

John 6:26

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Jesus answered them and said, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Ye seek me, not because ye saw the miracles, but because ye did eat of the loaves, and were filled.

Analysis

'Jesus answered them and said, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Ye seek me, not because ye saw the miracles, but because ye did eat of the loaves, and were filled.' Jesus exposes their motivation—they want provision, not the Provider. They saw miracles but missed their meaning. Physical satisfaction became their goal rather than spiritual truth. Jesus distinguishes between signs and their significance. Crowds that follow for benefits will leave when benefits cease.

Historical Context

This confrontation marks a turning point. Jesus refuses to perform on demand or cater to material expectations. The crowd wanted another meal; Jesus offers eternal life. The disconnect between their desire and His mission sets up the difficult teaching that follows.

Related Passages

1 John 4:8 — God is love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Study Questions

1. How do we distinguish between following Christ for benefits versus following Him as Lord?
2. What did the miracles signify that the crowd missed?

Interlinear Text

ἀπεκρίθη αὐτοῖς ὁ Ἰησοῦς καὶ εἶπεν ἀμὴν ἀμὴν λέγω
answered **them** ^{G3588} **Jesus** **and** **said** **Verily** **Verily** **I say**
G611 G846 G2424 G2532 G2036 G281 G281 G3004

ὕμῖν ζητεῖτέ με οὐχ ὅτι εἶδετε σημεῖα ἀλλ'
unto you **Ye seek** **me** **not** **because** **ye saw** **the miracles** **but**
G5213 G2212 G3165 G3756 G3754 G1492 G4592 G235

ὅτι ἐφάγετε ἐκ τῶν ἄρτων καὶ ἐχορτάσθητε
because **ye did eat** **of** ^{G3588} **the loaves** **and** **were filled**
G3754 G5315 G1537 G740 G2532 G5526

Additional Cross-References

Philippians 3:19 (Parallel theme): Whose end is destruction, whose God is their belly, and whose glory is in their shame, who mind earthly things.)

Philippians 2:21 (References Jesus): For all seek their own, not the things which are Jesus Christ's.

Ezekiel 33:31 (Parallel theme): And they come unto thee as the people cometh, and they sit before thee as my people, and they hear thy words, but they will not do them: for with their mouth they shew much love, but their heart goeth after their covetousness.

1 Timothy 6:5 (Parallel theme): Perverse disputings of men of corrupt minds, and destitute of the truth, supposing that gain is godliness: from such withdraw thyself.

Romans 16:18 (References Jesus): For they that are such serve not our Lord Jesus Christ, but their own belly; and by good words and fair speeches deceive the hearts of the simple.

John 6:2 (Parallel theme): And a great multitude followed him, because they saw his miracles which he did on them that were diseased.

Psalms 78:37 (Parallel theme): For their heart was not right with him, neither were they stedfast in his covenant.

John 6:24 (References Jesus): When the people therefore saw that Jesus was not there, neither his disciples, they also took shipping, and came to Capernaum, seeking for Jesus.

John 3:5 (References Jesus): Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.