

# The Gospel of John

## True and False Disciples (Part II)

**John 6:16-27**

### **INTRODUCTION:**

Last week I preached a sermon that was entirely an **introduction** in order to set us up for the theme of chapter 6. Many of you were not here last week and I feel it is important to set up the remainder of the sermons from this chapter with this introduction. So I am going to repeat the highlights of last week's sermon before continuing with the verse by verse discussion.

This chapter **could** be treated chunk by chunk as independent units.

- Feeding of the 5,000.
- Jesus and Peter Walking on the Water.
- A Great Sermon on the Bread of Life.
- Various Conversations with the Crowd, the Jews, and the Disciples.
- Many of Jesus' Followers Walking Away from Christ.
- Peter's Confession Faith.

But it strikes me that this chapter really focuses on one very, very important issue and that is the **difference between a true disciple and a false disciple**. If you approach this chapter understanding that theme, then it will make a lot more sense to you.

This is a **huge** issue. Remember "The gate is wide and the way is broad that leads to destruction, and there are many who enter through it" **Matthew 7:13-23**.

There will be many who say on Judgment Day, "Lord, Lord, I did **Soooo** many things in Your Name" and Jesus will say, "I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness".

That is the purpose of my ministry here is it not? I **must** share with you what the scriptures say are the characteristics of a **true** disciple. **Because none of us want to go through all of the motions of being a Christian only to find out in the end that Christ never knew you!**

Remember Jesus tells in **John 10:27 and the first part of 28**. "My sheep **hear** my voice. **I know them** and **they follow Me**. And I give them eternal life."

It is critical for people to do a heart examination and make sure that Jesus **DOES KNOW US!** God expects us to read the scriptures for **ourselves** and insure that we understand what He is requiring of us. **God expects each of us to have enough concern for our eternal salvation that we take seriously the responsibility to check the scriptures**

**for yourself!** Do you have a regular devotion time with God?

## **2 Corinthians 13:5 (NASB)**

<sup>5</sup> Test yourselves *to see* if you are in the faith; examine yourselves! Or do you not recognize this about yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you—unless indeed you fail the test?

It is YOUR responsibility to check the scriptures frequently to ensure that what I and others are telling you is true. You will be held accountable for your **own** salvation!

If Jesus were to say to you at the final judgment "Depart from Me, I never knew you" you will not be able to respond, "But Wayne said..."

## **All Stand and Read Scripture.**

### **John 6:16-27 (NASB)**

<sup>16</sup> Now when evening came, His disciples went down to the sea, <sup>17</sup> and after getting into a boat, they *started to* cross the sea to Capernaum. It had already become dark, and Jesus had not yet come to them. <sup>18</sup> The sea *began* to be stirred up because a strong wind was blowing. <sup>19</sup> Then, when they had rowed about three or four miles, they *\*saw* Jesus walking on the sea and drawing near to the boat; and they were frightened. <sup>20</sup> But He *\*said* to them, "It is I; do not be afraid." <sup>21</sup> So they were willing to receive Him into the boat, and immediately the boat was at the land to which they were going.

<sup>22</sup> The next day the crowd that stood on the other side of the sea saw that there was no other small boat there, except one, and that Jesus had not entered with His disciples into the boat, but *that* His disciples had gone away alone. <sup>23</sup> There came other small boats from Tiberias near to the place where they ate the bread after the Lord had given thanks. <sup>24</sup> So when the crowd saw that Jesus was not there, nor His disciples, they themselves got into the small boats, and came to Capernaum seeking Jesus. <sup>25</sup> When they found Him on the other side of the sea, they said to Him, "Rabbi, when did You get here?"

<sup>26</sup> Jesus answered them and said, "Truly, truly, I say to you, you seek Me, not because you saw signs, but because you ate of the loaves and were filled. <sup>27</sup> Do not work for the food which perishes, but for the food which endures to eternal life, which the Son of Man will give to you, for on Him the Father, God, has set His seal."

## **Prayer**

There will be false disciples. We want to make sure we are crystal-clear about the difference between a **True Christian** and a **False Christian**, a **True disciple**, and a **False disciple**. You could be a disciple that is a true follower of Christ. But you can also be a follower that only has a superficial interest in Christ.

You must examine this chapter on a personal level, asking if this is me and where do I fit?

## **BODY:**

### **I. FALSE DISCIPLES SEEK EARTHLY BENEFITS.**

Let's review very quickly, what we have already identified as attractions of the false disciples who have collected around Jesus.

1. **False disciples are attracted by the crowd.** There is electricity in the crowd. People will join a crowd in an attempt to see what is going on. What is all of the fascination about?
2. **False disciples are fascinated by the supernatural.** These crowds came together because of the prospect and the promise that there would be the miraculous, there would be the supernatural.
3. **False disciples think only of earthly benefits.** They loved the free food and the physical healing. They even tried to make Jesus their earthly King.

