

Is Christ Really All That We Need?

John 6:1-21

Still in the vicinity of the Sea of Tiberius or Galilee, the Lord attracted a large crowd. John tells us that they were following him because they saw the sign that he was doing, in this case healing the sick. Is it possible for people to be attracted to Christ for the wrong reasons?

Anyone who has suffered with sickness and the pain of it, and who knows Christ as savior will tell you that they know what it means to go to him in prayer and beg for healing. There is certainly nothing wrong with that! But, if the attraction is only a self serving attraction which ignores our true need, we are not seeking Christ for the right reason. I once had a young man come to me asking for prayer. His live-in girl friend had left him and had also taken his clothes along with her. He wanted help from God. He wanted God to restore the girlfriend, and his clothes!

Before we can know Christ as God intends, we must see that our greatest need is pardon for sin, and justification before the Lord. To seek the Lord's blessing on our agenda is not God's way. We must sincerely learn to pray, "Thy will be done."

John mentions that the Passover was near. This is intended to remind us that the Lord Jesus Christ came to be the perfect Passover lamb. He, the perfect high priest was to offer himself on the cross as the perfect sacrifice for undeserving sinners.

It was on this occasion that the Lord set a problem before his disciples. A large crowd had arrived and the Lord asked Philip, "Where are we to buy bread, so that these people may eat? Philip began to appraise the situation in economic terms, but Andrew reported that a young man was present who had five barley loaves and two fish. But he asked, "What are they for so many?"

The men alone numbered about five thousand. The food was distributed and people ate their fill. After they had eaten, twelve baskets of food were collected. What does this tell us about the Lord Jesus? When he provides for us he does not do so begrudgingly. When the Lord created all things, when he brought the worlds into existence, he made them large, larger even than we can imagine. Our own universe is massive, and is the work of his hands.

And, when the Lord brought salvation to sinners he provided a redemption that is large indeed. His atonement is sufficient to save us. There can be no doubt that what has been provided for us is spiritual food of the finest sort and that we are delivered and kept by the power of God because Christ went to the cross. We need no other act of God to save us; we need only to have the power of his death and resurrection applied to our hearts by the Spirit of God.

The people who had been fed were impressed. They confessed him as the "prophet" who was to come into the world. But the Lord knew they were primarily interested in making him a king, according to their notion of what a king should be. He would have none of it. What Christ does to save us is all sufficient. But it is what he does. Can we do anything to force him to be our Lord, our king? One often hears preachers calling on men and women to make Christ "Lord." Actually we cannot make him our Lord. He already is our Lord, if we are saved by his grace.

We can acknowledge him as King and Lord. We do this by hearing his law and admitting our sinful behavior, our transgression of his commandments. We do recognize him as Lord when we see him *alone* as our only hope of righteousness, and our only hope of a righteous standing before God. We recognize him as our Lord and

Master when we repent of our sins and depend on him to make us acceptable to God.

In all these things he is what we need, and in all these things he is all that we need. When the Lord multiplied fish and bread for the good of mankind he did it in a plentiful way. When he saves us he gives us all that we need, and in sustaining us he does not behave in a niggardly way. His heart is generous; his provision is bountiful indeed.

by Joe Nesom