

Title: JUST TRYING TO GET BY, JOHN 6:22-35
(Chatham, NJ; 08/02/15, AM) [E – Narrative: Q & A outline]

Theme: As Jesus traveled around Israel, he challenged people to look beyond their daily necessities to see a deeper sense of fulfillment.

Purpose: To help us look at the more important issue of feeding our souls more than our bodies.

Introduction:

1. Jesus and the disciples are fresh off a major miracle: feeding 5,000 men in the wilderness.
2. The crowd wants to anoint him king, 6:15.
3. Feeding the populace as well as an army miraculously would be a major logistical obstacle to overcome, and it certainly indicated the presence of God.
4. Jesus' next encounter reveals their true motivation, so we have an intense Q & A dialogue.
5. Put yourself somewhere in the narrative: one of the disciples, part of the crowd asking questions, or a quiet observer.
6. Listen.

I. Question and Answer #1

A. Question

1. Lord, when did you get here?
2. An odd question considering they knew that he and the disciples had left though they knew nothing of the walking on water
3. Are they asking how?
4. Was there something else behind the question that they wanted to say?
5. The issue of making him king has receded quickly into the background

B. Answer

1. You are seeking me because you had your fill of bread, 26
2. This doesn't answer their question
3. Jesus passes over the question to get to their real motivation: they only wanted more bread
4. Normally Jesus demonstrates compassion, but this is confrontational
5. His teaching: don't labor for food that spoils; labor for food that lasts
6. Food given by the Son of Man
7. Deuteronomy 8:3 is implied

II. Question and Answer #2

A. Question

1. In response to Jesus' assertion that they should labor for food that lasts they ask, "What must we do, to be doing the works of God?"
2. In other words, how do we get this bread?
3. Even with an imperfect motivation, maybe you really want to know what God wants you to do.

B. Answer

1. Believe in him whom God has sent.
2. They already know about the prophets: Moses, Elijah, etc.
3. This is not a faith/works controversy; Jesus is laying out the beginning step in the board game: the "Go" square on Monopoly
4. Belief in him is the foundation for everything else
5. He implies that He is the one that God has sent

III. Question and Answer #3

A. Question

1. What sign will you give us?
2. Manna was the sign from Moses
3. Can you duplicate or top that?

B. Answer

1. Not really Moses, but God
2. God gives the true bread from heaven
3. This bread is he who gives life to the world

C. Dialogue

1. "Give us this bread" (34) – similar to the woman asking for living water
2. Jesus' response: I am the bread of life
3. Not sure they were expecting this.
4. Jesus, "Come to me; never hunger. Believe in me, never thirst." (35)
5. What are you thinking about all this?

IV. Concluding questions:

- Confusion: We know this man. "How can he say, "I came down from heaven"?" (41)
- More confusion: "How can this man give us his flesh to eat?" (52)
- Jesus raises more questions than he appears to answer.
- Many people leave, 66.
- Others stay, 67-69.
- Which group would you be with?

Conclusions:

1. Jesus speaks of belief, eternal life, and being raised up on the last day.
2. We know and most of us have accepted the conclusion of the story: the Gospel.
3. Shall we continue to seek the spiritual bread that provides eternal life and satisfies our deepest, spiritual hunger?
4. Your need for spiritual food is a priority: labor for that food.
5. Invitation.