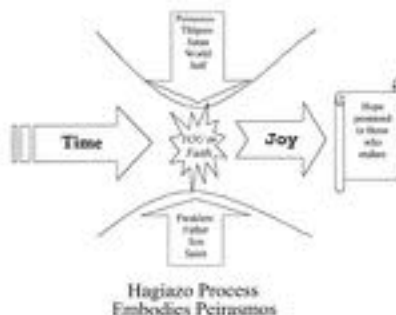


John 20 – Jesus: Doing the Work of God for Man

Dr. Leon L. Sanders
John 6:22-40

Hagiazo – Peirasmos Schematic

- Peirasmos (Trial)/Thlipsis integral to Hagiazo Process (Holy, Sanctify)
- God Allows Trial-Man Chooses Flesh-Trial Reveals one's sin; need to Rest in Spirit, Christ & Father-Interdependence



Looking for the Wrong Messiah

- People from Tiberias heard of Christ's works and sailed to Bethsaida J.
- People at Bethsaida J. saw Christ gone and sailed to Bethsaida T. (Capernaum) to find Christ to break their fast (Think Welfare)



Mystery of Bethsaida. (<http://www.testimony-magazine.org/back/apr2003/berison2.pdf>)

Final Peirasmos – Culmination

- Everything that Christ has done culminates in these final dialogues demonstrating the Jews cluelessness
 - Christ's good deed, the feeding, they perverted into sinfulness, to fulfill the lust of the flesh (Jh 2:15-16)
 - Healings were perceived as strengthening the flesh, not as authentication of Christ's message of Messiahship
 - They did not want a godly, humble Messiah – A warrior

Two Different Conversations

- People talked to Christ on fleshly level while Christ addressed them on godly level – Occurs through John
 - They asked how He came to Bethsaida – Hidden agenda
 - Christ revealed their true agenda – Food source (Flesh)
 - They did not come because of the miracle and His msg
 - Their motive – Free food for life (Government welfare) (Mt 6:11-12)
 - Concerned only with fleshly, not spiritual existence (Mt 6:25-33)

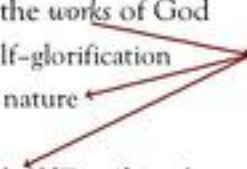
Conflation of the Word Work

- Jacob (James), brother of Christ probably learned his understanding of *work* from Jesus teachings (Jh 2:18-24)
 - While the people and Christ used the same words; the meaning each used is different (Equivocation fallacy)
 - The people use *work* in the sense of doing something to prove or earn righteousness; i.e., works (Rv 4:1-6)
 - Christ uses *work* to indicate one's actions demonstrate faith in God, and His Son (Comes from *new nature*) (2Co 5:17)

Work for the *True* Food of Life

- Christ warns them not to *work* for food that perishes
 - They seek only that which promotes the flesh (Jc. 1:29)
 - The flesh is temporary - All die (Sin) (Jc. 15:22, 16: 9,27)
- He implores them to *work* for the *true* food of life
 - He wants to give them the *true* food of eternal life
 - His *signs* authenticate His ability to give them the *true* food which will result in their receiving *new* covenant

Works of God-Earning Righteousness

- Crowd ignores His willingness to give them *true* food and asks what *works* they can do to do the *works* of God
 - They want to *earn* righteousness for self-glorification
 - *Works* of God outflow from one's *new* nature (Jc. 9:17)
 - Christ tells them the *work* of God - Belief (Trust) in the Son of God and His message of Life (Faith in Christ)
- 

Signs are for those lacking Faith

- Signs do not demonstrate greatness of faith but show weakness of one's faith in Christ
 - Crowd now demands Christ give them a *sign* that He is God (They do not understand Messiah as God's Son)
 - This is contradictory as they experienced a *sign* the day before and followed Him to experience the *sign* again
 - They ask Christ what *work* He will perform as God did

Hunger and Thirst Metaphors

- Bodily processes are also metaphors of spirit needs
- Body “hungers” and “thirsts” for life as does the spirit/soul
- Lost soul covets sin; new soul trained in the Word

Metaphor Processes as Bible of Metaphors*

1. **Breathing** - Description of God's Word - Holy Spirit imagery
 - Body requires continuous supply of oxygen
 - Body requires continuous separation of carbon dioxide
 - Body requires a great source for oxygenation
 - Body dies when the reserve is exhausted
2. **Feeding** - Application of God's Word to everyday life - Christ's Word is food for the Body; Jesus' Commandment is the Word of Life
 - Body requires frequent intake of food for health
 - Water is the major component of food which carries nutrients, waste products and cellular regulatory substances to every cell of the body
 - Body can starve for approximately three days without food
 - After this period body's major organ system begins to malfunction until the body dies
3. **Exercising** - Application of God's Word to everyday life - Christ's Word is training to learn to use a new body for eternity future
 - Body requires maintenance (exercise) for long-term growth and regulation
 - Food is the major source of all bodily metabolic products: amino, mineral, neural, regulatory substances, etc.
 - Improper nutrition results in degenerative issues
 - Body can live for approximately six years without food by subsisting on stored reserves in the liver, carbohydrates, fat, and muscle-cell stored acids

