

Jesus warning of chasing signs & wonders

John 6:26 Jesus answered them and said, "Most assuredly, I say to you, you seek Me, not because you saw the signs, but because you ate of the loaves and were filled".

Jesus exposes the crowd's superficial motives, telling them they seek Him only for physical nourishment rather than spiritual truth.

Meaning and Context

The Setting: The crowd followed Jesus across the Sea of Galilee to Capernaum after He miraculously fed the 5,000 with five loaves and two fish.

The Confrontation: Jesus uses the phrase "Very truly I tell you" (or amen, amen) to highlight the heavy significance of His upcoming correction.

The Motive: As noted in discussions on [Christian Hermeneutics Stack Exchange](#), users agree that the people missed the spiritual meaning behind the miracle. They wanted temporary bodily satisfaction rather than eternal life.

Key Themes

Signs vs. Wonders: The crowd saw the miracle merely as a free meal, failing to recognize it as a "sign" pointing to Jesus' divine identity.

Perishable vs. Eternal Food: Jesus pivots the conversation to urge them to seek spiritual sustenance—the "food that endures to eternal life"—which He alone provides.

Shifting Desires: The verse challenges believers to examine whether they follow God for material blessings or for a genuine relationship with Christ.

The Bread of Life Discourse (John 6:22-59) is one of Jesus' most profound and challenging sermons, where He shifts the crowd's focus from physical food to eternal salvation.

1. The Setup: Seeking More Bread (v. 22-26)

The Crowd: The people track Jesus down in Capernaum after He miraculously feeds the 5,000.

The Motive: Jesus calls them out, stating they are looking for Him because they got a free meal, not because they understood the spiritual sign.

2. The Command: Work for Eternal Food (v. 27-29)

The Shift: Jesus tells them not to waste energy on food that spoils, but to work for food that lasts forever.

The Question: The crowd asks what specific tasks or "works" God requires of them.

The Answer: Jesus simplifies it completely: the only "work" God wants is for them to believe in the One He sent.

3. The Comparison: Manna vs. True Bread (v. 30-34)

The Demand for a Sign: The crowd asks for a miracle to prove His authority, bringing up Moses giving their ancestors manna in the wilderness.

The Correction: Jesus points out that Moses didn't give them manna; God did. Furthermore, manna was temporary.

The Ultimate Bread: God is now offering the true bread from heaven that gives permanent life to the world. The crowd, still thinking physically, begs, "Sir, always give us this bread."

4. The Revelation: "I Am the Bread" (v. 35-40)

The Claim: Jesus responds with the first of His famous "I Am" statements: "I am the bread of life."

The Promise: Anyone who comes to Him will never go hungry, and anyone who believes in Him will never be thirsty.

The Father's Will: He promises that everyone the Father gives Him will be kept safe, raised on the last day, and given eternal life.

5. The Conflict: Murmuring and Spiritual Eating (v. 41-59)

The Complaint: The religious leaders complain because they know His earthly family ("Isn't this Joseph's son?"), rejecting His claim of coming down from heaven.

The Shocking Language: Jesus escalates the metaphor, using graphic language: they must eat His flesh and drink His blood to have eternal life.

The True Meaning: In Hebrew culture, "eating and drinking" a teacher's words meant fully absorbing and internalizing their teachings. Jesus is stating that salvation requires total spiritual consumption and personal union with Him through His upcoming sacrifice on the cross.

6. The Aftermath: A Hard Saying (v. 60-71)

The Desertion: Finding this teaching too difficult and offensive, many of Jesus' disciples walk away and stop following Him.

The Confession: When Jesus asks the twelve disciples if they want to leave too, Peter beautifully answers: "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life."