

John 6:24-35 Amplified Bible

The Holy Gospel according to John, the 6th chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord

²⁴ So when the crowd saw that neither Jesus nor His disciples were there, they boarded the small boats themselves and came to Capernaum looking for Jesus. ²⁵ And when they found Him on the other side of the sea, they asked Him, "Rabbi, when did You get here?"

²⁶ Jesus answered, "I assure you *and* most solemnly say to you, you have been searching for Me, not because you saw the signs (attesting miracles), but because you ate the loaves and were filled. ²⁷ Do not work for food that perishes, but for food that endures [and leads] to eternal life, which the Son of Man will give you; for God the Father has authorized Him *and* put His seal on Him." ²⁸ Then they asked Him, "What are we to do, so that we may *habitually* be doing the works of God?" ²⁹ Jesus answered, "This is the work of God: that you believe [adhere to, trust in, rely on, and have faith] in the One whom He has sent." ³⁰ So they said to Him, "What sign (attesting miracle) will You do that we may see it and believe You? What [supernatural] work will You do [as proof]? ³¹ Our fathers ate the manna in the wilderness; as it is written [in Scripture], 'He gave them bread out of heaven to eat.'" ³² Then Jesus said to them, "I assure you *and* most solemnly 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. ³³ For the Bread of God is He who comes down out of heaven, and gives life to the world." ³⁴ Then they said to Him, "Lord, always give us this bread."

³⁵ Jesus replied to them, "I am the Bread of Life. The one who comes to Me will never be hungry, and the one who believes in Me [as Savior] will never be thirsty [for that one will be sustained spiritually]. ^a

This is the Gospel of our Lord.

Let us pray: We believe Lord, that you are present here. Although our eyes do not see you, our faith senses you. Take any stray thoughts from our minds. Make us understand the truths, which you wish to teach us in this meditation. Let us make up our minds to put them into practice. Your servants are listening: speak, Lord, to our souls. Amen.

Show me! This is a term that can mean several different things. It might mean for someone to teach us something. I heard one daughter say, "Mom, show me how to make a cake." I had the other daughter say to me, "Dad, show me how to drive a nail." My wife once said to me, "Show me how to get to this website" when computers were still new.

Or it could mean as asking someone to show us a location of something, as in, asking a store clerk, "show me where to find ..." and you fill in the blank for what you are looking for. But that is not what we hear in today's Gospel text. Today, we hear prove it!

Our text starts with the crowd that was fed by Jesus, the 5000 that we heard about in last week's Gospel, looking for Him. Not finding Him, they go to Capernaum. Did all of them go? We do not know but it appears that most did.

"Rabbi, when did you get here?" Seems like an odd question. But Jesus knew the real reason. The New Revised Standard Version that is in our bulletin has, "Very truly, I tell you, you are looking for me, not because you saw signs, but because you ate your fill of the loaves."

Jesus continues, "Do not work for food that perishes, but for food that endures [and leads] to eternal life, which the Son of Man will give you; for God the Father has authorized Him *and* put His seal on Him."

Many of us work or have worked each day, to feed our families and ourselves, to keep a roof over our heads, clothes on our backs. Maybe we can provide funds for the advanced education our children, if we have any children, or get to travel and hopefully, retire with a bit of money in our pockets so we don't have to worry about things. Yet, like food that perishes, we know that all of these, work, health, finances, even family, for whatever reason, may disappear.

Jesus points out to us what we are to work for, the food that endures and leads to eternal life. A life that is given by the Son of Man, the One that the Father put His seal on Him.

Think about that seal for a moment. In the ancient times, a seal was the thing what would prove something was authentic. Jesus is the One with the seal of God.

Do you get the impression that these people are not getting the message, for we read, "What are we to do, so that we may *habitually* be doing the works of God?" The New Revised Standard Version has, "What must we do to *perform* the works of God?" When I hear these words, *habitually* and *perform*, I think that they were wanting to do things as a normal course of daily living; to do what is expected. However, for me, I think more along the lines of doing something special, something that I would not ordinarily do.

Jesus answered their question, "This is the work of God: that you believe in the One whom He has sent." I don't know how many times I have read this verse or studied it, but this time, it had more of an impact on me. Believe in Jesus, that is all; so simple, right? Or is it?