They were not interested in the spiritual reality. It was not about salvation. Their long-cherished messianic idea was that the Messiah would be a Deliverer and create well-being. They had a carnal enthusiasm for worldly things. The false disciple has no interest in the eternal, no interest in the heavenly, no interest in the spiritual, no interest in the matters of sin and righteousness and repentance. No interest in having a close loving relationship with God.

And that gets us to our text this morning. In **verses 16 to 27** we see a **fourth** characteristic of the false disciple.

## **II. FALSE DISCIPLES HAVE NO DESIRE TO WORSHIP.**

The false disciple has **no desire for worship**. To get the whole story, you need Mark's account, **Mark 6**, Matthew's account, **Matthew 14**. But here's what **John 6:16** says.

**"Now when evening came,"** this would be in the twilight, **"His disciples went down to the sea,"** Why? Jesus sent them there, right?

Jesus disperses the crowd, sends the disciples down to the sea to get into the boat, and He went into the mountain to pray.

### **John 6:17 (NASB)**

**<sup>17</sup> and after getting into a boat, they started to cross the sea to Capernaum. It had already become dark, and Jesus had not yet come to them.**

Actually the other writers tell us they were going a little ways to Bethsaida, which was just on the north shore and wait there for a little while. They stayed there for a little while, probably thinking Jesus is going to come. But Jesus doesn't come.

So they wait for a while there, according to **Mark 6**. And then they leave. They start to cross the sea to Capernaum. It had already now become dark.

### **John 6:18 (NASB)**

**<sup>18</sup> The sea began to be stirred up because a strong wind was blowing.**

This isn't the first time this has happened. They had already had this experience once before in Galilee and the waves were so bad they were crashing over the boat and Jesus was sleeping, remember that? And He got up and stilled the storm and stilled the wind and stilled the water.

And what did they say? They said, **"What kind of man is this that even the winds and the waves obey His voice?"** They're still trying to figure out Who Jesus was. **Matthew 8**.

They're dominated by fear. They're terrified that they're not going to survive. They had said that back in Matthew 8. in that previous storm "Don't You care that we perish?" **Matthew 14:24.** "But the boat was already a long distance from the land." It had gotten pushed out into the middle of the lake. When they would normally have wanted probably to stay pretty close to the shore. Battered by the waves, the wind was contrary and the fourth watch of the night, that's 3 to 6 A. M., He came to them walking on the sea. When the disciples saw Him walking on the sea, they were terrified and said, "It's a ghost," and they screamed in fear. But immediately Jesus spoke to them saying, "Take courage, it is I, do not be afraid."

"Peter said to Him, 'Lord, if it's You, command me to come to You on the water.'" I don't know why Peter did that or asked that. If he was just doing it as a test, it was pretty stupid because if it had been a ghost,..... but anyway, he did it. He got out of the boat and maybe the word "come" was a familiar enough voice. "He got out of the boat and walked on the water, came toward Jesus." I think he thought he was going to drown anyway and the only hope he had was to trust in what he saw and what he heard when he heard the voice of Jesus. He got out there, and seeing the wind, he became frightened. And beginning to sink he cried out, "Lord, save me." So he does know who it is.

"Immediately Jesus stretched out His hand, took hold of him, said to him, 'You of little faith, why did you doubt?' When they got in the boat, the wind stopped." Notice the difference. Last time this happened they said, "What manner of man is this?" This time, "Those who were in the boat did...what?...they worshiped Him. And they said, 'You are certainly God's Son.'" Now that's true discipleship. Worship. Go back to John's gospel. So, **verse 21**, "They willingly received Him into the boat." Now you've got to understand they've just seen an explosion of miracles.

1. They are still alive.
2. Jesus walking on water.
3. Peter walking on water.
4. Peter sinks and he's pulled back up.
5. Jesus stops the wind.
6. The boat is at the land to which they were going.

What? The boat went immediately from the middle of the lake to the dock at Capernaum. This is a monumental moment for them because they now are certain who they're dealing with, this is the Son of God. He's in control of nature. He's in control of His creation. This is what sets the true disciples apart from the false. It is all about worship. It is all about declaring Him to be the Son of God and bowing down in worship to Him. This was a massively important moment in their lives.

False disciples are drawn by the crowd, fascinated by the promise of a spiritual experience, desiring only earthly satisfaction, and void of any interest in real worship. They'll watch a show and listen to music, but that's a far cry from real worship.

