

BOOK OF JOHN // WK 13

Hey Faith Students, welcome back! We are now in the new year and jumping back into our Book of John sermon series so turn to **John 6:34**.

Illustration // Share a story of who said something or did something so crazy that you saw them different after that moment. (My example: My friend from Middle School said his family was the Italian Mafia and starting acting fake gangster)

- There are certain people that when they say things, it can completely change your view of them and make them even seem crazy! In the same way Jesus said some wild things that made people question him and even walk away from Him. So what did He say that made people so offended?

Before the Scripture

- Jesus earlier in this chapter feeds 5000 men (possibly 10,000+ if you count women and children) with 5 loaves of bread and 2 fish!
- He then instead of taking a boat to the other side of the sea, he walks on water! (this week read the whole chapter, it's crazy!)
- He gets to the other side and is met by a large crowd of people looking for Him.
- Jesus confronts their hearts and intentions by saying you look for me only because I fed you (Jesus wasn't playing games!)

Scripture // **John 6:34-40; 48-51** (small groups can read more of the passage, 6:25-59)

- **Pray**

Jesus just made some crazy allegations and statements right here! But to understand the claim He is making you have to understand the history:

- In the Old Testament (the first part of the Bible, before Jesus came to earth), God had a chosen people called the Israelites.
- They were in slavery but by the power and grace of God, He rescued them and set them on a journey to a new promised land.
- The only thing about this journey is that they were in Egypt which is a desert with no water and no food!
- So God provided for these people a miracle from heaven, Manna (or bread) so they wouldn't die in the wilderness. God provided.
- NOW, years later Jesus is now in front of the ancestors of Israelites (so they know the story of the manna), Jesus is claiming that He isn't just providing bread like in the Old Testament, He is saying He is the Bread of Life!
- He isn't just providing the means of the people, He is claiming to be THE PROVIDER.
- At this people were upset, angry, and confused. So what can we take from this?

MAIN POINT: God is the giver of good gifts but the greatest gift we can receive is Jesus.

1. **God is the giver of good gifts.**

- Illustration // Who in here would say they have that family member or friend that will always hook you up with good gifts? (Money from a grandparent, candy from a friend, cool gifts from that rich uncle, Christmas gifts from parents, etc)

- We can all say we love people who love to give good gifts. In the same way God loves to give us good gifts. Why because He genuinely loves us.
- **Scripture // Vs 1-15**
 - We see earlier in this passage that Jesus miraculously feeds a magnitude of hungry people why? Because he cares for them and is faithful to provide.
 - We just talked about God providing the manna to the Israelites. Why? Because he cares for them and is faithful to provide.
 - He didn't have to do these things. He is not obligated to provide but He loves them so much that He wants us to provide and give them gifts. This is good news!
- **Application //**
 - God wants you to receive the gifts He has provided for you.
 - **James 1:17 - Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows.**
 - God wants us to be taken care of. He wants to feed the hungry, shelter the unsheltered, clothe the naked, care for the brokenhearted. All we need to do is ask.
 - **Matthew 7:7-11 - "Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives, and the one who seeks finds, and to the one who knocks it will be opened. Or which one of you, if his son asks him for bread, will give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, will give him a serpent? If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give good things to those who ask him!**
 - So maybe you are here and feeling discouraged and feel like God doesn't hear me or answer my prayers.
 - Encouragement: God is a good Father who gives the gifts we need not always want. God is above our ways in how He operates and provides.
 - Trust God in who He is and what He gives, He wants to provide for you.

2. Jesus is the greatest gift.

- **Illustration // Tell a story of someone who only stayed around you for what you could give them. (clout, good grades, even food)**
 - We all have that person we knew that only stayed around for the stuff. And if we are honest, we always feel like those people don't really have our best interest. Those people don't really like us or love us, they like the stuff.
 - If we are not careful we can do the same thing to God.

Scripture // v 34

- In this passage people came to Jesus for what they could get from Him, but they were missing the greatest gift they can ever receive, Jesus!

Application //

- The truth is Jesus is all we need, Jesus is our portion and provider, Jesus is the prize, the center, the main thing.
- If we are not careful we can come into the church and our walk of faith with a list of all your needs and wants and make that our focus. God I want, God I need, God bless me with etc.

- Those things are all great and we are thankful to have a God who wants to meet our needs and wants but we can unintentionally miss the main focus of life.
- **John 17:3 - Now this is eternal life: that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent.**
 - Our whole purpose of existence, our greatest gift and blessing is the KNOW GOD. To know Jesus Christ.
 - Jesus is our provider and the greatest thing He provides us is Himself.

Challenge //

- As we go into a new year we can be quick to make resolutions on how we will better ourselves and what we will accomplish. Can we put one thing at the top of our new year's resolution list?
 - To know, pursue, and live for Jesus. This is the greatest gift more than anything we can receive.
 - **Matthew 6:33 - But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.**

Altar //

Here are some options of ways you can do your response:

1. Visual: Have students write New Year's Resolutions on how they want to grow in the Lord. Have them share with some friends and keep each other accountable for the year.
2. Prayer: Have students in their seats reflect on where they are with God and then have a conversation with Him. End with praying all together.
3. Worship: Have students bring in the new year in worship. A time of surrender and refocus.