

John 6:1-15

"Clouded Vision, Self-Serving Faith, and the All-Sufficient Christ!"

(Pt 2)

INTRO: Whenever there is a problem, who or what do you instinctively look to?
(superheroes, self, _____) In crisis, what's your first impulse?

Brief Review from last week (Headings 1-2)

- 1) **Jesus Sets the _____ Stage.**
- 2) **Jesus asks the _____ Question.**
- 3) **Jesus' Disciples Lose _____ of the Son.**

4) **Jesus Reminds Us of Who** _____.

5) **Jesus Superficial Groupies Illustrate** _____ **of Me-Centered (Self-Serving) "faith."**

For Further Reflection/Application: *How has God been sanctifying you through His Word?*

When is the last time you found yourself in a real predicament? “I was at the end of my rope, I had nowhere to go, I had no-good human solutions.” Said differently, when was the last time you found yourself in a situation where you were desperate (or felt powerless); like when the disciples realized they had 5000+ hungry (“hangry”) mouths to feed and only 5 loafs and 2 fish?

Now talk about the last time you temporarily “lost sight of the Son?” In the spirit of James 5:16-“Confess your sins to each other and pray for one another.” As we study the Gospel of John a common prayer will be, “Lord we believe, help our unbelief” (Mark 9:24). The entire Christian walk is a walk of faith (per Heb. 11).

What are some reasons why prayer can become our last resort rather than our first resort? Why do true disciples of Christ make so many decisions without truly opening up the Word of Christ for direction, wisdom, correction, and help (or make decisions without getting truly biblical counsel from someone)? Psalm 119:105; Proverbs 3:5-6.

The all-sufficient Son of God is always near (believer). Take heart and be of good courage!

God’s perfect plan may include using us (our money, time, talents, spiritual gifts) but God does not *need* our help. Let’s not be so presumptuous and proud. Let’s also keep in mind that Christ’s plan or provision may be different than our own. Hence the reason we need to be men and women of the Word and faithful prayer warriors.

In John 6:1-14 Jesus reminds His disciples afresh of who He is. Who does Jesus show Himself to be in this passage? Why is it good to be regularly reminded of these Christological truths? The answer you provide here are some of the reasons why John’s Gospel is 24k gold.

See John 2:23-25; 6:25-26; 59-71. This sermon highlighted bogus, me-centered, self-serving faith among pseudo-disciples. Most of the crowd here are superficial Jesus groupies. Why is it foolish to cater to the fleshly desires of religious unbelievers when evangelizing (or when “doing church”)? Talk about the short-sighted folly of the church growth movement (and the Gospel According to Bieber message such churches often proclaim).

What are some possible indicators that someone has ulterior motives for “coming to Church/Christ?” It’s been said that, “The chief danger that confronts the coming century will be religion without the Holy Ghost, Christianity without Christ, forgiveness without repentance, salvation without regeneration, politics without God, heaven without hell.” An inoffensive gospel is no Gospel especially when ministering to proud, self-righteous sinners. Note Galatians 5:11-12; 1 Corinthians 1:23-25; (really all of chapter 1 and 2); 1 Peter 2:8; John 15:18-21. One author noted, I am not advocating boorish behavior by Christians (we mustn’t be needlessly offensive). I am making a simple point. The message we have been called to proclaim is offensive. Jesus promised it would be. The Apostles experienced it. You cannot remove the offense of the gospel without removing the power of the gospel to save. We may on some occasions preach without offending. But we cannot preach the full counsel of God (or the complete Gospel) without offending. We may be tempted to proclaim a message that makes people feel good but the true gospel brings people face to face with their sin and judgement (Jn. 3:36; Heb. 9:27). The gospel that saves is also the gospel that offends! God brings us low, before He lifts us up!