

# *The Gospel of John*

## 6:15-27

Welcome back to this week's study in the book of John.  
As with this study and all bible studies, remember to pray before you start.

✠ **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.*

To remind you what is going on here, Jesus had healed and taught many people throughout the day. Then He later fed the 5,000 men, which we learned included women and children, which probably was around 15,000 or so people.  
Remember what the closing verse from last week was?

✠ **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."*

You could imagine 5,000 men shouting out "*This is truly the Prophet who is to come into the world.*"

After all, they were healed and fed both physically and spiritually by Jesus throughout the day. Why wouldn't they want to make Him King? After all, it seemed to them that He was all they needed for a happy life here on this earth.

Think about it, if you get sick and know you could go to someone for free and be healed on the spot, or if you run out of food and you know there is someone who will supply your needs beyond what you could imagine, and if you could get really awesome spiritual teaching whenever you wanted, all from this same person, wouldn't you want Him as King also?

Yet even though all these things are good and they are things we even want today, Jesus knew it was all temporary, because no matter how much He healed them physically, and no matter how much He fed them, both physically and spiritually, they would all eventually die in their sins.

Jesus knew that what they really needed was eternal life, and the only way they could have this was by Him dieing on the cross for their sins.

Could you imagine how much pressure satan was putting on Jesus at this very moment? You could almost hear him whisper in Jesus' ear, "*Isn't this what you came for, to be their king and ruler. Go ahead and let them make you their king.*"

So what does Jesus do? *He departed again to the mountain by Himself alone.*  
Does this mean He ran away like a scared chicken?

No, it means that He knew what they needed and didn't want these people to die in their sins. Also, after all He had been through throughout the day, Jesus also knew that He needed to get away and rest in the Father.

I'm sure I've told you this before, but it takes me about 40 minutes to get to work in the morning, and for that 40 minutes I spend most of it in prayer. It's really the best part of my day, because there are no distractions, I have the radio off and it's just the Lord and me. By the time I get to work I am refreshed and ready to start my day.

Then at lunchtime I sit in my car and eat my lunch and read the bible while I am eating. Once again it's just me and the Lord spending time together, but this time He's doing all the talking.

Now, I'm no super Christian. I have my struggles and trials I go through. But it's good to know that no matter what, whether good or bad or just no problems at all, that I can spend time with the Lord. I think I would feel guilty if I only went to Him when there was a problem and just forgot about Him the rest of the time.

So where were the disciples when all of this was happening?

Let's look in the book of Matthew.

✠ **Matt 14:22-23** *Immediately Jesus made His disciples get into the boat and go before Him to the other side, while He sent the multitudes away. And when He had sent the multitudes away, He went up on the mountain by Himself to pray. Now when evening came, He was alone there.*

Jesus may have sent the disciples away, possibly not wanting them to participate in all of this. But then if you read in Luke, it seems the disciples decided to go see Jesus before they made their trip in the boat, possibly wanting to know if He was coming with them or if they should wait for Him.

✠ **Luke 9:18-22** *And it happened, as He was alone praying, that His disciples joined Him, and He asked them, saying, "Who do the crowds say that I am?" So they answered and said, "John the Baptist, but some say Elijah; and others say that one of the old prophets has risen again." He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" Peter answered and said, "The Christ of God." And He strictly warned and commanded them to tell this to no one, saying, "The Son of Man must suffer many things, and be rejected by the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised the third day."*

Luke does not record Jesus walking on water, so we don't know when they got into the boat, but it was sometime after this conversation with Jesus.

✠ **John 6:16-17** *Now when evening came, His disciples went down to the sea, got into the boat, and went over the sea toward Capernaum. And it was already dark, and Jesus had not come to them.*

So here the disciples leave Jesus after talking with Him on the mountain. It's now nighttime and the disciples are trying to get to Capernaum as Jesus told them to.

✠ **John 6:18-21** *Then the sea arose because a great wind was blowing. So when they had rowed about three or four miles, they saw Jesus walking on the sea and drawing near the boat; and they were afraid. But He said to them, "It is I; do not be afraid." Then they willingly received Him into the boat, and immediately the boat was at the land where they were going.*

Now it's about three o'clock (the fourth watch) in the morning and a storm is brewing. The disciples are only a three or four miles out from shore, which would be the middle of the sea.

