

SECTION IN FEBRUARY 12 SERMON THAT IS MISSING ON THE RECORDING (at the 10:15 mark):

Let's first notice how Jesus precedes vv. 37ff by speaking of belief & unbelief in vv. 35-36. As one commentator puts it, *these verses (vv. 35-36) are "the fountainhead" from which flows all that follows*, beginning with v. 37.

In v. 35 Jesus declares & offers Himself freely to all as the bread of life (using this imagery of bread/sustenance that we need)—*calling sinners to REPENT & TRUST IN HIM, to come to Him, to believe in Him*—& find in Him everything that their souls need for eternal life.

And then He goes right into what He says in v. 36, "But I said to you *that you have seen Me, and yet do not believe.*" So here are *multitudes* of people who have *seen Jesus* perform miracles (& personally benefit from His miracles). They've heard Him teach & preach the gospel. They've followed Him across the Sea of Galilee. *He's exposed their wrong motives & spoken of their need to seek Him & believe in Him for the right things & with the right motives.* He's proclaimed Himself as the *true bread, the true manna*, for their souls—the way to LIFE...

...THEY HAVE SEEN HIM (v. 36)—*BUT DO NOT BELIEVE.* They've seen Jesus, they've heard Him, they're still going after Him—*BUT NOT TRULY BELIEVING IN HIM.* With all their privileges...in all their outward appearances, *THEY ARE STILL LOST & DEAD IN THEIR SIN. THEY ARE NOT SAVED!*

Why not??? What's going on? What do they need? How's this ever going to happen, then, in the hearts of sinners (even religious people) who are fleshly-minded, who are deceived by their own thoughts & desires, who aren't seeing Christ (or wanting Christ) as "the bread of life"? *Is there any hope for them?—Is there any hope for us, for our loved ones???* –

YES, THERE IS!—as Jesus will continue here – but first, let's remember (as we've said before) that the problem here isn't a lack of evidence. People aren't rejecting Jesus here, they're not believing in Him, because of a lack of evidence or proof.

Sometimes skeptics will say, "Show me *a real miracle*, & then I'll believe" – "God, if only You'll do this or that for me, *then* I'll believe in You...*then* I'll follow You." But those kind of statements simply demonstrate *how little they really know about themselves (or how little they really want to admit about themselves)*. They don't *understand* their own fallenness, their own depravity, their true need before God!

No, people don't reject Jesus as Lord *because of a lack of evidence*—but (as we saw in John 3) because they love the darkness rather than the Light – because they're *spiritually dead in their trespasses & sins (Eph. 2)*...because naturally *they're unable to understand spiritual truth (1 Cor. 2)*. They don't believe in Jesus because they don't want to SUBMIT to Jesus. *In & of ourselves as fallen sinners, WE CANNOT & WE WILL NOT COME TO HIM.* This is our natural state AND our need before God!

Jesus is very clear about this (along with Moses, along with David, along with Isaiah & Jeremiah, & Paul). Later in John 8:43-44, Jesus asks the unbelieving Jews who are talking with Him, "*Why do you not understand what I am saying? It is because you cannot hear My word. You are of your father the devil, & you want to do the desires of your father.*" YOU CANNOT & YOU DON'T WANT TO—this is your condition & your need of the grace & power of God to change your heart & draw you to Himself, bring you to willingly believe & follow Me!

--later on, here in John 6, Jesus will say the same thing—READ vv. 43-44 – READ v. 65. This is truth that they (& we) need to hear (or Jesus wouldn't have said it), even speaking the gospel here to unbelievers.

...because we need to understand *the reality of our situation before God!*—that we aren't just imperfect & need a little help, a little incentive to do the right thing & follow the right way, someone to point us in the right direction

...NO, the reality is that before God we are spiritually dead & in need of a resurrection! (Eph. 2, for GOD to make us alive!). As Jesus said in John 3 to Nicodemus, you need to be born again, a new birth (spiritually)—be given a new heart!

We need the grace & power of God to save us! We need to be brought to a place of repentance & faith in Christ—to despair of anything in ourselves & cast ourselves on the mercy of God! WE CANNOT SAVE OURSELVES—BUT GOD CAN & DOES EFFECTUALLY SAVE PEOPLE—& KEEP THEM FOR ETERNAL SALVATION. And Jesus proclaims this here in John 6—& accomplishes it in all who will hear Him & receive it!

But, as Leon Morris says in his commentary here, people do not come to Christ *because it seems a good idea to them.* It never does seem a good idea to natural man. *Apart from a divine work in their souls, people remain contentedly in their sins.*

This is what Paul speaks of in 1 Cor. 1-2, that the gospel (what Jesus offers here to the crowd) is *foolishness, a stumbling block*, to the natural mind. And the only way anyone, ever, believes it is because God graciously & effectually draws them, gives them life within—*THEN they can & want to repent & believe in Christ.*

On our own, we will *never* believe. GOD has to do a work of sovereign grace—*or we are without hope!* I mean, if these people—religious Jews, moral people, seemingly “seekers” of Jesus, having the Scriptures—if they are right there seeing & hearing Jesus in the flesh, experiencing His miracles, & *THEY don't believe?*—how will we & our loved ones ever believe?

Well, let's follow Jesus' teaching here (to see how!). Let's follow this—*because He goes from that statement (that they do not believe) to an explanation of their unbelief AND their need...*