

## THE GOSPEL IN JOHN 5 AND 6

April 24, 2022

The gospel of John tells us about Jesus and the gospel of Jesus. Now if you were to ask people who Jesus is, some would say He was a good man, an example to follow. Some would say He's a prophet, a very godly man. Others might say He's God but wouldn't know why He came here. Others would wonder if He even existed. Others, and hopefully you're in this category, would know Jesus is the Son of God, and the Savior, that only through Him can you be saved from your sin and receive eternal life.

One of Jesus' objectives when He was on earth was to convince people He was God in the flesh, and not just a man, but One sent by His heavenly Father to be our Savior. And John 5 tells us about witnesses who testified to the truth about Jesus. God the Father was a witness and He testified that Jesus was God. And John the Baptist was a witness. And the works, the miracles Jesus did, proved He was God. And the words Jesus said, many of which were based on the OT Scriptures, were also evidence He was God - and of course, Jesus Himself testified that He was the Son of God.

John 5:39-47. Now what do you need to understand from this passage?

1. You don't get saved by knowing God's word - you get saved by knowing Jesus, and if you know Jesus, then you know God the Father, and you have eternal life. Now the Pharisees were fanatical when it came to knowing Scripture, and by that, I mean the very lines, the very words, and the very letters that were used. They knew the OT Scriptures inside and out, but most of them didn't know Jesus, weren't saved. - Jesus told the people that salvation doesn't come from knowing the words of the Bible. It doesn't come from having head knowledge, but from heart knowledge. It's not what you know but Who you know.

Yes, a person needs to know what the Bible says, for it tells us about Jesus and the gospel. But for a person to be saved, He needs, in his spirit, to literally come to God. - He needs to be humble, he needs to approach God, and talk to God and admit that he's a sinner and that he is sorry that he sinned against Him, and then believe that Jesus died on the cross to save him, to forgive his sins. A person who gets saved then comes to God and believes in his heart that Jesus died and paid for his sins, Jesus was saying that these Pharisees and others weren't willing to come to Jesus - they were proud and stubborn, and were trusting in themselves and in their own good works, but they weren't trusting Jesus, and didn't want to trust Him.

2. Vss. 41-42. Jesus is saying He doesn't want glory and honor from men. He wants the glory and honor that comes from God. He wants God's approval, and not man's approval. He doesn't care whether people love Him. That's not what motivated Him. He wants to know that God loves Him and is pleased by what He does.

Jesus tells these Pharisees and others like them that they don't have the love of God in their hearts – they're not motivated by the love of God, but rather, by the love of man. And so Jesus tells them that they're looking for man's approval, man's praise - they want to be loved and approved by men, but they're not interested in God's approval.

Vs. 44. When a person believes in God, He sees God for who He is, as His Lord and Maker, as the all-powerful and holy One, and he's being humble before God. And only a person who humbles himself before the one, true God, can believe in God, can have faith in God. - A person who's not humble is proud and can't believe in God and isn't trusting God. But people who get saved aren't proud, they're humble, and have faith in God. Hab. 2:4 And the only way for a person to get saved and then live the Christian life is when he is trying to please God, and when he wants glory and honor from God. And he can't please and honor God if he is trying to get glory and honor from men.

Vs. 43. The Pharisees believed and trusted men, but not God. Here's Jesus, God's Son, and His Father sent Him to earth, to Israel, and He was in their midst, and He was doing miracles and teaching them the truth, but they wouldn't receive Him, wouldn't look to Him, wouldn't take hold of Him, and they wouldn't believe in Him.

- And these false religious leaders, these unbelievers, said they believed in Moses, and in the Law of Moses, but they wouldn't believe what Moses said about Jesus. But that doesn't make sense, for if they believed Moses, which was God's words, then they'd believe what God's word said about Jesus, and they'd believe Jesus. In the world, people usually believe what other people say, but they don't believe what God says. We need to encourage people to believe and trust God and His word, for God's word is the source of the truth, one of the means by which we live for God.

John 6:1-2. It's likely that the events recorded in Jn. 6 took place 6-12 months later.

Now what's happening during this time interval is that Jesus kept ministering, kept performing miracles, and kept teaching, and the crowds kept growing.

- Mark 6:30-32. Jesus and the disciples were very busy, and I'm sure very tired, probably exhausted - and they were so busy that they didn't have time to eat. Not only that but they had just heard that King Herod killed John the Baptist. It was not just physically difficult, but spiritually and emotionally difficult for both the disciples and Jesus.

