



## Digging Deeper

1. Read John 6:25-33. Describe the difference between trusting Jesus as a provider of physical food and trusting Him as the feeder of our souls. In what way is trusting Jesus to provide for our physical needs too narrow a view of Him? What does He actually seek to do for us? **From the passage, we learn that they were merely enamored with Jesus and what He had done for them in feeding them. They had full stomachs yesterday and now that they were hungry again they sought Him out. He alludes to the manna in the desert that came from Heaven and says that He has such bread to give. Still not understanding, they request it from Him. Read John 4:10-15. How is this exchange similar? How is it different?**
  
2. Re-read John 6:28-29. How are people drawn to “doing” something to be redeemed? What are ways that people work to earn the salvation that Jesus is offering? In what way can the Gospel feel too simple? **Our whole culture is built on this idea of good works (actions/behaviors/attitudes) being rewarded. This shows up in most religions, too. And yet, the Bible tells us that it is not something we do, but it is something that God has done. The only work God asks of us is to believe that He has already done it for us. It’s not a work at all as we understand work, but it’s faith in Jesus Christ who has already done the work for us. Bonus: Why do you think this is so hard for people to grasp?**

3. Read John 6:30-31. Many modern people want to see something supernatural before they will believe it. How does wanting to see something spectacular (in the present or future) limit our ability to believe in something supernatural that has already happened (in the past)? It's interesting that in our world we say that seeing is believing. But in the world of the spiritual, it's exactly the opposite. Believing is seeing. The people who sought after Jesus wanted to reverse that too, and demanded that He perform signs to prove Himself to them like God did in the desert with manna. While God does cause miracles that increase our faith and show His power off, He does not take challenges like "do this or else I won't believe" lightly. This attitude is what Deuteronomy 6:16 is referring to when it says not to test God.

4. We heard, "The more a man has in his heart, the less he will require from the outside; excessive need for support from without is proof of the bankruptcy of the inner man." What is the "more" that a person needs in his/her heart? How do people try to fill the missing "more" in their hearts with excess from outside of their hearts? Without Jesus, we are constantly trying to gather up all kinds of support and stimuli from the world in which we live just to keep us propped up for one more day. Quite a few have gone to the world of entertainment. Many have gone to the world of drugs, alcohol, and other vices. Some manufacture that support system from their quest for wealth, popularity, prestige, and power. But so often, it is simply more external activity practiced in a futile attempt to deaden the pain of an empty life inside.

