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A just weight
and balance

are the
LORD'S:

Thus saith the Lord...

- What are you seeking in life?
- We all seek happiness,
- But where are you looking for that happiness?

- As Solomon makes clear **in Ecclesiastes,** any earthly thing that you seek to satisfy the inner void **is like chasing soap bubbles.**
 - You catch one only to have it **burst in your hand.**

- Well, that is not exactly what he said,
- But, it's close.

- **Ecclesiastes 1:2**

**Vanity of vanities,
saith the Preacher,
vanity of vanities;
all *is* vanity.**

- **Ecclesiastes 1:17**

“chasing after the wind”

- The Bible is clear that our ultimate source of happiness and pleasure is found only in God.

- David wrote
(**Psalm 16:11**),

“In Your presence is fullness of joy; in Your right hand there are pleasures forever.”

- Jesus told the disciples
(**John 15:11**),
“*These things I have spoken
to you so that My joy may
be in you, and that your joy
may be made full.*”

- We will find fullness of
joy and pleasures forever
when we seek God.

- In John 6
we find Jesus
revealing
who He is:
- The Bread of Life
(John 6:32-40).

- As Paul says (Romans. 3:11),
“*There is none who seeks after God.*”

- And yet at the same time, the Bible clearly exhorts everyone, to seek the Lord.

- Isaiah 55:6-7

- *Seek the Lord while He may be found; call upon Him while He is near.*

- **So there is a mystery here:**
no one can come to Jesus
unless the Father draws him
(John 6:44),
- And yet we are commanded
to come to Jesus
and to seek Him diligently.
(Hebrews 11:6)

- It's a lifelong quest.
- The prophet Hosea said (6:3),
 - **“Let us press on to know the Lord.”**
(Hosea 6:3)
- The apostle Paul echoes that in Philippians 3:14,
“I press on toward the goal

- **In John 6:24**

many of the people
whom Jesus had fed
with the loaves and fish

“***came to Capernaum
seeking Jesus.***”

- They were becoming
”**Professional Beggars**”

- The morning after the miracle,
they couldn't find Jesus.

- When they did find him they asked:
 - ***“Rabbi, when did You get here?”***
(John 6:25)

- **Jesus didn't answer**
their question.
- Instead, He **confronted** them.
 - Because, they sought Him
for the wrong reasons.
 - They wanted a
political Messiah
to bring peace and prosperity.
 - And a
meal ticket.

- And, they were seeking Jesus as the new Moses,
- To provide them with what they wanted,
- But not as the bread of life.
(John 6:30-36).

- **Jesus confronts the multitude**

(John 6:26):

“Truly, truly, I say to you, you seek Me, not because you saw signs, but because you ate of the loaves and were filled.”

- They had missed **the true significance** of the miracle.

- A miracle that should have turned them to Christ as their Messiah.
- The one who could satisfy their spiritual hunger for all time and eternity.

- Their minds were on **the temporal and material,** rather than on the **eternal** and **spiritual.**

- They had **no awareness of their sin** or their need to be reconciled to God.

- Much the same as **today.**

- Jesus' words here obviously refute the popular heresy that it is God's will for every Christian to be financially prosperous.
- The false teachers who promote this damnable teaching are preying on people's greed.

- It deceives people into thinking that their real need is more money,
- When in fact their real need is the bread of life Jesus offers.
 - So, Jesus becomes Aladdin's Genie to help people get what they want out of life.

• So Jesus exhorts,

“Do not work for the food which perishes, but for the food which endures to eternal life, which the Son of Man will give to you, for on Him the Father, God, has set His seal.”

(John 6:27)

- Jesus doesn't mean that **one should quit his job** and take a vow of poverty.
- The Bible commends hard work **and commands us to** provide for our families (**Col. 3:23; 1 Tim. 5:8**).
 - It does not condemn having earthly riches, although it does warn about **the dangers of riches** (**1 Tim. 6:8-10, 17-19**).

- Rather, Jesus is showing us where to put our focus.
- ***“For what does it profit a man to gain the whole world, and forfeit his soul?”***
(Mark 8:36)

- Or, as Jesus graphically illustrated with the parable of the **Rich Farmer**,
- Who wanted to build bigger barns **to store his wealth**,
 - But **died** that very night,
 - Ending up **rich** in this world's goods,
 - But die **poor** toward God, is a huge mistake (**Luke 12:15-21**).

- We should not be so caught up with working to put food on the table that we neglect working for ***“the food which endures to eternal life.”***
(John 6:27)

- Note the irony of Jesus' statement that we **should work for this food** that endures to eternal life,
- And yet at the same time, the Son of Man **gives it to us.**

- It's the same as when Jesus exhorted His hearers (**Luke 13:24**),
“**Strive
*to enter through
the narrow door.***”

- There is a lot of effort involved in “**striving**”.
- And yet at the same time, Jesus gives living water to the spiritually thirsty
- And the true bread of eternal life to the hungry
(**John 4:10; 6:27, 32, 35**).

What does it mean to work
“***for the food
which endures
to eternal life***”?

