

Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost

Sermon Road Map

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John 6:24-35

July 31, 2016

Looking for satisfaction? The search ends with Jesus.

Mom, Dad, I'm hungry. - You're hungry? Really? But I fed you yesterday.
Playful, yet reflects the need to: *shop, prepare, serve - do it again & again*

Prayer: *The eyes of all look to you O LORD. You open your hand and satisfy the desires of every living thing.* Psalm 145:15-16 Confession/praise: God feeds all people and animals. Jesus reveals: **to satisfy**, God gives more than consumables!

This crowd - ran to meet Jesus looking for something satisfying. After a day of teaching and a satisfying supper - what did they come looking for? **Fulfillment!**

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“Very truly I tell you, you are looking for me, not because you saw the signs I performed but because you ate the loaves and had your fill.” ²⁷ **Do not work for food that spoils, but for food that endures to eternal life, which the Son of Man will give you. For on him God the Father has placed his seal of approval.**

❖ **Mark my word:** Satisfaction doesn't come in what's perishable

- Food that spoils - short shelf-life, not enduring - for a moment
- Can't satisfy forever
- *The signs:* God's flashing neon arrows point out the **Satisfier/Fulness**
- The Son of Man who **gives eternal life**. They tasted as he taught them.

²⁸ *The people asked Jesus, “What does God want us to do?”*

²⁹ *Jesus replied to them, “God wants to do something for you so that you believe in the one whom he has sent.”* GOD'S WORD

❖ **Mark my word:** Satisfaction **doesn't** come in what you do.

- Even though Jesus said **give**. Even though he did it all the day before.
- Jesus said, *Do not work...* They asked *What works does God expect of us*
- NIV: **work** (s.) of God - subjective genitive - God is the **agent** of work
 - ♦ *Believing/faith - not the new good work. God works faith!*
 - ♦ Still the people asked: Work a greater miracle so **we** can believe
 - ♦ ⁸ *For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith — and this is not from yourselves, it (faith) is the gift of God —* ⁹ *not by works, so that no one can boast.* Ephesians 2
- People naturally expect (*opinio legis*) that **I need to do** something to find fulfillment and satisfaction. How can the temporary give lasting fulness?
- Hebrew: *Chai* = Life - *L'chaim* = to/for life - Life of fulness/satisfaction
- We need real life - full life - that lasts forever - **eternal life, starting now!**

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“Very truly I tell you, it is not Moses who has given you the bread from heaven, but it is my Father who gives you the true bread from heaven.” ³³ *For the bread of God is the bread that comes down from heaven and gives life to the world.”*

³⁴ *“Sir,” they said, “always give us this bread.”*

³⁵ *Then Jesus declared, “I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never go hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty.”*

❖ **Mark my word:** God's gift: the Divine Bread of Life = Jesus

- God sent the **I AM = Son of God** - signs/miracles: seal of approval
- The source of dissatisfaction: Sin separates from the Source of Life
 - ♦ Sin promises satisfaction but delivers emptiness, slavery, guilt, fear, death - it robs us of life by separating us from God
 - ♦ *Lord you made us for yourself. Our hearts are restless until they rest in you.* St. Augustine restless = **no** satisfaction!
- God's work of giving eternal life: **restored fellowship** with Life's Source
 - ♦ Jesus' payment for all our sin removed the barriers of guilt & judgment
 - ♦ Jesus' **death & resurrection** purchased **life for us** - his free gift to us
 - ♦ Through this good news God works faith in people - raising to new life
 - ♦ Where there is faith - new life - eternal life: restored with God.
 - ♦ Satisfaction: finding life in God w/ Christ - putting off sin.
 - *The ones who continue to believe have eternal life - satisfaction*
 - ♦ Coming to Jesus for instruction - filled with life giving wisdom
 - ♦ God's word is eternal food - it keeps on satisfying every hunger & thirst

Mark Jesus' word. He alone (no other religion, spirituality, philosophy) can offer the eternal word. It endures in life, through the grave, forever.

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