

Looking for a Miracle (John 6:22-30)

By David Soper

Jesus replied, "I tell you the truth, you want to be with me because I fed you, not because you understood the miraculous signs. But don't be so concerned about perishable things like food. Spend your energy seeking the eternal life that the Son of Man can give you..." John 6:26-27

Why was Jesus so stern with the crowd that followed Him to Capernaum? It seems on the surface that the people were simply excited about the incredible miracle they had witnessed and wanted to be around him. But Jesus knew their hearts, and he knew that they didn't yet understand the significance of what had happened. They were more enamored with the miracle than they were the miracle giver. Didn't Jesus still care about their physical needs? Of course he did, but he was more concerned about their soul than their stomach. He used this moment to try and help them put the miracle in perspective with the greater work that God was doing.

The crowd was looking for miracle. All of us have been at a point in our lives when we needed a miracle to happen, and when we see God move in supernatural ways it strengthens our faith. It reminds us that God is with us and that He cares about our lives. But Jesus says that there is something much more important than miracles. That something is God himself. Miracles and miraculous signs can be a great blessing to the one who receives it, but they have a much greater purpose, that is, to point to the source of the miracle and give glory to God.

Jesus said, "*Spend your energy seeking the eternal life that the Son of Man can give you.*" He's not saying that we should never seek a miracle. Jesus is just saying that eternal matters are a much higher priority. He knows that we can be easily impressed by supernatural displays of power and may start to seek them more than we seek God. Satan also knows this, and is more than happy to use weeping icons, bleeding effigies, or other so-called "miracles" to distract people from the biggest miracle of all, the miracle of the life of Christ in those who are born again. To "*spend our energy seeking eternal life*" is to focus our life with great purpose on the things which matter most to God – our love for Him, our love for others, and belief in the Lord Jesus Christ, the one who He sent (v29).

There's nothing wrong with looking for miracles in our lives. Oswald Chambers said, "Our problems are a platform on which God can display His Glory"! I believe that God loves it when we ask for the impossible because He Is the God of the impossible! I believe He loves it when we have faith that expects miracles. But He also loves faith that is not lost whether or not the miracle we wanted happens. It is a matter of trusting Him. If my faith is in God who I believe will really move heaven and earth to bring about his will – then He will show me that he will.

God can do anything. If we believe he can, we will see he can. We don't have to run all over the world chasing miracles to see it happen. As my wife said, "the face of Jesus in a piece of toast, that's no miracle! The face of Jesus in my husband, now, THAT'S a miracle!"