

*“Working the Works of God!”*  
*John 6:27-35*

I. *Review, a discussion started, inspired by Jesus –*

<sup>27</sup> **Do not labor for the food which perishes, but for the food which endures to everlasting life, which the Son of Man will give you, because God the Father has set His seal on Him.” John 6:27 (NKJV)**

1. *Jesus’ hearers, in John 6, are not LAZY people, they have a zeal, they are laboring, working for something.*

A. *Jesus had avoided them, but -*

B. *They kept coming / they kept seeking Him, they were displaying perseverance!*

2. *What was WRONG was not their effort, but what they were working FOR -*

<sup>27</sup> **Do not labor for the food which perishes,... but for the food which endures to everlasting life**

A. *This does not mean that we do not labor at all for our daily bread –*

*Since the fall, and even before, eating at all, requires work –*

<sup>19</sup> **In the sweat of your face you shall eat bread ... Genesis 3:19 A (NKJV)**

<sup>10</sup> **For even when we were with you, we commanded you this: If anyone will not work, neither shall he eat. 2 Thessalonians 3:10 (NKJV)**

B. *When Jesus says, <sup>27</sup> Do not labor for the food which perishes, but for the food which endures to everlasting life,*

*He is not implying that we do not work at all for our present FOOD, that perishes, but that we do not make this FOOD, our PRIORITY!*

II. *The works of God, what are they?*

<sup>28</sup> **Then they said to Him, “What shall we do, that we may work the works of God?” John 6:28 (NKJV)**

*ἐργάζεσθε – labor, work, works --- ergonomics is an English word based on this*

1. *This is first of all, a good question, what shall we do? And another question, that we might work the works of God?*

A. *Scripture would have given them some answers:*

<sup>8</sup> **He has shown you, O man, what is good; and what does the LORD require of you But to do justly, To love mercy, And to walk humbly with your God? Micah 6:8 (NKJV)**

B. *After giving them the Ten Commandments, the Second Time, in Deuteronomy they are told -*

<sup>32</sup> **“Therefore you shall be careful to do as the LORD your God has commanded you; you shall not turn aside to the right hand or to the left. <sup>33</sup> You shall walk in all the ways which the LORD your God has commanded you, that you may live and that it may be well with you, and that you may prolong your days in the land which you shall possess. Deuteronomy 5:32–33 (NKJV)**

C. *Finding the various things that we are taught or commanded to do in Scripture is not hard to do, the various commands are written throughout God's Word –*

<sup>16</sup> **All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, <sup>17</sup> that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work. 2 Timothy 3:16–17 (NKJV)**

2. *But given this QUESTION by them, “What shall we do, that we may work the works of God?” John 6:28 (NKJV)*

*Jesus answers like this –*

<sup>29</sup> **Jesus answered and said to them, “This is the work of God, that you believe in Him whom He sent.” John 6:29 (NKJV)**

III. *Why? How? Is believing in Jesus the Work of God?*

<sup>29</sup> **Jesus answered and said to them, “This is the work of God, that you believe in Him whom He sent.” John 6:29 (NKJV)**

1. *Know the work / works of God are beyond us –*

*Obviously what Jesus just did, feeding the 5,000 with five loaves of bread, and two small fish is a WORK, a MIRACLE of God that is beyond our abilities!*

2. *But so is keeping all of God's commands, they are like the fiery mountain God gave them from, we don't come close to keeping them because of our sin!*

<sup>6</sup> **But we are all like an unclean thing, And all our righteousnesses are like filthy rags; We all fade as a leaf, And our iniquities, like the wind, Have taken us away. <sup>7</sup> And there is no one who calls on Your name, Who stirs himself up to take hold of You; For You have hidden Your face from us, And have consumed us because of our iniquities. Isaiah 64:6–7 (NKJV)**

3. *These people think they CAN do God's Works ...*

<sup>28</sup> **Then they said to Him, “What shall we do, that we may work the works of God?” John 6:28 (NKJV)**

A. *You could say, or they might THINK, we diligently sought You Jesus!*

B. *We have been willing to make You King Jesus!*

*Remember this –*

<sup>15</sup> **Therefore when Jesus perceived that they were about to come and take Him by force to make Him king, He departed again to the mountain by Himself alone. John 6:15 (NKJV)**

*Is this something we do? Or they could do? Do we MAKE JESUS king?*

*Or*

*Is He already KING?*

*Believing they can do this, is believing in their own power, not Jesus!*

4. *The fact that they thought they could MAKE JESUS KING, fits with the idea, the thinking, we can do the works of God! Neither making Jesus King, being KING MAKERS or working the works of God, was something they were able to do, that is why they NEEDED to believe in Jesus!*

