

Gospel of John: That You Might Believe

"Words of Eternal Life" – May 9th, 2021



Introduction

With God as our Shepherd, we shall not want (Psalm 23:1) – something the crowds that followed Jesus would have experienced as He fed the multitude. But to receive His provision, we (His sheep) must follow Him (our Shepherd). The problem for the crowds was that Jesus didn't fit their mold, their expectations for a Messiah. So how can we trust God when we don't know what He will do?

Pray

Before you begin, take some time to ask God to help you understand His word, to reveal what needs to change in you, and for the grace to follow Him in response. To help, use [Psalm 119:33-40](#) as a prayer for God to open His word up to you.

Sermon Outline

- I. Get an honest self-assessment (6:22-40)
- II. Stop grumbling against God (6:41-58)
- III. Choose to come and trust in Jesus (6:59-71)

Read & Discuss

- 1) Read [6:22-40](#)

The crowds are worried about bread, but Jesus lifts their gaze to a more serious issue: their sin that leads to death. Our struggle is often against letting the things of this world crowd out our attention such that the things of God seem less significant. Take a moment to reread God's promise in [John 6:35](#). If you believed Jesus' promise here, how would your life look this coming week? What does it look like for you to strive to enter into the rest He promises?

Jesus also talks about human responsibility and God's sovereignty in this section. How does God's sovereignty shape our obedience as Christians?

Additional Reading: Ephesians 2:1-10

*Check out J.I. Packer's [Evangelism and the Sovereignty of God](#).

- 2) Read [6:41-58](#)

When the people's hopes for the type of King Jesus will be is thwarted and they realize Jesus' agenda is different than theirs, they begin to grumble. Complaining to God is modeled for us in the Psalms; complaining *about* God is rebellion. When it comes to reading God's word, we need to be quick to listen and slow to speak. In other words, we need to be teachable – willing to have God shape our hearts and minds...not just affirm what we want. What are the areas you are tempted to grumble against God? What does this passage affirm about

who Jesus is that helps us submit to His plan? Take a moment to read [Romans 8:31-39](#). How does God giving His Son help us see that He is good and trustworthy?

Additional Reading: Numbers 11

3) Read [6:59-71](#)

When Jesus' teaching challenges the crowd in ways they don't like, they leave. When Jesus turns to His disciples and asks them if they are going to leave too, Peter affirms they have no other place to go *because* He has the words of eternal life. When God's plan doesn't seem to be working based on the circumstances we can see, how can we know His plan will not fail? How does Peter's response equip us to respond when following Jesus gets tough?

Additional Reading: Matthew 16:18, 1 Peter 2

Prayer of Response

1) After hearing God's Word, what sin do I need to *confess*? From what do I need to *repent*?

2) How should my life be lived this week based on what I have heard? What should I *understand, believe, desire, or do*?

Spend time praying together in response to God's word asking for His help and greater faith to follow Him in the week to come.

If you missed the sermon on Sunday or would like to listen again, visit our website at <https://fbcum.org/sermons-new/>

*Next week's sermon text: we turn to John 7:1-8:11 "Rivers of Living Water"
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