✠ **Matt 14:24-25** *But the boat was now in the middle of the sea, tossed by the waves, for the wind was contrary. Now in the fourth watch of the night Jesus went to them, walking on the sea.*

They see Jesus walking on the sea and they are scared. Not because of the storm but because they saw Jesus walking on water. I would be afraid too. They had seen Jesus perform many miracles such as the healings and casting out demons, and they just witnessed Him feeding 5,000 men plus the women and children with only five small hamburger size loaves of bread and two sardine sized fish. They may have known Jesus was going to do something great for all these hungry people, but this was something they never expected.

If you read on in the account in Matthew, it tells the story of Peter walking on water and Jesus having to save him because of his lack of faith. Matthew is the only gospel that tells this part of the story. It also tells us that as soon as Jesus got into the boat the storm had stopped so they could make it to Capernaum.

✠ **Matt 14:32** *And when they got into the boat, the wind ceased.*

Remember we learned that Jesus put His disciples in the boat and told them to meet Him on the other side, and then they decided to go back to shore and talk to Jesus or ask Him if He wanted to ride with them in the boat. If they would have obeyed Jesus the first time, I wonder if they would have gotten stuck in the storm?

We do the same thing. Jesus will tell us to do something. Then we start to do it, and then start to doubt it and start questioning what Jesus had told us to do.

✠ **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?"*

The people are now looking for Jesus, and as we will read the only reason they were looking for Him was because they were hungry physically again. They may have seen the disciples in the boat and Jesus wasn't with them, and the storm came so they went to find shelter and rest for the night. But then in the morning they couldn't find Jesus, so they get in boats and go across the sea to find Him. They probably didn't know He was there, but they knew that His disciples were, so they may have gone to ask them where Jesus was. But to their surprise they find Jesus there also and ask Him, *"Rabbi, when did You come here?"*

Good question, but Jesus does not give them the answer you may expect Him to. We will read that Jesus doesn't say, "Well, I walked here on the water." He could of, but Jesus never bragged about the gifts the Father had given Him.

When you brag about your gifts from God, then men start to praise you and look up to you. You now have your reward, which is the praise of men. But God does not gift us through the Holy Spirit so we can brag or so others could look up to us. No, they are given to us that Jesus may be glorified.

† **John 15:26-27** *But when the Helper comes, whom I shall send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who proceeds from the Father, He will testify of Me. And you also will bear witness, because you have been with Me from the beginning.*

Don't seek the gifts of the Holy Spirit for self-gain or self-recognition.

✠ **John 6:26-27** *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. 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."*

As you will recall from last weeks' study, Jesus spent the day feeding the people spiritually and physically and He also healed many others. But out of all that Jesus did, the only reason they were looking for Him was because they were hungry again physically.

That's what happens when you try to find happiness in the world and what it has to offer. It will be satisfying for the moment, but soon it passes away and you are looking for more. That's how people get involved in sin. It may start with a harmless glass of wine at dinner; soon they are drinking it throughout the day. Then it is no longer satisfying so they go for harder stuff like vodka or gin or tequila. This soon is not enough so they start smoking pot, then this is no good and they get into the real hard drugs.

Soon they are broke and have spent all that they have to supply their drug habit, so then they start stealing from loved ones, then they are thrown out and they steal from others and start selling their bodies to strangers for money so they can get more drugs. All because they were seeking happiness and fulfillment in the world.

Maybe you are not into drugs or alcohol, maybe you just buy and buy because you want the latest fashion, hoping if you dress like someone you will become like them. Maybe you spend your money for tummy tucks and face lifts trying to look young. Some will have plastic surgery to look like someone else.

Maybe your thing is toys, adult toys like the latest wave runner or car or boat. Maybe it's computer software or you just buy a new computer all the time because you think it will bring you satisfaction having the latest, greatest and fastest. We could go on and on with the things this world has to offer, but the truth is, no matter what you want or get in this world, you will never be happy and content.