It did not seem to have made any impact on those who had been fed by Jesus, with only 5 loaves of bread and two fish, with enough left over to collect an addition 12

baskets of bread. So, they asked Him, "What sign (miracle) will You do that we may see it and believe You? What [supernatural] work will You do [as proof]? Our fathers ate the manna in the wilderness; as it is written [in Scripture], 'He gave them bread out of heaven to eat.'" In other words, show me! Show me, Jesus, what are you going to do to prove Yourself? What miracle are You going to do for us?

Have you had times in your life that you had to prove something, that you had to show someone that you could do what you said you could or what they expected you to do?

Remember in school, when you took a test, you were showing your teacher that you knew the material. Or depending on your employment, it might be someone looking at your sales figures, or how many pieces of something you produced during a given shift if you did production work. For me, as a purchasing agent, it is ordering the correct amount of something, in a timely fashion, the best possible price. Showing my employer that I am worthy of being an employee for them.

Jesus' response, "I assure you *and* most solemnly 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 He who comes down out of heaven and gives life to the world." The Amplified Bible's (AMP) footnote for the phrase, "My Father who gives you the true bread out of heaven" is "salvation and everlasting life through Christ." Again, Jesus is pointing to something other than what the crowd wants or understands. They want earthly food and Jesus continues to point to the heavenly food that comes from God. So, their next request might be understandable, "Lord, always give us this bread."

Here they are, figuratively, with their hands out, saying "feed us". Finally, Jesus makes it as plain as He can, "I am the Bread of Life. The one who comes to Me will never be hungry, and the one who believes in Me [as Savior] will never be thirsty [for that one will be sustained spiritually]."

There it is, Jesus lays it out, for them and for us. Earlier, I said, "Believe in Jesus, that is all; so simple, right? Or is it?"

We need to understand that God gives us a gift, grace. It is free. We cannot earn it, for it is God's love for us that He gives it. We think we need to work for it; again, as we heard the people ask, "What must we do to *perform* the works of God?" For me, when I believe, when I accept, when I have faith, I want to respond to that gift of grace by doing things without expecting anything in return. That is my thanks to God.

A couple of additional notes from this last verse. "I am", is the name God told Moses to tell the Hebrews as to Who had sent him, Moses, to lead them out of Egypt. The AMP's footnote here says, "'I am' is followed by a metaphor that declares His deity and His relationship to mankind as Savior (this is the first of seven such references);

John 8:12 (Light); John 10:9 (Door); John 10:11 (Good Shepherd); John 11:25 (Resurrection); John 14:6 (Way, Truth, Life); John 15:5 (Vine)."

And I am thankful that we have the Written Word with commentaries and Study Bibles to help us understand. AMP explains the phrases, "never be hungry" and "never be thirsty", this way, "for that one will be sustained spiritually". Not a physical hunger or physical thirst, though Jesus could do that for us, yet this is *so much more*.

Do you realize that, unlike the Jews asking Jesus to feed them, God is *giving us* that bread of Life? We will be experiencing that Bread when we come to the table for communion. When we do this, when we come to the table, we are experiencing God moving to us, to be in a relationship with Him.

The Jews in Jesus' time were "give me, give me, give me" and never accepting what God was giving them. We heard in last week's Gospel, that Jesus took bread, gave thanks, and gave to those around Him. Today, we will hear again, He took bread, gave thanks, and gave to those around Him. God continues to give us this gift, this Bread of Life.

Sisters and Brothers, we do not have to search for Jesus as that crowd did, for He is with us. We do not have to wonder how Jesus got anywhere, for He came to us. We do not have to ask what are to do to be doing the works of God, for we know that we can believe, trusting in God's promises of never being hungry or thirsty ever again. And God has even given us that faith to believe for He gives us exactly what we need.

Contemporary Christian artists, Cain, has a song out that is titled, "Yes, He Can". It helps me to remember that we can trust in God's promises. Here is the first verse and the chorus.

Sometimes I wonder, is He faithful? Does He see me in my trouble?
Does He understand?
Sometimes I question if He's able Can He rescue, can He save me
Again and again?
But when I look back Did He move every mountain?
Did He part every sea?
Yes, He did So yes, He can
Did He defeat the darkness? Did He deliver me?
Yes, He did So yes, He can
Yes, He did So yes, He can

For God so loved the world that he gave His only Son, so that everyone who believes in Him may not perish but may have eternal life. God showed us His love by giving His Son, a love that continues through eternity. Amen!

^a Amplified Bible (AMP)

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