

Morning Worship January 21, 2018
"Man's Will & Fish-Burgers" John 6:15-37

I. One vivid picture of man's will, its efforts and its thwarting –

1. After witnessing and probably participating in the feeding of the of the five thousand, certain men called "they" had a will to take Jesus by force make Him their king - (John 6:15 NKJ)

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 NKJ)

- A. Now this might now always be a bad thing, if someone came to me and said, I want Jesus to be King of my life, I would could that as an encouraging thing!
- B. Yet, here we read Jesus avoids them - He departed again to the mountain by Himself alone. (John 6:15 NKJ)
- C. This is already what we might call a battle of wills, they want Him as King, He does not seem to want to be theirs ...

This is even more clear when we go further in the passage, understood in context, the verses John 6:16-25 seem to indicate Jesus snuck away from these "people." Is Jesus playing had to get, or what?

¹⁶ Now when evening came, His disciples went down to the sea, ¹⁷ got into the boat, and went over the sea toward Capernaum. And it was already dark, and Jesus had not come to them. ¹⁸ Then the sea arose because a great wind was blowing. ¹⁹ So when they had rowed about three or four miles, they saw Jesus walking on the sea and drawing near the boat; and they were afraid. ²⁰ But He said to them, "It is I; do not be afraid." ²¹ Then they willingly received Him into the boat, and immediately the boat was at the land where they were going. ²² On the following day, when the people who were standing on the other side of the sea saw that there was no other boat there, except that one which His disciples had entered, and that Jesus had not entered the boat with His disciples, but His disciples had gone away alone-- ²³ however, other boats came from Tiberias, near the place where they ate bread after the Lord had given thanks-- ²⁴ when the people therefore saw that Jesus was not there, nor His disciples, they also got into boats and came to Capernaum, seeking Jesus. ²⁵ And when they found Him on the other side of the sea, they said to Him, "Rabbi, when did You come here?"

- D. Verse :24 says - they also got into boats and came to Capernaum, seeking Jesus.

2. Now, they have sought Jesus, and they have found Jesus, but did they REALLY?

A. Other Scripture tells us -

As it is written: "There is none righteous, no, not one; ¹¹ There is none who understands; There is none who seeks after God. (Romans 3:10-11 NKJ)

- B. They sought Jesus, but they were not really seeking Jesus?
What were they REALLY seeking?

²⁶ Jesus answered them and said, "Most assuredly, I say to you, you seek Me, not because you saw the signs, but because you ate of the loaves and were filled. ²⁷ "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 6:26-27 NKJ)

3. What is Jesus Telling thee seekers in John 6:26-27 above?

- A. Their seeking, their eagerness, their labor, and efforts to find Him and even to make Him King, were driving by the wrong MOTIVE;

They were laboring for the food that perishes!

- B. He is telling them they need a change in the WILL, and change in their focus, even a change of nature –
who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God. (John 1:13 NKJ)

- C. The passage as a whole will show; stubbornly insisting on their own will, while resisting God's, will get them nowhere!
They were seeking a sort of fish burger king, Jesus was not going to be THAT for them!

II. Note, Jesus calls for real faith, they say 'give us MORE BREAD' -

²⁸ Then they said to Him, "What shall we do, that we may work the works of God?" ²⁹ Jesus answered and said to them, "This is the work of God, that you believe in Him whom He sent." ³⁰ Therefore they said to Him, "What sign will You perform then, that we may see it and believe You? What work will You do?" ³¹ "Our fathers ate the manna in the desert; as it is written, 'He gave them bread from heaven to eat.'" (John 6:28-31 NKJ)

A couple things we must note here –

1. Man's will here is set on the fish-burgers, the bread, the eating –

A. These were Jewish people, God's people, likely those who had travelled a distance for the Passover, committed people

B. Yet, still by nature, they seek what men seek, their affections are not naturally drawn to things above –

C. This is opposite of what we are called to do and be –

² Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth. ³ For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. (Colossians 3:2-3 NKJ)

2. Man's will, if supreme, must be continually pleased and fed, note how they speak to Jesus when He tells them to believe –

³⁰ Therefore they said to Him, "What sign will You perform then, that we may see it and believe You? What work will You do?" ³¹ "Our fathers ate the manna in the desert; as it is written, 'He gave them bread from heaven to eat.'" (John 6:30-31 NKJ)

A. He already had fed them, given them a sign, a miracle, but it was not enough, they are still asking - "What sign will You perform then, that we may see it and believe You?"

B. They are twisting Scripture, according to their fleshly desires –

³¹ "Our fathers ate the manna in the desert; as it is written, 'He gave them bread from heaven to eat.'" (John 6:31 NKJ)

3. The more emphasis is placed on MAN'S WILL, FREE WILL, Man's decision being the saving decision, rather than God's, the MORE men must be pleased! They are saying give us bread continually, and we will believe ... the man's will proponent will say "Just give them more bread so they will believe!"

4. The error here is the belief that God's ultimate will is to save all men from Hell –

The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance. (2 Peter 3:9 NKJ)

Now, there are many ways of interpreting 2 Peter 3:9, I am not going to go into them all this morning, but in the wrong way –

A. All emphasis is put on not willing any should perish

B. No, emphasis is put on repentance

C. In this scenario, man's will, pleasing men, even feeding flesh becomes the essence of evangelism –

*Free things, prizes are given

*Controversial doctrines are ignored in preaching and teaching

*Repentance, is not required

III. God's will is emphasized in Jesus' words –

³² 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. ³³ "For the bread of God is He who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world." ³⁴ Then they said to Him, "Lord, give us this bread always." ³⁵ 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. ³⁶ "But I said to you that you have seen Me and yet do not believe. ³⁷ "All that the Father gives Me will come to Me, and the one who comes to Me I will by no means cast out. (John 6:32-37 NKJ)

1. Jesus is the True Bread, the Bread of Life –

A. Manna was not bread from heaven in the True sense Christ is – (John 6:32-33 NKJ) These people needed to be seeking Christ for Christ, or they were not really seeking HIM at all.

B. Manna was not this great satisfactory thing –

"but now our whole being is dried up; there is nothing at all except this manna before our eyes!" (Numbers 11:6 NKJ)

C. Even in Old Testament times God wanted them to seek something higher, His Word, His Will –

"So He humbled you, allowed you to hunger, and fed you with manna which you did not know nor did your fathers know, that He might make you know that man shall not live by bread alone; but man lives by every word that proceeds from the mouth of the LORD. (Deuteronomy 8:3 NKJ)

2. This truly coming to Christ is only by God's giving, drawing –

"All that the Father gives Me will come to Me, and the one who comes to Me I will by no means cast out. (John 6:37 NKJ)

"No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him; and I will raise him up at the last day. (John 6:44 NKJ)

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