

## Lead or Feed?

Do we desire to humbly obey the Lord or demand that He meet all our earthly desires?

## Two Revealing Statements From John

Joh 20:31 but these have been written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing you may have life in His name.

Joh 12:37 But though He had performed so many signs before them, *yet* they were not believing in Him.

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## Introduction

- Irony – miraculous evidence of Jesus as Son of God rejected by those who witnessed them
- Why?
- Evidence was sufficient
- Miracles could not be denied

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## Miracles Could Not Be Denied

Joh 11:47 Therefore the chief priests and the Pharisees convened a council, and were saying, "What are we doing? For this man is performing many signs.

Joh 12:10 But the chief priests planned to put Lazarus to death also;

Joh 12:11 because on account of him many of the Jews were going away and were believing in Jesus.

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## Introduction

- John reveals several reasons why Jesus' was rejected
- Focus on John 6 where a multitude was willing to follow Him up to a point
- Then, all left Him except His 12 apostles
- Same reason for rejecting Jesus found in John 6 is the same reason many reject Him today

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## Lead or Feed?

The miracle

The storm

Jesus' teaching after the miracle

Their response to His teaching

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## The Miracle – Why The Crowd Followed Him

Joh 6:1 After these things Jesus went away to the other side of the Sea of Galilee (or Tiberias).

Joh 6:2 A large crowd followed Him, because they saw the signs which He was performing on those who were sick.

Joh 6:3 Then Jesus went up on the mountain, and there He sat down with His disciples.

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## The Miracle – Not Just To Provide Food

Joh 6:4 Now the Passover, the feast of the Jews, was near.

Joh 6:5 Therefore Jesus, lifting up His eyes and seeing that a large crowd was coming to Him, \*said to Philip, "Where are we to buy bread, so that these may eat?"

Joh 6:6 This He was saying to test him, for He Himself knew what He was intending to do.

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## The Miracle – Not Just To Provide Food

Joh 6:7 Philip answered Him, "Two hundred denarii worth of bread is not sufficient for them, for everyone to receive a little."

Joh 6:8 One of His disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, \*said to Him,

Joh 6:9 "There is a lad here who has five barley loaves and two fish, but what are these for so many people?"

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## The Miracle

Joh 6:10 Jesus said, "Have the people sit down." Now there was much grass in the place. So the men sat down, in number about five thousand.

Joh 6:11 Jesus then took the loaves, and having given thanks, He distributed to those who were seated; likewise also of the fish as much as they wanted.

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## The Miracle

Joh 6:12 When they were filled, He \*said to His disciples, "Gather up the leftover fragments so that nothing will be lost."

Joh 6:13 So they gathered them up, and filled twelve baskets with fragments from the five barley loaves which were left over by those who had eaten.

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## Response To Miracle – Force Jesus To Be Their Type of King

Joh 6:14 Therefore when the people saw the sign which He had performed, they said, "This is truly the Prophet who is to come into the world."

Joh 6:15 So Jesus, perceiving that they were intending to come and take Him by force to make Him king, withdrew again to the mountain by Himself alone.

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## The Storm – Test of The Apostles' Faith

Joh 6:17 and after getting into a boat, they *started* to cross the sea to Capernaum. It had already become dark, and Jesus had not yet come to them.

Joh 6:18 The sea *began* to be stirred up because a strong wind was blowing.

Joh 6:19 Then, when they had rowed about three or four miles, they *saw* Jesus walking on the sea and drawing near to the boat; and they were frightened.

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## The Storm – Test of The Apostles' Faith

Joh 6:20 But He *said* to them, "It is I; do not be afraid."

Joh 6:21 So they were willing to receive Him into the boat, and immediately the boat was at the land to which they were going.

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## The Storm – Test of The Apostles' Faith

Mar 6:51 Then He got into the boat with them, and the wind stopped; and they were utterly astonished,

Mar 6:52 for they had not gained any insight from the *incident* of the loaves, but their heart was hardened.

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## Seeking To Follow Jesus For The Wrong Reason

Joh 6:26 Jesus answered them and said, "Truly, truly, I say to you, you seek Me, not because you saw signs, but because you ate of the loaves and were filled.

Joh 6:27 "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."

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## Eating Spiritual Food = Submitting To Jesus' Word

Joh 6:28 Therefore they said to Him, "What shall we do, so that we may work the works of God?"

Joh 6:29 Jesus answered and said to them, "This is the work of God, that you believe in Him whom He has sent."

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## Eating Spiritual Food = Submitting To Jesus' Word

Joh 6:35 Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life; he who comes to Me will not hunger, and he who believes in Me will never thirst.

Joh 6:36 "But I said to you that you have seen Me, and yet do not believe.

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## Believing In Jesus Based On Divinely Given Evidence

Joh 6:44 "No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him; and I will raise him up on the last day.

Joh 6:45 "It is written in the prophets, 'AND THEY SHALL ALL BE TAUGHT OF GOD.' Everyone who has heard and learned from the Father, comes to Me.

Joh 6:47 "Truly, truly, I say to you, he who believes has eternal life.

Joh 6:48 "I am the bread of life. 19

## Bread of Life = Jesus' Flesh

Joh 6:51 "I am the living bread that came down out of heaven; if anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever; and the bread also which I will give for the life of the world is My flesh."

Joh 6:52 Then the Jews *began* to argue with one another, saying, "How can this man give us *His* flesh to eat?" 20

## Eating His Flesh And Drinking His Blood = Eternal Life

Joh 6:53 So Jesus said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink His blood, you have no life in yourselves.

Joh 6:54 "He who eats My flesh and drinks My blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day. 21

## Eating His Flesh And Drinking His Blood = Eternal Life

Joh 6:55 "For My flesh is true food, and My blood is true drink.

Joh 6:56 "He who eats My flesh and drinks My blood abides in Me, and I in him.

Joh 6:57 "As the living Father sent Me, and I live because of the Father, so he who eats Me, he also will live because of Me. 22

## Eat His Flash And Drink His Blood By Obeying His Word

Joh 6:60 Therefore many of His disciples, when they heard *this* said, "This is a difficult statement; who can listen to it?"

Joh 6:63 "It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing; the words that I have spoken to you are spirit and are life. 23

## Many Reject And Few Obey

Joh 6:66 As a result of this many of His disciples withdrew and were not walking with Him anymore.

Joh 6:67 So Jesus said to the twelve, "You do not want to go away also, do you?"

Joh 6:68 Simon Peter answered Him, "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have words of eternal life.

Joh 6:69 "We have believed and have come to know that You are the Holy One of God."<sup>24</sup>

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## For Each To Consider

- What are our motives for serving Jesus?
- Do we believe in Jesus or try to remake Him?
- Do we submit as His church or try to remake it?
- Is our faith strengthened in trials like the storm or do we become fearful?

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## For Each To Consider

- When the majority rejects, do we still obey?
- Do we seek alternative lords to serve that cannot give eternal life?
- Spiritual problems such as sin can never be solved with physical solutions – feeding the body instead of feeding the soul

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## Will You Eat of The Living Bread Today?

Act 2:38 Peter *said* to them, "Repent, and each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

Act 2:42 They were continually devoting themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.

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