

I. Opening Thoughts

- A. Jesus' next miracle was Him walking on water, which was recorded in Matthew and Mark
- B. Jesus knows the hearts of His followers
- C. Only Jesus can satisfy our deepest hunger

II. Exegetical notes

A. Vss. 16-21

- 1. Darkness of night and absence of Jesus are symbolically linked. The darkness has no power over Him.
- 2. Jesus didn't tip-toe over the water. It was really choppy
- 3. Jesus is sovereign over the world He created – Genesis 1-2 and John 1
 - a. Creation came through the Son
 - b. The Christ of the NT is the God of creation
 - c. The logos created the world and has power over it
 - d. The sea in Scripture represents chaos and disorder

B. Vss. 22-26

- 1. The people were frantically searching for Jesus
- 2. Notice that Jesus didn't answer their question. He wasn't trying to impress them; He was trying to teach them and show them their need for salvation
- 3. Instead of answering their question, Jesus questions their motives
- 4. The people saw the miracle but failed to see what it signified. Miracles, healings, and the like should signify something which leads one to Christ, the Gospel. Don't seek signs, wonders, and miracles; seek Christ.
- 5. Even the disciples struggled with Jesus' diving nature after the miracle of feeding the 5000 and Him walking on water (Mark 6:51-52), much less the unbelieving crowd. Is our faith any better than those who do not believe?

C. Vs. 27

- 1. This crowd echoes the Samaritan woman at the well – Carson
- 2. The bread (manna) perished with use, just as everything else in this world except Christ – Matthew 6:19-21
- 3. The food is Jesus Himself; because this food endures, the life it sustains goes on into eternity
- 4. God has certified His son as His agent ("Set His seal"), authorizing Him as the One who alone can give this food
- 5. Overall, Jesus is saying that material notions of blessing are not to be pursued, but rather the spiritual blessings we have in Christ (Ephesians 1:3)
- 6. Isaiah 55:2

D. Vss. 28-29

- 1. The kingdom of God is not about doing, but being; the people misunderstood Jesus' previous statement when He said "labor"
- 2. What "work" does God require? Faith, not in the abstract, which is w/out a coherent object, but saving faith in Christ
- 3. We don't believe in the signs, wonders, and miracles; You don't work to perform signs, wonders, and miracles; rather, you believe in Jesus, the One sent from God
- 4. Faith, faith w/out proper Christological object, is what God requires, not "works" in the modern sense – Carson
- 5. We are justified by faith, not by works – Romans 3:28; Ephesians 2:8-10

E. Vss. 30-31

- 1. These people were looking for signs on demand. They were looking for Jesus to impress them unto belief
- 2. They were supposing Jesus was going to perform an even greater miracle than the feeding of the 5000 and the manna in Exodus
- 3. If Jesus is greater than Moses, prove it!
- 4. Jesus is not captive to the whims of man. He is holy, sovereign. Have a high view of Christ
- 5. The people quoted Psalm 78:24; Jeremiah 9:15; Exodus 16:4

F. Vss. 32-33

1. The bread wasn't Moses', but God's
2. Jesus was persuaded that far too much attention was lavished on Moses and far too little on God, who was the supplier of the bread from heaven – Carson
3. The manna God gave in the wilderness was temporary and perished...a meager shadow of what God offered them in the true bread, Jesus Christ – MacArthur
4. The crowd was focusing on the past bread (through Moses) instead of the always present bread (Jesus Christ)
5. Jesus not only provides us w/ true bread from heaven (vs. 27), but He is the true Bread of Heaven

G. Vs. 34

1. Like the woman at the well (4:16), this crowd shows their lack of understanding. Their faith acts at a mundane level
2. They were thinking physical, not spiritual; worldly, not godly; temporary, not eternal
3. Colossians 3:2