**Our True Need (John 6:25-35)**

Our fleshly needs are here today, but gone tomorrow – however, we are called to fulfill our spiritual need for eternity. Today we’re going to talk about needs. Living in this blessed region of America, we sometimes forget that we generally have our material needs met; however, our spiritual need is often left unfulfilled. In truth, humanity, especially in the Western world, has been enticed by the abundance of material things and the reality of the need for spiritual fulfilment is gradually waning in the mind of the people in the West. For this reason, the Lord’s message today - taken from John’s Gospel - is appropriate because human beings need to be reminded of their priorities. All humanity, but especially the believer, ought not to forget that our fleshly needs are here today, but gone tomorrow – however, we called to fulfill our spiritual need for eternity. Therefore, let us meditate on these two realities for a moment…

No matter how much we try to find rest in fulfilling our material needs, our true need will not be satisfied. The crowd was following Jesus (in the passage) because they had just had their bellies filled after the miracle of the miracle of the feeding of the five-thousand men (plus their families). If we take notice for a moment, we see that they did not ask the Lord how He crossed over to the other side of the lake, but when. This tells us that they had not understood that the Lord was not an ordinary person. In addition, this means that they had not realized that the miracle of the Lord’s feeding of a multitude was a proof of His identity. They were so focused on fulfilling their own material needs that they ignored the Source of the fulfillment of their true, spiritual need, who was speaking with them.

This is like someone who is having trouble at work, and complains to his wife that he is not able to concentrate after 2 or 3pm in the afternoon. After a period of self-examination, it turns out that the issue is not about focus, but one of physical rest – the man could neither work efficiently nor enjoy his life because he was running his own body ragged and because his priority had become work, and not spiritual health in Christ. In the same way, we are also called to not be swayed by the desire to solely fulfill our temporal needs. However much we try to find rest in fulfilling our material needs, our true need will not be satisfied in that way. But it is not enough to look beyond material needs…

Our true, spiritual need will only be fulfilled through Jesus Christ. If that crowd had understood the meaning of the miracle of the feeding of the multitude, they would not have said, “Always give us this bread.” If they had understood that Jesus had not gotten to the other side of the lake in an ordinary fashion, they would not have asked the question “When did you get here,” as if He had walked around that whole lake all night to get to where He was. If they had recognized that their true need was not a *thing* (i.e. bread), but rather Jesus Himself, they would have believed in Him rather than asking Him “What do we need to *do* (to do the work of God)?” The people could not see past their physical need. This is why Jesus had to proclaim His identity as forcefully as a bomb explosion.

This is like a young man who has fallen in love with a beautiful girl, but no matter what he says or does, she does not understand that the boy desires to be with her. Finally, after incurring the “losses of being polite”, he pulls her aside and tells her point blank, “I am in love with you, I want to be with you, and I want to be married to you from now on….” And there, perhaps the young lady would accept the proposal, especially if she had been accepting the young man’s gifts for a time and had a desire to know the boy’s true intentions. If only the people of Israel had recognized her true Bridegroom, her true Completer, Jesus Christ!

We also are called to recognize that our spiritual life, no matter how important material needs may be, is the top priority in God’s eyes. Jesus says to us as he said to the disciples, “I am the Bread of Life.” Jesus invites us also to have an ongoing relationship with Him. Jesus wants to satisfy our true hunger; He wants to satisfy our true thirst. Therefore, as much as we may get pulled in one direction or another by the lure of the abundance of material blessings and goods, let us not forget that our True Bread of Life, our True Giver of meaning to our life is the Lord Himself. Our true, spiritual need will only be fulfilled through Jesus Christ. Our fleshly needs are here today, but gone tomorrow – however, we are called to fulfill our spiritual need for eternity.