

1. The people were about to come and take Jesus by force to make him king.

John 6:14 When the people saw the sign that he had done, they began to say, 'This is indeed the prophet who is to come into the world.'

¹⁵ When Jesus realized that they were about to come and take him by force to make him king, he withdrew again to the mountain by himself.

➤ They saw a miracle of Jesus [feeding 5000 people]

Once their needs were met, they realized that this man was indeed the prophet who always provided them with food. They were convinced that if they made him their king, they would never have to worry about food again.

They followed Jesus around with the sole purpose of making him their king. [John 6:22–24]

2. They were seeking for the worldly Savior

6:24 So when the crowd saw that neither Jesus nor his disciples were there, they themselves got into the boats and went to Capernaum looking for Jesus.²⁵ When they found him on the other side of the lake, they said to him, 'Rabbi, when did you come here?' ²⁶ Jesus answered them, **'Very truly, I tell you, you are looking for me, not because you saw signs, but because you ate your fill of the loaves.'** ²⁷ Do not work for the food that perishes, but for the food that endures for eternal life, which the Son of Man will give you. For it is on him that God the Father has set his seal.'

➔ Jesus knew their heart.

Instead of wasting your energy searching on your own for a king who will satisfy your material needs—such as food—seek Jesus, who grants eternal life.

➔ For what purpose are you seeking Jesus?

1. Are you praying for your own needs?
2. Are you praying for healing from your own illness or that of a family member?
3. Are you coming to church seeking a way out of your difficult circumstances?

3. The faith by works

John 6:28 Then they said to him, 'What must we do to perform the works of God?' ²⁹ Jesus answered them, **'This is the work of God, that you believe in him whom he has sent.'** ³⁰ So they said to him, 'What sign are you going to give us then, so that we may see it and believe you? What work are you performing?' ³¹ Our ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness; as it is written, "He gave them bread from heaven to eat."

➤ The Faith of the Crowd: Doing God's Work Through One's Own Efforts

➔ Jesus teaches the crowd that doing God's work is an act of believing in Him.

➤ The Faith of the Crowd: "We'll believe if Jesus performs miracles and meets our needs."

The crowd draws a parallel with Moses, the Old Testament prophet, and asks, "Will Jesus also bring down bread from heaven to feed us, just as Moses did?" They say they will believe if He performs visible miracles.

➔ Let's think about your faith. What kind of faith is it?

- ✧ Is it about serving, working, doing good deeds, and giving offerings here and there?
- ✧ Is it a faith that believes only after seeing signs and miracles? Do you believe in Jesus only if He meets your needs?

4. Jesus came to this earth as the Savior 'I am the bread of life'

John 6:32 Then Jesus said to them, 'Very truly, I tell you, it was not Moses who gave you the bread from heaven, but it is my Father who gives you the true bread from heaven. 33 For the bread of God is that which[a] comes down from heaven and gives life to the world.' 34 They said to him, 'Sir, give us this bread always.' 35 Jesus said to them, **'I am the bread of life.'** Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty.

➔ I am the bread of life

It is declared that those who believe in Jesus will never go hungry or thirsty, either spiritually or physically. Those who believe in Jesus as their Savior will have all their needs met.

5. Eat His bread

John 6: 56 Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood abide in me, and I in them. 57 Just as the living Father sent me, and I live because of the Father, so whoever eats me will live because of me. 58 This is the bread that came down from heaven, not like that which your ancestors ate, and they died. But the one who eats this bread will live forever.'

➔ 'Eat my flesh and drink my blood'

- Abide in Him
- He is in them
- Live with Jesus
- Live for ever

John 15:55 **I am the vine, you are the branches.** Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing.

6. The Jews Who Stumble Because They Cannot Understand the Spiritual Meaning

John 6:60 When many of his disciples heard it, they said, 'This teaching is difficult; who can accept it?' 61 But Jesus, being aware that his disciples were complaining about it, said to them, 'Does this offend you? 62 Then what if you were to see the Son of Man ascending to where he was before? 63 **It is the spirit that gives life; the flesh is useless.** The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life.

- The disciples could think of nothing but eating Jesus' actual flesh and drinking his blood. Unable to understand, they took offense at Jesus and walked away.
- The words of Jesus are "Spirit" and gives us "life." Let us seek the Holy Spirit so that we may understand the Word spiritually.

Application

1. Why are you seeking Jesus? What kind of prayers are you offering?
Is it only for your own needs and those of your family—such as work, food, money, health, and peace?
2. Why are you working?
Is it only to provide for yourself and your family? What does Jesus teach us to work for?
What specific things do you think the Lord's work entails?
3. What is your faith?
"Believing in Jesus" means eating His flesh every day—that is, feeding on His Word daily.
Abiding in Jesus means walking according to His Word, rather than following our own fleshly plans or thoughts. When the Lord abides in us, God's glory is revealed.
4. Let us seek to be filled with the Holy Spirit. We cannot understand the words of the Bible with our minds alone. It is through the Holy Spirit.

I Cor 2:14 Those who are unspiritual do not receive the gifts of God's Spirit, for they are foolishness to them, and they are unable to understand them because they are discerned spiritually.