Now I like John 6:31 in the NIV – *“Come with me by yourselves to a quiet place and get some rest.”* Jesus wanted His disciples to get some rest, which is what they and He needed. And so Jesus and His disciples get away to this mountain, which would be a very large hill. - Vss. 5-6. Lo and behold, there appears a large crowd, probably one over 10,000 people. Carroll. And Jesus feels compassion for them, and so He instructs the people to sit down. But Jesus is wanting to teach His disciples, specifically Philip, a lesson on faith. Well, we know what happens - Jesus miraculously feeds all these people by multiplying five loaves of barley bread and two fish. I'm sure the food He created was excellent food, and that the people loved it. And they ate as much as they wanted. John 6:12

Now it's interesting what the people were saying - *“This is truly the Prophet who is to come into the world,”* which is a reference from a prophecy made in Deut. 18:15-19. Jesus knows they want to make Him a King. But His primary purpose at that time was not to be a King who could deliver them from the Romans, their physical enemies, but a Savior who could deliver them from their sin, their spiritual enemy.

And so Jesus withdraws and goes to this mountain. He wants to get away, only this time, by Himself. And the disciples get into a boat to head back to Capernaum, their hometown. The disciples are now on the Sea of Galilee, and a storm comes up. Wouldn't you know it? Jesus, at just the right time, comes to help them. He's miraculously walking on the water, the disciples see Him and are afraid - they think He's a ghost, but Jesus lets them know it's Him, gets in the boat and miraculously the storm stops and immediately they get to their destination.

Well, the crowd realizes Jesus is gone - and so they go looking for Him.  
- John 6:26-29. This is another key section of vss. And what do we learn?

1. Jesus tells the people that they're seeking Him for the wrong reasons, for fleshly reasons. He did this great miracle, the feeding of thousands of people, and they're searching for Him, seeking Him for they want more miracles, and they want to have their physical needs met. We see this in our own culture, people going to church, and listening to a certain preacher because he's talking about their physical, emotional, and relational needs, but he's not talking about their spiritual needs, the needs of their soul, the forgiveness of their sins, and having a close walk with God.

2. Jesus instructs the people to not work for physical, fleshly, and worldly things, things that perish, things that don't last, that may have some earthly value, but no eternal value. And we see this all the time with people, especially unbelievers, where they spend their entire lives focused on physical things and on getting and having things. Luke 12:13-34  
- This can relate to your physical body. In this world, a lot of emphasis, a lot of time and money is given to taking care of your physical body, whether it relates to food, exercise, or health. I'm not saying you shouldn't take care of your body, for you should, but you are not to be consumed by it, to give all this time and attention to it. 1 Tim. 4:6-8

3. Jesus instructs the people to work for that which has eternal value, lasting value, and these are spiritual and unseen things, valuable and eternal things. 2 Cor 4:18, Col 3:1-2 - This theme of seeking eternal things, the things of God, the things that relate to the future, to heaven, to the needs of the human soul, to the kingdom of God, is a very common and important theme in the Bible. Epistles, Luke 12:12-34, Matt. 6:16-34

4. In vs. 27, Jesus says you're to work for things that have eternal value, and this may seem confusing for we know the Christian life is not a matter of our good works, it's not a matter of what we can do in our own flesh, our own thinking and efforts. In vs. 29, Jesus clarifies what He said by saying this work of God is to believe in God, to have faith in Him, to trust Him instead of trusting yourselves. Indeed, it's not by works, but by faith that we're saved, that we receive eternal life. Eph. 2:8-9. And having faith is how you live the Christian life. 2 Cor. 5:7 says we're to walk by faith – that is, our daily life is to be a life of faith, of looking to God, and trusting Him. John 6:29

5. The Father set His seal on His Son. This word seal refers to how people in those days would mark something, and it was a mark of ownership, security, and permanency. God wants us and everyone to know that Jesus is His Son, is always His Son, and He will protect His Son, and use Him for His purposes on earth. Jn. 14:6, 1 Jn. 5:11-13

John 6:30-31. This shows the unbelieving hearts of the crowd. Jesus had just fed over 10,000 people and now they want more signs. Matt. 12:38-39, Mk. 8:11-21, Jn. 12:37, 1 Cor. 1:22 - And you see what the Jews were like, and Jesus was continually dealing with these hard-hearted Jews. Jesus did thousands of signs, and they kept wanting more signs. But they were wanting their physical flesh to be satisfied, they weren't seeing their sin, their spiritual problem, and their need for Jesus to save them from their sin.

John 6:32-33. The people were talking about this physical miracle back in Moses' day when God fed the Jews with manna from heaven. And Jesus uses this miracle to help them see that what they really needed wasn't physical food but spiritual food, this true bread. And Jesus told them that this bread only comes from God, only from heaven, and that God wants to freely give it to people on earth. And Jesus says that having this bread results in people having true life, which we know means eternal life.

John 6:34-35. And the people say they want this life. And what does Jesus say? He says that He Himself is this bread, and that if you have this bread, you won't hunger or thirst, which is what Jesus was saying in John 4:13-14. And so this theme of Jesus wanting to bless our lives and meet our needs, our spiritual needs, continues. And Jesus is the only One who gives us true life, this spiritual life, this eternal life, that which truly satisfies. John 6:51, 58