

Life of Jesus

Turning Point

John 6

All HEAR (words: teachings) and all SEE (works: miracles) the same things.

Who will believe and receive and who will reject and why?

1. John's Question

- "Are you the Expected One or should we look for someone else?"
- Answer: "Go report to John..."
 1. Was preparing them to give eye-witness testimony that was in accordance with what the Scriptures said about coming Messiah.
 2. Was basing John's faith on what Scripture said and not on how events appeared. There was going to be a delay in the Kingdom that had not been revealed to John. (Isa 35:5-6; 61:1)



In prison, John wouldn't have been able to see the miracles that authenticated Jesus as the Messiah or hear the news of what was happening. John had preached, in accordance with the prophets' message, that Messiah would establish a righteous Kingdom and cast out the evildoers.

Now he was a prisoner of Herod, one of the biggest "evildoers" of the time! (NOTE: their eyewitness testimony is as good as if we had been there ourselves. We don't need new miracles or new proof in order to believe that Jesus is the Messiah. This was a historically unique time of authentication by the Father of the Son as the Jewish Messiah.)

2. Beelzebub Incident: THE PUBLIC REJECTION

Preceded by Jesus teaching in synagogues and casting out a demon.

Pharisees can't stop the miracles, but they reject the person of Jesus.

- Their place of importance was being threatened by Jesus' teaching and popularity.
- They rejected Jesus' deity.
- They held fast to their own teachings and human standards of righteousness.
- They led the theological opposition to Jesus; the Sadducees led the political opposition.

They have to reinterpret the signs

They call Jesus filthy in order to cover their own filthy practices: "He uses power of Beelzebub!"

From this point forward there were changes in Jesus' Ministry.

- Teaching: He began to use parables to reveal truth to those who would receive it and to conceal truth to those who would reject it. Example: parable of the four soils.
- Signs: He performed miracles primarily to train the Twelve, not to authenticate His Messiahship.
- Healing: He tended to initiate contacts with individuals.
- Scope: He moved increasingly among Gentiles.

3. Feeding the 5,000 Miracle

Jesus has told his disciples to pray for workers in the harvest and then sent them out. They return filled with joy at all that has been done. Then they get the news that John has been beheaded. Jesus pulls his disciples away in the boat to rest. The crowds are waiting on the shore: 5,000 men + women/children!

QUESTION: Are they “hungry for God’s Word!”??

- They LOVE the bread!
- Want to make Jesus King!!
- Jesus rejects their offer and their type of kingdom. Why?

Purpose: The people involved were motivated by their desire for an independent state, not for the kind of kingdom the prophets had promised. (6:26)

People: This crowd had no authority to act.

Place: Galilee was known for revolutionary movements. A decision in Jerusalem, the center of government, would be required for recognizing Jesus as king.

Preparation: Christ’s kingdom of righteousness requires repentance and cleansing.

Responses to Jesus’ discourse the next day revealed the spiritual need of the people He had fed at Bethsaida. (Dr. Terry Hulbert)

- He gets his disciples out of there (in the boat)
- He sends the multitude away and spends time with His Father in prayer
- He walks on water to His disciples so they know He is the Son of God: “If it’s You, Lord...”



4. Bread of Life Discourse/Galilean Crisis

- “Jesus said to them, “I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in me shall never thirst.” (John 6:35)
- They DIDN’T love the bread of life!
- “Unless you eat my flesh and drink my blood...”
- “It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh is no help at all. The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life.”
- MANY disciples stop following Jesus. He is not what they expected and would not give them what they wanted.
- Jesus gives the Twelve the choice to leave.
- Peter says it for them all: “Lord, to whom else shall we go?” YOU are IT!

All HEAR (words: teachings) and all SEE (works: miracles) the same things.

Who will believe and receive and who will reject and why?

EVERYONE is responsible for what is in their heart.
For the indifference and hardness to God’s truth, for allowing wealth and worldliness to choke out God’s message, for allowing the cares and busyness of this life to crowd out our attending to God’s Word. OR for hearing, receiving, and believing it and letting it bear fruit in actions.

Memory verse:

John 6:67-69 So Jesus said to the Twelve, “Do you want to go away as well?”

Simon Peter answered him, “Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life, and we have believed, and have come to know, that you are the Holy One of God.”

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