J. C. Ryle

*(Expository Thoughts on the
Gospels [Baker], 3:347)*

sums it up well:

How are
we to labor?

- There is but
one answer.

- We must read our Bibles, like men digging for hidden treasure.

- We must prayer, like men contending with a deadly enemy for life.

- We must listen to the word of God like those listening to the reading of a benefactor's will.

- We must fight daily against sin like those who fight for liberty.

- These are the ways we must labor if we would find Christ, and be found of Him.

- Before we leave these verses, note three important truths here about Jesus.

- First,
Jesus knows
your motives.

- He saw right through this crowd that was seeking Him for the wrong reasons
- He lovingly confronted and exhorted them in the way they needed to change.

- Jesus confronts our wrong motives through His Word, we need to pay attention and respond with repentance.

- He's doing it because He loves us, not to hurt us.

- Second,
Jesus gives spiritual food to those who seek him.
- Take time to be holy, the world rushes on.
- Spend much time in secret with Jesus alone;
- By looking to Jesus like Him thou shalt be;
- Thy friends in thy conduct His likeness shall see.
- (Take Time to Be Holy, William D. Longstaff, ca.1882)

- Third,
Jesus is God's
only approved source
of spiritual blessing.
- “*For on Him the Father, God,
has set His seal.*”
(**John 6:27**)
- From the most ancient times,
documents sealed by kings
were considered to carry
the utmost in
power and authority.

Esther 8:8

*Write ...in the king's name,
and seal it with
the king's ring;
for the writing
which is written
in the king's name
and sealed with
the king's ring
may no man reverse.*

- **The Heavenly Father**
has provided Jesus
with the assurance of
the absolutely sufficient
power of God
to provide salvation
through Jesus Christ.

- **Romans 1:16**

***For I am not ashamed of
the gospel of Christ:
for it is the power of God
unto salvation...***

- God the Father has certified the Son as his own agent, authorizing him as the one who alone can bestow this food.
(**John 6:35**)

- These Jews, who have just the day before eaten the miraculous loaves and fish, ask Jesus an incredible question:

- ***“What then do You do for a sign, so that we may see, and believe You?”***

(John 6:30)

- They go on to mention that their fathers ate the manna in the wilderness.
(**John 6:31**)
- Behind this request for a sign was the Jewish expectation that when the Messiah came, He would renew the miracle of the manna.

- So in spite of Jesus' miraculous feeding the 10,000, they're asking for more:

- Jesus fed a large crowd;
- Moses fed the entire nation.

- Jesus did it once;
- Moses did it for 40 years.
- Jesus provided ordinary bread;
- Moses gave them “*bread out of heaven*.”
(John 6:31)

- So they're saying,
"Okay, Jesus,
you gave us
a little miracle.

- Let's see You
do a big miracle,
like Moses did!

- **Then we'll believe in You!"**

- They were always deceiving themselves with the idea that if they had more evidence they would believe.
- Thousands in every age do the same.
- It is not a lack of evidence, but a lack of heart.

- Jesus responds by saying:
 - ***“Truly, truly, I say to you,***
 - ***it is not Moses who has given you the bread out of heaven,***
 - ***but it is My Father who gives you the true bread out of heaven.***
 - ***For the bread of God is that which comes down out of heaven, and gives life to the world.”***
- (John 6:32-33)**

- He is saying, first,
that it wasn't Moses
who gave them the manna;
God did.

- And, second,
**the manna wasn't
the true bread,**
because people
who ate it still died.

- But Jesus,
whom God sent,
gives eternal life.

- This is a bold claim that He is the very **Son of God!**
- This is what **John** is writing about.

- Note the reaction of the Jews who denied His deity.
(**John 6:41-42**)
 - Jesus said that God was His Father
(**John 6:32**),
 - But they said Joseph was His father
(**John 6:42**).

- **Manna** came in darkness;
 - **Christ** came when men were in darkness.
- Manna was not defiled by the **earth**;
 - Christ was not defiled by **sin**.
 - Manna was a **free gift**;
 - Christ is God's **free gift to the world**.
- **Manna** was sufficient for all;
 - **Christ** is sufficient for all.

- If manna was not picked up, you walked on it;
 - If one does not receive Christ, He is rejected and walked on.
- (**Hebrews 10:26-31**).

- What have we learned from

John 6:

- Feeding the 5,000

Salvation brings satisfaction

(John 6:1-14)

- Stilling the storm

Salvation brings peace

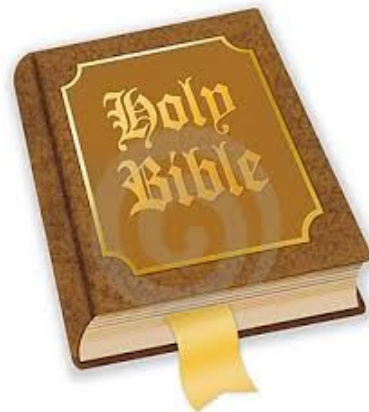
(John 6:15-21)

- **Think on these things**
- **Philippians 4:8**

**The doors of the church
are open.**

**The Spirit and the Bride
Say
“Come”.**

Revelation 22:17



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