

Mount Olive Wednesday Night Bible Study and Prayer Meeting

September 30, 2020

John 6:22 - 30 (King James Version)

22 The day following, when the people which stood on the other side of the sea saw that there was none other boat there, save that one whereinto his disciples were entered, and that Jesus went not with his disciples into the boat, but that his disciples were gone away alone; **23** (Howbeit there came other boats from Tiberias nigh unto the place where they did eat bread, after that the Lord had given thanks:) **24** When the people therefore saw that Jesus was not there, neither his disciples, they also took shipping, and came to Capernaum, seeking for Jesus. **25** And when they had found him on the other side of the sea, they said unto him, Rabbi, when camest thou hither? **26** Jesus answered them and said, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Ye seek me, not because ye saw the miracles, but because ye did eat of the loaves, and were filled. **27** Labour not for the meat which perisheth, but for that meat which endureth unto everlasting life, which the Son of man shall give unto you: for him hath God the Father sealed. **28** Then said they unto him, What shall we do, that we might work the works of God? **29** Jesus answered and said unto them, This is the work of God, that ye believe on him whom he hath sent. **30** They said therefore unto him, What sign shewest thou then, that we may see, and believe thee? what dost thou work?

Pastor Tom wanted us to see/hear 2 different translations for the following verses just for a clearer picture of what was happening:

John 6:22 - 24 (Good News Translation)

The People Seek Jesus

22 Next day the crowd which had stayed on the other side of the lake realized that there had been only one boat there. They knew that Jesus had not gone in it with his disciples, but that they had left without him. *23* Other boats, which were from Tiberias, came to shore near the place where the crowd had eaten the bread after the Lord had given thanks. *24* When the crowd saw that Jesus was not there, nor his disciples, they got into those boats and went to Capernaum, looking for him.

Verses 22- 24

22 The day following, when the people which stood on the other side of the sea saw that there was none other boat there, save that one whereinto his disciples were entered, and that Jesus went not with his disciples into the boat, but that his disciples were gone away alone; 23 (Howbeit there came other boats from Tiberias nigh unto the place where they did eat bread, after that the Lord had given thanks:) 24 When the people therefore saw that Jesus was not there, neither his disciples, they also took shipping, and came to Capernaum, seeking for Jesus.

*Recap from last week: The day after Jesus fed the crowd with the 5 loaves and 2 fish and then sent his disciples off in the boat across the lake to Capernaum. He went alone to pray and then walked on the water and instantly He and disciples were in Capernaum.

*These verses tell us that a crowd was still in the area where Jesus had fed the 5000 (+). The crowd knew the disciples had gone out to sea in the boat and they knew Jesus was NOT in the boat. There was just one boat there.

*But other boats came from Tiberias with people looking for Jesus because his fame had spread overnight. When they did not find Him, they got back into their boats to go to Capernaum.

*We hear the terms 'leaving a bread trail' or 'a paper trail', meaning evidence in search of something. Jesus is leaving a trail here for people to follow.

Verse 25

And when they had found him on the other side of the sea, they said unto him, Rabbi, when camest thou hither?

*When the people discovered Jesus in Capernaum they ask, "How'd you get here?"

*God does things that we just do not understand. So we must understand by faith. There must be a reason God does these things and He does not need our permission to do them!

*Think of the creation story in Genesis- there is no explanation for it and no apology for it. God spoke and there it was!

*Pastor Tom explained how he came across the TV program called “Cosmos” which turned out to be a very anti-Biblical account of creation presented as fact. It is based on a billion year ago beginning to earth. This led to questioning how if knowledge (facts) about events even in our lifetime (for example: 911, Vietnam, Korea, WWII) is blurred or non-existent, then how can ‘facts’ be valid from a billion years ago? Continuing, Pastor Tom recalled discussing with Youth recently how the loose morals on TV are accepted today. He referenced the song by “Casting Crowns” called, ‘It Starts Here’. The context is how the church has given way to cultural norms and is now a *cultural station* rather than a salvation station. The Word of God says a house divided against itself cannot stand.

Verses 26 & 27

Jesus answered them and said, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Ye seek me, not because ye saw the miracles, but because ye did eat of the loaves, and were filled. 27 Labour not for the meat which perisheth, but for that meat which endureth unto everlasting life, which the Son of man shall give unto you: for him hath God the Father sealed.

*Jesus does not respond to their question about how He got there. Jesus tries to explain to them that the works of God are not the works of the belly. We know that food perishes. There are expiration dates on everything - even us! But the ‘soul’ food that only Jesus gives does not expire; it is forever!

*Though we work very hard for the temporary things, we do not put forth much effort for the gain of the eternal things.

*Jesus knew the reason they came looking for Him: He had filled their bellies. But they should have been seeking the things of God. As we should be doing also!

Verses 28 & 29

Then said they unto him, What shall we do, that we might work the works of God? 29 Jesus answered and said unto them, This is the work of God, that ye believe on him whom he hath sent.

*What might WE do, they ask. But it is not a question of what we should do but of what God has already done for us!

*We want to work our way to God. In reality, God came to us (Emmanuel!)

*God was never lost, to be found by us. He is the One who finds us.

1 John 3:23

And this is his commandment, That we should believe on the name of his Son Jesus Christ, and love one another, as he gave us commandment.

*Our job is to believe in Jesus Name as our way to salvation.

*What does God want of us? He does not want us to perish. He is a God who is seeking us to save us. He wants us to believe in His way of salvation which is Jesus!

*A difficulty many pastors encounter is at funerals when people want to know their loved one is in Heaven. It's too late for the deceased. But the pastors need to speak to the living, sharing the Gospel, not their wishes.

Verse 30

They said therefore unto him, What sign shewest thou then, that we may see, and believe thee? what dost thou work?

*Kind of a ridiculous question being that Jesus had just fed 5000+ people with 5 loaves and 2 fish and walked across the sea without a boat!

*These people had just witnessed 2 miracles that only God could possibly do! Multitudes of people had the same story after they witnessed the big picnic. But they STILL ask for a sign!

*No matter what God does, they will not believe in Him. No matter how compelling or how many miracles are done, they still won't believe.

*May the Lord watch between me and thee,
While we are absent one from the other.*