Think of actors and musicians who have killed themselves. They had it all, fame and fortune, men or women running after them willing to give themselves to him or her whenever they wanted. Enough money to buy anything they wanted. Enough recognition that others worship and cater to all their needs. But still they were empty inside, like the song goes, *"I can't get no satisfaction"*.

When you look to the world you never will find satisfaction, we should all realize that by now, but still we try to find it in the world.

The only real place to find satisfaction, peace and comfort is in Jesus Christ!

I have never met a Christian who said that Jesus is not enough and they need something more. No Christian has ever said that they were sorry they accepted Jesus as their Lord and Savior. No Christian has felt emptiness and if or when they did, it was because they were putting their eyes on the things of this world and took them off of Jesus.

So how do you obtain this eternal happiness? Where can you buy it and how much does it cost. It costs everything you have. That's right everything. When you give your life to Jesus you are offering Him everything, including your family, your job, your home, your friends, your whole life.

Maybe you don't want to give Him everything, then you don't really want Jesus as your Lord and Savior, you just want Him for a quick fix to your current problems. But having Jesus as your Lord and Savior is not a quick fix, but an eternal relationship with Him. Sure, He will take things away from you, but He will replace them with something better. He will take your addictions and replace them with a heart to give. He will take your lies and replace them with His word of truth. He will take away your sexual sin and replace it with an awesome marriage. He will take your hatred and fill it with His love. He will take all your sins to the cross and pay the price for you and your sins. The things you are now seeking will mean nothing to you because you will see them through His eyes and realize how useless they really are.

“So how do you get all of this?” you may be wondering?

Just ask, that’s right just ask Him.

† **John 6:37** *All that the Father gives Me will come to Me, and the one who comes to Me I will by no means cast out.*

Jesus will never reject anyone who really wants to turn his or her life over to Him.

“So how do I ask, what do I say?”

Just a simple prayer by faith, just like this one:

*Jesus, I admit I am a sinner and I ask You to please forgive me for my sins. I believe You died on the cross for all my sins and rose from the dead on the third day. Please take these sins and cast them as far away as the east is from the west. Cleanse me and make me a new person. Please fill me with Your Holy Spirit and may I tell others about You. Thank you Jesus for forgiving me. I love You and ask this in Your name Jesus. AMEN!*

If you just prayed this prayer from your heart, you are now a Christian. Welcome to the family of God. I would encourage you to find a good bible teaching church to start going to, read your bible and continue to pray everyday. Also go tell someone what you just did. If they are a believer, they will rejoice with you and the angels in heaven. If they are not, share Jesus with them so they can be saved too.

✎ *"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."*

So is Jesus telling us to quite our jobs here? I know some of you may be hoping so, but that’s not what Jesus is speaking of. We all need our jobs to take care of our families and financial obligations, and there is nothing wrong or sinful in having a job. It’s when you are willfully not working that you are in sin.

† **2 Thess 3:10** *For even when we were with you, we commanded you this: If anyone will not work, neither shall he eat.*

✎ **Prov 19:15** *Laziness casts one into a deep sleep, And an idle person will suffer hunger.*

† **Prov 13:4** *The soul of a lazy man desires, and has nothing; But the soul of the diligent shall be made rich.*

✎ **Prov 19:24** *A lazy man buries his hand in the bowl, And will not so much as bring it to his mouth again.*

But we should not allow our jobs to control our lives, and we should not be workaholics. Those are people who put their jobs before everything and anything including their family.

We should not try to get rich off of our jobs. Yes, we are to do our best but or jobs should not be the main focus in our lives.

✎ *"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."*

Our main focus should be in sharing the gospel of Jesus Christ with others, and to do that is simply telling others what Jesus has done for you, and how He has changed your life, and what you have to look forward to after you leave this earth, which is, ***"everlasting life, which the Son of Man will give you"***

It doesn't take a scholar to do this, just someone who loves Jesus and wants other to as well. Is this someone you?

Well that's it for this week, next week, the bread of life and working the works of God.

May God richly bless you in His love, grace and mercy and may He pour His spiritual blessings upon all of you!