

John 6:29, 35, 51, 63 NLT -29 Jesus told them, "This is the only work God wants from you: Believe in the one he has sent." - ...35 Jesus replied, "I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry again. Whoever believes in me will never be thirsty. ... 51 I am the living bread that came down from heaven. Anyone who eats this bread will live forever; and this bread, which I will offer so the world may live, is my flesh." ... 63 The Spirit alone gives eternal life. Human effort accomplishes nothing. And the very words I have spoken to you are spirit and life.

What is the only work God wants from us (v. 29)? What do we gain from our own efforts (v. 63)

What then is the evidence that we believe that Jesus is Messiah, God incarnate? We grab hold of Jesus; we trust, we follow, and we offer our lives as living sacrifices. In other words, we are all in.

Wrap Up

The miracles Jesus performed gave evidence of who He was. The crowds focused on perishable things they could get for themselves, but not on the one who offered them eternal life. When Jesus told them that He was the only bread they needed, many left him. They were safer in the shallow end of the pool; relying on what they did and what they had to provide for their needs. It was tax collectors, sinners, and the marginalized who went all in with Jesus and aligned their entire lives to Him. They surrendered their agendas, gifts and resources, to gain a relationship with the one who was the source of life.

Memory Verse

Jesus told them, "This is the only work God wants from you: Believe in the one he has sent."

- John 6:29 NLT

PRAYER (20 MIN)

Ask your group to pray for you regarding one area where you can apply this study in your life: _____

Pray for your group members' needs. _____

Challenge- Take an inventory of your life. Is there something you've been afraid to let go of and turn over to God? Are you relying on your own resources when God might have something even better? Find something this week you can let go of and see how God provides.

"Are You All In?"

Cannonball All In- #1

INTRODUCTION

Our new sermon series, Cannonball – All in, will help us take a look at our commitment to our faith. Being “all in” means taking a risk, and not everyone is willing to do that. If we liken it to a swimming pool, you might be wading in the shallow end, or maybe you are running with abandon off the diving board. Probably you are somewhere in between. Of course, you can stand back and observe Christianity at a “safe distance”, but to really experience the fullness of life that Jesus offers; we need to be “all in.”

Ice Breaker (Optional—8 min)

Did you ever cannonball into a pool?

STUDY QUESTIONS (45 MIN)

1. What do I get out of this?

John 6:1-2 NLT - 1 After this, Jesus crossed over to the far side of the Sea of Galilee, also known as the Sea of Tiberias. 2 A huge crowd kept following him wherever he went, because they saw his miraculous signs as he healed the sick.

In the region of Galilee, Jesus was both preaching and performing miracles. Not surprisingly a huge crowd began to follow Him.

John 6:2 tells us the people followed because they saw his signs as Jesus healed the sick. The miraculous signs drew attention to Jesus. That could lead the people to draw different conclusions about Him. It undoubtedly shaped who they thought He was.

What expectations do you think the crowd had as they followed?

What did you expect to get from your relationship with Jesus when you first came to the Lord?

At one time or another most of us would like to see a miracle. The trouble comes when we seek only the miracle, but don't seek God who works the miracles.

John 20:30-31 NLT - 30 The disciples saw Jesus do many other miraculous signs in addition to the ones recorded in this book. 31 But these are written so that you may continue to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing in him you will have life by the power of his name.

What does John 20:31 tell us is the purpose for recording Jesus' miracles?

Jesus wants us to have a rich and satisfying life.

John 10:10 NLT - 10 The thief's purpose is to steal and kill and destroy. My purpose is to give them a rich and satisfying life

What would you say makes your life rich, satisfying, and abundant?

2. Loaves and Fishes

John 6:3-6 NLT - 3 Then Jesus climbed a hill and sat down with his disciples around him. 4 (It was nearly time for the Jewish Passover celebration.) 5 Jesus soon saw a huge crowd of people coming to look for him. Turning to Philip, he asked, "Where can we buy bread to feed all these people?" 6 He was testing Philip, for he already knew what he was going to do.

As Jesus moved on, the crowds followed. Verse 3 tells us the celebration of Passover was near. It was known as the Feast of Unleavened Bread (Luke 22:7)

Luke 22:7 NLT - 7 Now the Festival of Unleavened Bread arrived, when the Passover lamb is sacrificed.

Mark 14:22 NLT - 22 As they were eating, Jesus took some bread and blessed it. Then he broke it in pieces and gave it to the disciples, saying, "Take it, for this is my body."

How did Jesus present the bread to His followers when the Passover arrived?

Jesus' understanding of what the crowds needed was different from what Phillip saw. Jesus was able to give the people the bread they needed, but Phillip hadn't caught his vision yet.

Jesus revealed where Phillip was at by asking the question "Where can we buy bread to feed these?" Based on his answer, where did Phillip look for meeting the people's need? What did Andrew offer as a solution?

Do you think Andrew expected five loaves and two fish were adequate provisions? Who would you say was "all in" in this story?

John 6:7-10 NLT - 7 Philip replied, "Even if we worked for months, we wouldn't have enough money to feed them!" 8 Then Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, spoke up. 9 "There's a young boy here with five barley loaves and two fish. But what good is that with this huge crowd?" 10 "Tell everyone to sit down," Jesus said. So they all sat down on the grassy slopes. (The men alone numbered about 5,000.)

We all know how the story ends. Jesus fed the 5,000 with what He was offered and there was an abundance.

3. Grab Hold of Jesus

John 6:14-15 NLT - 14 When the people saw him do this miraculous sign, they exclaimed, "Surely, he is the Prophet we have been expecting!" 15 When Jesus saw that they were ready to force him to be their king, he slipped away into the hills by himself.

Now that they had gotten something from Jesus, the crowd began to consider "what else can we get out of this?" And they were hoping for someone to lead their revolution. But that was not Jesus' plan, it was theirs. Had Jesus come as their deliverer? Yes, but from sin and death, not Rome. They wanted Him to align to them, not for them to be aligned with Him.

John 6:25-29 NLT - 25 They found him on the other side of the lake and asked, "Rabbi, when did you get here?" 26 Jesus replied, "I tell you the truth, you want to be with me because I fed you, not because you understood the miraculous signs. 27 But don't be so concerned about perishable things like food. Spend your energy seeking the eternal life that the Son of Man can give you. For God the Father has given me the seal of his approval." 28 They replied, "We want to perform God's works, too. What should we do?"

These people wanted to know what they had to "do". They were spending all their energy "doing" in order to get something. But, sometimes we get this wrong too. We don't receive eternal life because of what we "do"; attend church, serve or give. But we spend a lot of our energy pursuing those things. Jesus warns that these things fade.