### **III. FALSE DISCIPLES SEEK PERSONAL PROSPERITY.**

#### **John 6:22 (NASB)**

**22** The next day (that's the day after the feeding of the multitude,) the crowd that stood on the other side of the sea saw that there was no other small boat there, except one, They're still there. They're still on the eastern side. You remember all this happened on the

eastern side of the Sea of Galilee. They're still on the eastern shore. Why are they there? Cause they've been there all night. Why have they been there all night? Why didn't they go anywhere? It's very simple. The reason they're still there on the other side is that there was no other small boat there except one and Jesus had not entered with His disciples into the boat but His disciples had gone away alone. You remember how the day ended? Jesus fed everybody, and then He told the disciples to go. Remember? They all got in the boat and they left and Jesus wasn't in the boat. So they know that. The crowd knows Jesus didn't leave. That's why they stayed there all night. As good as the meal was, they're going to need breakfast. I mean, that's how they thought. They didn't go anywhere. But when the morning came, He was not there. And even more people were there **and that Jesus had not entered with His disciples into the boat, but that His disciples had gone away alone.**

### **John 6:23 (NASB)**

**<sup>23</sup> There came other small boats from Tiberias near to the place where they ate the bread after the Lord had given thanks.**

That means from the western shore across the sea and they came near where they ate the bread and the Lord had given thanks. So they came back to the very location of the miracle. The word had gone around the sea after the storm if they actually crossed it, because there was a storm and Jesus stilled it and the word got to Tiberias and by morning little boats are coming.

You have to understand these people lived for food. The battle for bread was a constant battle. You don't have a battle for bread, you go to the market or do the fast-food thing. Your battle is to see if you can get it in five minutes. You don't know what it is to struggle to get your next meal. But that was life back then. And this is the ultimate hope for people, not having to worry about the next meal.

### **John 6:24 (NASB)**

**<sup>24</sup> So when the crowd saw that Jesus was not there, nor His disciples, they themselves got into the small boats, and came to Capernaum seeking Jesus.**

Jesus isn't there. We're not getting any food. So they got into the small boats and you had sort of a flotilla of water taxis headed back to Capernaum. According to **Matthew 4:13** It says, "**Jesus established Himself in the town of Capernaum.**"

The thousands of people that was there the night before for the fish and loaves have slept well because their stomachs were full. They had awoken hoping for more food and hopefully convince Jesus to become their earthly King. They still have that in their minds. They get up, He's not there and the crowd has been multiplied because all the boat people have come over. So they all head for Capernaum.

### **John 6:25 (NASB)**

**<sup>25</sup> When they found Him on the other side of the sea, they said to Him, "Rabbi, when did You get here?"**

He ignores their question. He doesn't say I didn't walk on land, I walked on water out to the middle of the sea, met the disciples, and had a little incident with Peter, got him dried off, and back in the boat. And immediately another miracle occurred and we were at

shore and we docked the boat...He doesn't do that.

You might wonder, "Wouldn't that have convinced them of something?" No! They had just been involved in a massive miracle that they participated in and they still were not believing in Him. So what were they seeking?

### **John 6:26 (NASB)**

<sup>26</sup> Jesus answered them and said, "Truly, truly, I say to you, you seek Me, not because you saw signs, but because you ate of the loaves and were filled.

Jesus said "Truly, truly,". Jesus used that phrase often to emphasize really critical statements that He is making. "I say to you, you seek Me **not** because you saw signs," You're not here because you followed the signs that pointed to Me as Savior and Messiah and Lord. **But because you ate the loaves and the fish and were filled.**

These are the first candidates for the "**health and prosperity gospel**" that we hear so often today. Jesus wants to feed you. Jesus wants to fulfill your desires. They are seeking **personal fulfillment**, to have their personal needs met.

Many preachers today are trying to offer Jesus as the genie who gives you what you want. But that's a misrepresentation of Him as He makes clear in **verse 27 "Do not work for the food which perishes,"**

Jesus tells the crowd don't spend your time, energy, and money on things that are temporal, physical, or earthly. Do not work for what perishes.

**but for the food which endures to eternal life, which the Son of Man will give to you, for on Him the Father, God, has set His seal."**

### **CONCLUSION:**

You can always get a crowd when they expect that their personal needs will be met. But that is never what Jesus offers.

Jesus isn't willing to be a temporal earthly provider. This was another attempt of Satan to offer Jesus his earthly kingdom. But Jesus was here to do the will of the Father. The will of the Father was that He die on the cross for our salvation and set up a heavenly kingdom.

**People do not come to Christ for what they want. They come to Christ for what He demands!** He calls on sinners to grieve for their sin, to be obedient to Him, live for Him, serve Him, and suffer for Him.

**God expects each of us to have enough concern for our eternal salvation that we take seriously the responsibility to check the scriptures for yourself!**

### **Matthew 7:13-14 (NASB)**

<sup>13</sup> "Enter through the narrow gate; for the gate is wide and the way is broad that leads to destruction, and there are **many** who enter through it. <sup>14</sup> For the gate is small and the way is narrow that leads to life, and there are **few** who find it.

### **The Family of God.**