5. *Even about “believing” it is something they put themselves ON THE THRONE ABOUT –*  
<sup>30</sup> **Therefore they said to Him, “What sign will You perform then, that we may see it and believe You? What work will You do? John 6:30 (NKJV)**

- A. *Jump through our hopes, do more tricks, make more bread*
- B. *Maybe, if you do all this we will believe?*

*They are saying to Jesus, prove yourself worthy of our faith! They are saying YOU are telling US what to labor for? How about you doing something for US –*

<sup>31</sup> **Our fathers ate the manna in the desert; as it is written, ‘He gave them bread from heaven to eat.’” John 6:31 (NKJV)**

6. *If we had more bread we would believe, if we had daily bread, we’d have energy to do the works of God!*

7. *Yet, their true condition was FAR from what they thought it was –*

<sup>14</sup> **“And to the angel of the church of the Laodiceans write, ‘These things says the Amen, the Faithful and True Witness, the Beginning of the creation of God: <sup>15</sup> “I know your works, that you are neither cold nor hot. I could wish you were cold or hot. <sup>16</sup> So then, because you are lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will vomit you out of My mouth. <sup>17</sup> Because you say, ‘I am rich, have become wealthy, and have need of nothing’—and do not know that you are wretched, miserable, poor, blind, and naked—<sup>18</sup> I counsel you to buy from Me gold refined in the fire, that you may be rich; and white garments, that you may be clothed, *that* the shame of your nakedness may not be revealed; and anoint your eyes with eye salve, that you may see. <sup>19</sup> As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten. Therefore be zealous and repent. <sup>20</sup> Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with Me. <sup>21</sup> To him who overcomes I will grant to sit with Me on My throne, as I also overcame and sat down with My Father on His throne. <sup>22</sup> “He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.” ’” Revelation 3:14–22 (NKJV)**

*Imagine the Indianapolis 500*

*Further imagine a person who has never seen a car, who has two broken legs, who has no clue about miles, what a distance 500 miles is ...*

*He is telling you, “I’ll run in that race, just give me more bread!”*

*“Run, John, run! The law commands!  
But gives us neither feet, nor hands!  
Far better news the Gospel brings,  
It bids us, fly and gives us wings!”*

*John Bunyan (Author of Pilgrim’s Progress)*

IV. *Jesus is telling both them and us, we NEED HIM, we cannot do God's work, without Him – (see also John 15:5)*

<sup>32</sup> Then Jesus said to them, **“Most assuredly, I say to you, Moses did not give you the bread from heaven, but My Father gives you the true bread from heaven. <sup>33</sup> For the bread of God is He who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world.”** <sup>34</sup> Then they said to Him, “Lord, give us this bread always.” <sup>35</sup> And Jesus said to them, **“I am the bread of life. He who comes to Me shall never hunger, and he who believes in Me shall never thirst. John 6:32–35 (NKJV)**

1. *Moses, Jesus says to them, really did not give you ANYTHING!*
2. *If manna is anything it is a type, a picture, a preview of Jesus Christ*

A. *He gives life to the world –*

<sup>10</sup> **The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly.** <sup>11</sup> **“I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd gives His life for the sheep. John 10:10–11 (NKJV)**

B. *He gives life by His death on the cross, for by His death He takes upon Himself the penalty due our sin –*

<sup>21</sup> **For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him. 2 Corinthians 5:21 (NKJV)**

C. *It is through God's grace and faith in Christ that we are enabled to do those “Good Works” that glorify God –*

<sup>8</sup> **For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, <sup>9</sup> not of works, lest anyone should boast.** <sup>10</sup> **For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them. Ephesians 2:8–10 (NKJV)**

3. *Note the longing of these people –*

<sup>34</sup> Then they said to Him, “Lord, give us this bread always.” John 6:34 (NKJV)

4. *He tells them CLEARLY –*

<sup>5</sup> **And Jesus said to them, “I am the bread of life. He who comes to Me shall never hunger, and he who believes in Me shall never thirst. John 6:35 (NKJV)**

A. *We are not king-makers, Jesus is ALREADY KING of kings and LORD of lords*

B. *Jesus does not NEED our faith!*

C. *We NEED Jesus!*

*He is the Bread of Life! Our all and all, we need Him DAILY – <sup>11</sup> Give us this day our daily bread. Matthew 6:11 (NKJV)*

In modern terms He might be the Only Winning Race Car in the Indianapolis 500 of life, without him we are crawling with broken legs, and really not even THAT ...

He is the only Spiritual Jet that can fly us to Heaven, Who can enable God-glorifying works –

<sup>31</sup> **But those who wait on the LORD Shall renew their strength; They shall mount up with wings like eagles, They shall run and not be weary, They shall walk and not faint. Isaiah 40:31 (NKJV)**