

“Gospel PEOPLE”

John 6

(HIS Power, Proclamation, & People)

by

Charlie Bethmann, BRIDGE Trustee

Introduction:

“Have you ever been to a church that you were drawn to by the compassion, truth and love exhibited by its’ people and the pastor?” And so you invite others and you see that the size of the Sunday crowd is growing. And over time, the message being delivered is uncompromising to the truth in the Bible. Soon you begin to hear others in the church grumbling, quarreling and challenging the message. They were first drawn by the love, however, they soon express that the message that is being preached is offensive and hard to take. Over time, the size of the crowd on Sunday diminishes. Then one day, you run into someone at the Shore Stop and they ask if you’re still going to the same church... You respond deeply from your heart, “Yes I do.” Then they ask you why, and you state “because I’ve come to know and believe that the Word of God is preached in truth and love there, and I have never been a part of such a loving family before.”

Transition Statement:

In John 6, we will see that despite the wonderful love and power of Christ - which truly identified Him as coming from the Father and simultaneously attracted the multitudes to pursue Him - most of the people that were first drawn to Him will walk away, and only a few will stay.

Big Idea: **Most will walk away, only His few will stay.**

Preview:

Today we will see in John chapter 6, that the character and power of Jesus was able to attract a crowd. His compassionate display of incredible miracles of healing, feeding thousands with a few loaves of bread, and walking on water, created a following of thousands. We will see that the multitudes vigorously pursued Him across the sea to satisfy their own fleshly, earthly wants, only to find that Jesus could read their hearts and then challenge them to His loving truth. We will then see that the multitudes that were once in awe of Him, will grumble, quarrel, demand more signs, and then eventually walk away from Him. But we will also see that there is always a remnant humbled by His Glory and saved by His Grace.

Christ's Power Revealed: John 6:1-21

As we see in the first two verses of John 6, that a great multitude followed Him because they saw His signs which He performed on those which were diseased.

1. Miracles of healing
2. Feeding the multitudes
3. Walking on water

His Proclamation & Promises: John 6:26-56

After the multitude witnessed such miraculous powers from Christ, they were determined to find Him. They pursued him vigorously to the other side of the Sea where they found Him.

1. Pre-proclamation dialogue (John 6:26-33). The context here is established for Christ to challenge the intent of their hearts and lovingly offer His Promises & claims.
2. His Proclamation "I am the bread of life, he who comes to Me shall never hunger and he who believes in Me shall never thirst"
3. The theology of election and responsibility (John 6:37)
4. His promise - "He who believes in Me has everlasting life" (John 6:47), "And the bread that I shall give is My flesh which I shall give for the life of the world." (John 6:55-56) "For My flesh is food indeed and My blood is drink indeed. He who eats my flesh and drinks my blood abides in Me and I in him."

The People's Response:

Now after Christ shares His promises and truths the multitudes respond negatively demanding more signs to verify who He is -- grumbling, quarreling, taking offense to the Gospel and eventually walking away. And we will also see the sweetness of His remnant that stay and testify that they know He is the Christ.

1. The multitude demanding more signs (John 6:30) correlating admonition seen in Matthew 12:38-39 and God's warning in Matthew 7:21.
2. Grumbling & quarreling (John 6:41, 52, 61). Examples that parallel in the Old Testament of the multitudes grumbling. (Exodus 16:3, Numbers 21:4) and Jesus' solution (John 3:14).
3. Taking offense to the Gospel (John 6:61)
4. Walking away from Christ (John 6:66) and eyewitness account of such behavior written in 1 John 2:19.
5. The response of His true few disciples (John 6:67-69). 1 John 4:16 and the humility observed by Peter when your eyes are opened to His Glory (Luke 5:8) and reference Isaiah 6:5.
6. Note the winnowing effect that the Truth has on the big multitudes (from Noah vs. world, from Caleb & Joshua vs. all other Hebrew people in the wilderness, Jesus and His few disciples vs. the thousands in the "crowds," the true, biblical, "invisible" Church... contrasted against the large, lukewarm, and worldly "visible" church... See the difference between "whosoever shall believe" vs. "the world," John 3:16)
- 7.

Transition to Close.

As we look back on John 6, we can see that Christ clearly demonstrated His heavenly origins and the fact that He truly is God. His compassion, power, healings, feeding the multitudes, and walking on water, all offered divine proof... These displays of His Godly power attracted the curious crowds that followed Him and wanted to see more. Christ saw their hearts and selfish, worldly desires. His loving response revealed that He truly is the Bread of Life that comes from above. It is clear that the majority in the crowd rejected Christ and departed. Yet, we also see that Christ has chosen His few, the remnant, that will truly follow and respond to His call to come.

Close:

As we see in Isaiah 55:1-3 God tells us to come freely and take of the bread. Romans 14:17 states that the Kingdom of God is not eating and drinking but righteousness, joy and peace through the Holy Spirit.

I want to close with this invitation which Christ gave to Peter to come to Him on the water.

Prayer.

Worship Team: “How He Loves Us” and “Rescue”