesus be different?

Many today would call what happened – crowds following Jesus, a revival!

In fact, instead of confronting wrong motives and beliefs about Jesus we use them to get people saved.

2. Let's get more personal, maybe your beliefs aren't so different than those we find in our text

Did you choose Jesus because of the benefits?

When the circumstances of our life get rough do we, like the children of Israel, think about going back because God isn't giving us what we want the most?

“The critical question for our generation – and for every generation, is this: If you could have heaven, with no sickness, and with all the friends you ever had on earth, and all the food you ever liked, and all the leisure activities you ever enjoyed, and all the natural beauties you ever saw, all the physical pleasure you ever tasted, and no human conflict or any natural disasters, could you be satisfied with heaven if Jesus wasn't there?”

John Piper in “God is the Gospel”