Crowd Refers to God's Manna

- Notice, it was not Christ who made manna the issue but the people in their ignorance of its significance (Ex 16:1-15)
 - God gave them manna; Christ claims to be from God then He must prove it by providing manna also if He wants them to believe His is God
 - Their fathers called it manna (What is it?) as they were ignorant of God's plan; these people are also ignorant

Christ Constantly Teaching

- People believed Moses gave manna, but Christ corrects them; God gave them manna, Moses only announced it
 - Christ tells them manna was a metaphor of Him, the One who would come from the Father to give life to the World - Eucharist bread (flesh) broken for sin (1Co 1:29, 11:29)
 - Wilderness represents peirasmoi of believers in the flesh growing in Christ; believers look to God to provide water (Spirit) and manna (Son), look to heavenly city (He 12:13-18)

No One Understands (Ro 3:11)

- Christ could not have spoken plainer: He was the spiritual *bread* (manna) sent from the Father to bring them the *new covenant*, if they believed Him
 - But they asked for physical *bread* showing they were in darkness craving fleshly appetites condemned to hell (Ro 8:10-11)
 - Demonstrates the truth: No one seeks after God because God's wisdom is foolishness to the lost (Ro 3:21, 1Co 2:14)

“I Am” – Bread of Life

- {ἐγώ εἰμι ὁ ἄρτος τῆς ζωῆς} - Underlined articles not always translated as “the” giving the above rendering
 - Statement of deity - I Am
 - Statement of purpose - Bread of Life (Manna)
- Their name for bread of heaven was manna, what is it; described their ignorance and rejection of *true* “bread of Heaven” (Son) when He offered them eternal life

Hunger & Thirst for Righteousness (Mt 5:6)

- The essence of *election* explained by Christ Himself
 - Whosoever comes to Him will never hunger
 - Whosoever believes in Him will never thirst
 - The crowd did not believe; they could not believe due to their spiritual deadness unless God gave them life (Ro 8:7-8, 1Co 2:14, 2Co 4:14, Ep 2:1, 1Jo 11:25)
 - All the Father *gives* will come to Him, believe and never be cast out - Essence of Election (Sovereignty of God)

Christ Came from Heaven

- Harkens back to the Opening Hymn (Jn 1:1-2, 9-36, 18)
 - John repeats that Christ did not come from Heaven to do His will, Lucifer tempted Him to do His own will (Jn 4:1-7)
 - He came to do the will of the Father who sent Him (Jn 5:30)
 - God's will: Christ will not lose anyone whom the Father has given Him (Jn 10:28-30)
 - Christ will raise everyone up on the last day (Jn 12:1-5; 1Co 15:41-55)

Will of God Harkens to the Past

- Phraseology important: Everyone who *looks* to the Son is a direct reference to sinners looking to Bronze Serpent and being healed in the wilderness (Jn 3:14-8)
 - People (children of original generation) complained against God and His the *manna*, rejecting the Son
 - God sent (אֲשֵׁרִי) fiery snakes to bite them; many died
 - Moses made bronze serpent (תִּשְׁרֹף שֶׁנָּה) on pole: all who looked at it were healed, saved from death (Life)

Metaphor for Christ

- Bronze Serpent - Metaphor for Christ's first advent
 - Christ died as a worm, a sinner, on *stauROS* (Jn 13:6; Mk 9:47-48)
 - All who call on name of Christ shall be saved (Jn 2:22; Ro 10:13)
 - They hated God but He gave them goodness, His Son
- Jews turned this symbol into idolatry hanging it in Temple, eventually destroyed by King Hezekiah; turned metaphor of *salvation* into worship of Lucifer {sin} (GK 35:4)

Ignoratio Elenchi–Missing the Point

- As their ancestors did not understand the metaphors God gave that pointed to the coming Savior-Son so these people did not understand nor accept Christ
 - Jewish Talmudic traditions (hermeneutics) never understood these metaphors
 - Like worship of the Bronze Serpent, they worshiped these phenomenon without understanding their meaning; small wonder they demanded Christ's death

Christendom Misses the Mark

- Much of what passes for Christianity today is merely Christendom (using God for their own purposes) (Jed 30:13)
 - Frequent worship of *symbols* without understanding the meaning of the symbols like ark, stauros, Turin Shroud (1Pe 2:3-8)
 - As earthly creatures (animals) they blaspheme God's gospel seeking to keep people from His Grace (1Pe 2:12-18)
 - World praises those who are against God, spreading lies

Temped to Faithlessness–He is Faithful

- Christians walk as in an enigma, partial understanding (1Co 13:12)
 - If we take our mind off truth of the Gospel we fall prey to coveting the *apparent riches* of the world (Ps 73)
 - Through *our trials* we are tempted to unfaithfulness; yet, He remains faithful keeping us with Him forever (2Ti 2:11-13)
 - But if we stand in our own strength (works) Christ says He would not find faith on earth on His return (Mt 24:12-13; Lk 18:8)