

COMMUNITY GROUPS

You're Not a Christian Just Because You Like Jesus

John 6:22-69

Main Idea

Many people liked Jesus, but only a few were willing to submit to His complete, all satisfying authority.

Overview

I. The Crowds followed Jesus

• They liked Jesus because He gave them free food and they wanted more (6.22-26)

II. Liking Jesus is never enough...He must be your all satisfying Lord

• Jesus commands the crowds not to concern themselves with their natural desires, but to be satisfied with in all things by looking to feed their spiritual bankruptcy (6.27, 35-40, 54-59)

III. Crowds walk away

- Jews are unconvinced of Jesus claims, thinking him only a man (v 42)
- Disciples find it hard to listen to Jesus say these things...they are unwilling to follow Him and submit to this teaching (v 66)
- Jesus is not interested in crowds, but in making disciples that submit to His Lordship

IV. Disciples Believe or Trust in Christ as Lord to be satisfied

- Jesus invites us to believe in Him for complete satisfaction (v 35)
- Believe is not mere intellectual assent but a whole leaning trust that He and He alone can bring eternal life (v 68-69)

<u>Questions</u>

Discussion Starter: Is there anything in your life that you like but don't follow? Why is this? And what might we conclude about your liking that thing?

- 1. Read John 6:22-59. What do you see is a consistent trait of the crowds? Why do the crowds seem to have any interest at all in following Him?
- 2. How do you see Jesus as being popular even today? Why do you think this is the case?
- 3. What is the difference between the Jesus that sells t-shirts, books, and movies and the biblical Jesus that seems to dismiss and not have an attraction with the crowds?
- 4. In verses 30-34, why does Jesus refuse to perform a "work" for the crowds? How do we act like this in our everyday lives?
- 5. What does it mean to "believe" in Jesus and have Him as "the Bread of Life?"

- 6. Read 6:60-65. Notice that the disciples do not say they "do not understand," but rather, "This is a hard saying." Why is that significant?
- 7. Read 6:66-71. What's significant about the disciples response to Jesus' question?
- 8. How can we guard ourselves from merely liking Jesus or believing in Him just for what He can do for us versus actually submitting to the fact that He and He alone can satisfy and bring life?
- 9. Discuss ways you have experienced satisfaction in Christ.

Accountability Question: What are some ways you are tempted to walk away from Jesus and not obey Him because He is too hard? Encourage one another in ways that Christ satisfies those things you don't like about following Christ.