

John 6 (pt 2) - Why & How Do We Follow Him

Joh 6:1-2 ESV After this Jesus went away to the other side of the Sea of Galilee, which is the Sea of Tiberias. 2 And a large crowd was following him, **because they saw the signs that he was doing** on the sick.

They followed because they saw the signs He was doing on the sick (Running to the next great healing service)

Following the LORD because of the miracles is not a long term strategy

- After seeing the splitting of the Red Sea, it only took a few days for the children of Israel to begin complaining and questioning whether the LORD could provide in the wilderness
- Even in this story - they saw the multiplying of the loaves and fish and sign and miracles Jesus was doing on the sick and **followed him**, but by verse 30 **“What sign do you show us that we may see and believe you?”**
- And by the end of the chapter (vs 66) they would **TURN AWAY FROM FOLLOWING** when He says some things that are difficult to understand

They put forward their own agenda (my will not THY will be done) - I'll follow you, but don't make me a missionary

They Tried To Exert Their Will Onto God - to take him by force and MAKE HIM KING

Joh 6:14-15 ESV When the people saw the sign that he had done, they said, "This is indeed the Prophet who is to come into the world!" 15 Perceiving then that **they were about to come and take him by force to make him king**, Jesus withdrew again to the mountain by himself.

There were seeking Him because their stomachs were filled (self-centered)

.....25 When they found him on the other side of the sea, they said to him, "Rabbi, when did you come here?" 26 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.** 27 Do not **labor** 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."

But Jesus turned their thoughts to consider eternal values

- Do not labor for the **food the perishes** - but the **food that endures to eternal life**
- Only Jesus can give this **“which the Son of Man will give you”**
- The man building bigger barns - you fool, this night your soul is required....
- Lay up treasure in heaven - it is very shortsighted to not consider eternity in your planning

What is the work of God? - THAT WE BELIEVE - it is all He wants

28 Then they said to him, "**What must we do, to be doing the works of God?**" 29 Jesus answered them, "***This is the work of God, that you BELIEVE in him whom he has sent.***"

- What must we DO (it's not about doing) - It is really about **BELIEVING**
- **Even the miracles were done for the purpose of leading them to believe....**Joh 20:29-31
ESV Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? **Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.**" 30 Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; 31 but **these are written so that you may believe** that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.
- **Even in the Garden of Eden it was about BELIEVING**, Adam and Eve did not Believe God

PROVE yourself to me first, then I'll follow! (with stipulations)

30-32 ESV So they said to him, "***Then what sign do you do***, that we may see and believe you? What work do you perform? 31 Our fathers ate the manna in the wilderness; as it is written, 'He gave them bread from heaven to eat.'"

- **One more sign will never enough** (they just saw him feed 5,000-10,000 people, and heal the sick) --- ONE MORE SIGN AND THEN WE WILL BELIEVE
- Brothers of the rich man...even if someone raised from the dead they would not believe (they have the law and prophets)
- The pharisees saw him stretch a man's withered arm and the next moment they sought how they might kill him

As soon as Jesus reveals who He is & what HE EXPECTS they balk

32 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. or the bread of God is **he who comes down from heaven** and gives life to the world." 34 They said to him, "Sir, give us this bread always." 35 Jesus said to them, "**I am the bread of life**; whoever comes to me shall not hunger, and **whoever BELIEVES** in me shall never thirst. 36 But I said to you that **you have seen me and yet do not BELIEVE**. 41 So the Jews grumbled about him, **because he said, 'I am the bread that came down from heaven.'**" 42 They said, "**Is not this Jesus, the son of Joseph, whose father and mother we know? How does he now say, 'I have come down from heaven'?**"

- **In vs 14 they believed he was "The Prophet" & they were ready to make him king...now because He challenges them...He is JUST JESUS son of Joseph**

They were offended at the teachings of Jesus - a hard saying - but it is the BEST thing for them

48 I am the bread of life. 49 Your fathers ate the manna in the wilderness, **and they died.** 50 This is the bread that comes down from heaven, so that **one may eat of it and not die.** 51 **I am the living bread** that came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever. And the bread that I will give for the life of the world is my flesh." 52 The Jews then disputed among themselves, saying, "**How can this man give us his flesh to eat?**" 53 So Jesus said to them, "**Truly, truly, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you.**" 54 Whoever feeds on my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day. 60 When many of his disciples heard it, they said, "**This is a hard saying; who can listen to it?**" 61 But Jesus, knowing in himself that his disciples were grumbling about this, said to them, "**Do you take offense at this?**" 62 Then **what if you were to see the Son of Man ascending** to where he was before? 63 It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh is no help at all. The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life. 64 **But there are some of you who do not BELIEVE.**" (For Jesus knew from the beginning who those were who did not BELIEVE, and who it was who would betray him.) 65 And he said, "This is why I told you that no one can come to me unless it is granted him by the Father." 66 **After this many of his disciples turned back and no longer walked with him.**

- This is a hard saying --- Do you take offense at this?
- What if you were to see the Son of Man ascending ... (would you then believe?)
- There are some who do not believe
- Many disciples turned back and ***no longer walked with Him***

Why do you follow Him? --- BELIEVING LEADS TO FOLLOWING

67 So Jesus said to the Twelve, "**Do you want to go away as well?**" 68 Simon Peter answered him, "Lord, **to whom** shall we go? You have the **words of eternal life**, 69 and we have **BELIEVED**, and have **come to know**, that you are the Holy One of God."

Summary - What will sustain you as a follower?

- To make an intentional decisive commitment to *the person of Jesus Christ*
 - "**To whom shall we go?**" [not "**What do we do?**" or "**What should we believe?**"]
- It is to hold to the confidence that **HE HAS THE WORDS OF ETERNAL LIFE**
 - Even the difficult words
 - Even the words we don't fully comprehend
 - Even when the words press us about our commitment
- It is that **WE HAVE BELIEVED - this is the WORK of God - to lead us HERE**
- In our believing **WE HAVE COME TO KNOW - there is no second guessing who Jesus Is - it is a settled issue with you**