

True Satisfaction

John 6:5-29

East Berlin Community Church

Pastor Keith A. Mosebrook

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Introduction

- God-shaped vacuum made tries to fill inside all of us
 - Jeremiah 2:13-- *"the fountain of living waters, and hewn themselves cisterns—broken cisterns that can hold no water."*
- Evolution and man's significance
- Solomon's findings in Ecclesiastes
 - Tries everything *"under the sun"* to find meaning and happiness
 - Ecclesiastes 2:10-- *"Whatever my eyes desired I did not keep from them; I did not withhold my heart from any pleasure, for my heart rejoiced in all my labor."*
 - Discovers that *"all is vanity and grasping for wind"*
 - Ecclesiastes 2:11-- *"Then I looked on all the works that my hands had done and on the labor in which I had toiled; And indeed, all is vanity and grasping for the wind. There was no profit under the sun."*
 - Conclusion: *"Fear God and keep His commandments"*
 - Ecclesiastes 12:13-14-- *"Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God and keep His commandments, for this is man's all. For God will bring every work into judgment, including every secret thing, whether good or evil."*
- Hopelessness in the world apart from Jesus Christ
- Jesus offered the Samaritan woman *"living water"* which would quench her spiritual thirst.
 - John 4:13-14-- *"Whoever drinks of this water will thirst again, but whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him will never thirst. But the water that I shall give him will become in him a fountain of water springing up into everlasting life."*
- The Samaritans' acceptance of Jesus as the *"Taheb"* or *"Messiah"*
- Jesus' limited ministry in Samaria broaden in the Great Commission
- But Jesus' primary mission is to His own people, the Jews.
 - Matthew 10:5-- *"Do not go into the way of the Gentiles, and do not enter a city of the Samaritans."*
 - Acts 1:8-- *"witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea, and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."*

True Satisfaction

A. The Setting

1. The Miracle of the "Feeding of the 5,000"

a. The Miracle itself

- Mark 6:34-- *"Jesus, when he came out, saw a great multitude and was moved with compassion for them, because they were like sheep not having a shepherd. So He began to teach the many things."*
- John 6:5-13-- *Then Jesus lifted up His eyes, and seeing a great multitude coming toward Him, He said to Philip, "Where shall we buy bread, that these may eat?" But this He said to test him, for He Himself knew what He would do. Philip answered Him, "Two hundred denarii worth of bread is not sufficient for them, that every one of them may have a little." One of His disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, said to Him, "There is a lad here who has five barley loaves and two small fish, but what are they among so many?" Then Jesus said, "Make the people sit down." Now there was much grass in the place. So the men sat down, in number about five thousand. And Jesus took the loaves, and when He had given thanks He distributed them to the disciples, and the disciples to those sitting down; and likewise of the fish, as*

much as they wanted. So when they were filled, He said to His disciples, "Gather up the fragments that remain, so that nothing is lost." Therefore they gathered them up, and filled twelve baskets with the fragments of the five barley loaves which were left over by those who had eaten."

b. The Response of the people to the Miracle

1) Jesus must be THE Prophet

- John 6:14-- *"Then those men, when they had seen the sign that Jesus did, said, 'This is truly the Prophet who is to come into the world.'"*
- Deuteronomy 18:18-19 -- *"I will raise up for them a Prophet like you from among their brethren, and will put My words in His mouth, and He shall speak to them all that I command Him. And it shall be that whoever will not hear My words, which he speaks in My name, I will require it of him."*

2) Tried to make him "King" or political deliverer

- John 6:15 -- *"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."*

2. The Miracle of "Walking on Water"

- John 6:22-25-- *"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— however, other boats came from Tiberias, near the place where they ate bread after the Lord had given thanks— when the people therefore saw that Jesus was not there, nor His disciples, they also got into boats and came to Capernaum, seeking Jesus. And when they found Him on the other side of the sea, they said to Him, 'Rabbi, when did You come here?'"*

- a. The Crowd is looking for Jesus
- b. The Crowd finds Jesus—"When did you come here?"

B. The Source of True Satisfaction

1. True Satisfaction is not through pursuing Jesus to meet "felt needs"

- John 6:26-- *"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.'"*

- a. **People look to Jesus to meet their "felt needs"**
- b. **Jesus came to meet spiritual needs. His miracles were designed to be "signs"**

2. True Satisfaction is not through pursuing material wealth

- John 6:27-- *"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."*

- a. **People today labor for "food which perishes"**
- b. **Problems with focusing on the physical, material**

1) We die and we can't take it with us

- Luke 12:16-19-- *"The ground of a certain rich man yielded plentifully. And he thought within himself, saying, 'What shall I do, since I have no room to store my crops?' So he said, 'I will do this: I will pull down my barns and build greater, and there I will store all of my crops and my goods. And I will say to my soul, 'Soul, you have many goods laid up for many years; take your ease; eat, drink, and be merry.'"*
- Luke 12:20-21 -- *"But God said to him, 'Fool! This night your soul will be required of you; then whose will those things be which you have provided?' So is he who lays up treasures for himself, and is not rich toward God."*

- 1 Timothy 6:7-- *“For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out.”*
- 2) **Material things perish**
- Matthew 16:19-20-- *“Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thief break in and steal; but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal.”*
- 3) **Pursuit of wealth can lead us away from God**
- 1 Timothy 6:9-10-- *“Those who desire to be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and harmful lusts which drown men in destruction and perdition. For the love of money is the root of all kinds of evil, for which some have strayed from the faith in their greediness and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.”*
- 3, **True Satisfaction is through committing one’s life to Jesus Christ**
- John 6:27-- *“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.”*
- a. **The “food which endures” is Jesus Christ, the Bread of Life**
- John 6:35-- *“Jesus said unto them, ‘I AM the Bread of Life. He who comes to me shall never hunger, and he who believes in me shall never thirst.’”*
- b. **Jesus Christ is “certified” as the source of everlasting life!**
- John 5:31-- *“If I bear witness of Myself, My witness is not true. There is another who bears witness of Me, and I know that the witness which he witnesses of Me is true.”*
 - John 5:37a-- *“And the Father Himself, who sent Me, has testified of Me.”*
- c. **What “labor” must we do to obtain?**
- John 6:28-- *“What shall we do, that we may work the works of God?”*
- 1) **All religions are “work-based”. You must “DO”.**
- Matthew 19:16-- *“Good teacher, what good thing shall I do that I may have eternal life?”*
 - Luke 10:25-- *“Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?”*
- 2) **Only acceptable work is to BELIEVE**
- John 6:29-- *“Jesus answered and said to them, ‘This is the work of God, that you believe in Him whom He sent.’”*
- d. **Salvation is by God’s grace alone through faith alone in Christ alone!**
- Ephesians 2:8-9-- *“For it is by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works lest anyone should boast”*
 - Romans 3:28-- *“Therefore, we conclude that a man is justified by faith alone apart from the deeds of the law.”*
 - Acts 4:12-- *“Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven, given among men by which we must be saved!”*
 - Matthew 6:33-- *“Seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness and all these things shall be added to you.”*