

CONDEMNING BELIEFS ABOUT JESUS

Jesus Needs to Earn My Approval

John 6:30-33

Introduction:

1. The Challenge

A) Revealed in their questions (John 6:30)

> What sign will you perform? (John 6:30a)

They believe that a miracle or sign is something for their advantage

John records the miracles or signs to help people see who Jesus really is (John 3:1-2)

> What work will you do? (John 6:30b)

They have turned Jesus' teaching in verse 29 around and put the onus on Him

They are treating Jesus as if He were some kind of politician looking for votes

B) Revealed in their assertion (John 6:31)

> Our fathers ate manna in the desert (John 6:31a)

Let's put things into perspective, Jesus.

We believe you might be the Prophet Moses spoke about (John 6:14)

We believe that you could be a great King (John 6:15)

We even believe that you are a great teacher, Rabbi (John 6:25)

But we are not convinced yet.

Would more signs convince these people? (John 8:37)

> As it is written, "He gave them bread to eat." (John 6:31b)

Haven't we heard someone else use Scripture in order to manipulate / tempt Jesus?
(Matthew 4:5-7)

2. The Response

Truly, truly I say to you (John 6:32a)

A) Clarification #1 – Moses did not give you the bread from heaven (John 6:32b)

> Why did these Jews misunderstand what seems so obvious to us?

They were looking at the sign of feeding the multitudes from a purely human perspective

We find the same attitude back in Exodus (Exodus 16:2-8)

B) Clarification #2 – My Father gives you the TRUE BREAD from heaven (John 6::32c)

> True means genuine or authentic

> The TRUE BREAD from heaven gives everlasting life

C) Clarification #3 – The BREAD of GOD is not manna or barley loaves, it's a person

> Someone who has come down from heaven (John 6:33a)

Jesus will clarify this truth for them in verses 35, 48-51

They will dismiss this claim as unbelievable in verse 41-42

> Someone who has come down to give life to the world (John 6:33b)

Jesus will clarify this truth in verses 38-40

CONCLUSIONS:

1) Jesus didn't come to earth to try and gain the approval of man

He came from heaven as the One approved by God to save those with a death sentence

The arrogance of these "followers" of Jesus is that they believe Jesus needs to earn their approval

In fact, they desperately need Him. He is their ONLY hope of gaining God's approval.

2) Many today still proclaim our autonomy and assume that our choice is sovereign

Some will challenge God, "If you get me out of this I will believe in you"

Others present the gospel of Jesus Christ with this assumption in place

"Why don't you give God a chance, see if your life isn't better?"

What a contrast with this warning from Hebrews 3:7-14