

**What Are You Trying to Get out of Jesus?**

- “What trying get out/me here / this convrstn?” Those thghts/qstns ever crossed mind when talking to smone who clearly wants smthng fr you: want get business, earn confdnc, want make deal, angling for sale, or maybe even trying take advntg you? So you think: “What trying get out/me?” Just this wk: bckyrd, phone, guy waits, complmnts: nghbrhd, yrd, nice guy. Windw salesman, trying sell me windws for house. No prob w/salesmen; but I really hate hard sell (I’m here help you; I can get you great deal on windws!). You know: just trying get your \$, make sale, get smthng out/you. You can smell insincrtly mile away. And it’s annoying/frstrtng. “What trying get out/me here?”
- I really think that’s how J felt in G for today. Wasn’t sinful frstrtn; J wanted help ppl. But most certnly knew: these crwds, who’s searched for him & found him in Cprnhm, just trying get smthng out/him. Remem, this had been eventful 24 hours. Ystrdy, day before this, is when J fed 5k fams, probly upwrds of 20k ppl! All had: 5 loaves, 2 fish; discs divided up amng all ppl; evone ate until full; even 12 basketfls. Amazing mrcl evone cld clearly see! That night is when J walked wtr out to discs in boat on Sea/Gal (dark; ghost; Peter; sink; saves; “truly, Son/God!”). That hapnd ovrnht. Next morn, here, crwds go looking for J; find in Cprnhm. And what want fr J, what trying get out/him? More prchnng, tchnng, Gos? No, want more food, bread! That’s what trying get out/J! Today & follwng 2 Suns in ch (so 3 Suns in row), we hear J deliver BOL discourse. Here in Jn 6, J explains/expounds for us what means that he is BOL, true bread that comes down fr hvn to feed our souls. He wants us hunger for him & devour him. But is that what we want. Today we have to ask: what are we/you trying get out/J?
- **Vs. 24-25.** And J cld’ve: “Thanks for asking. Last night, walkd wtr, bec Son/God. Now why don’t you sit down & listen so I can explain what that means re me & means for you.” But didn’t say that bec knew what in hrts. **Vs. 26.** “I know what you’re doing here. You’re trying get smthng out/me. I fed you a miraculous meal last night, and now you think of me as nthng more than a fending machine. Here’s the guy that gives free food! That’s all you’re trying to get out of me!”
- What re us? What you trying get out/J? J tght us pray to Lord w/confidnc of little child asking father for good thngs. But how often don’t we think: of God not as loving Fr but as vending machine; of J not as Sav fr sin but as source of good stuff? Think re your prayers. Do they sound like child/God crying out to hvnly Fr, or sound more like bday wish list? “Lord, I’d really like this; cld really use that; love have that.” See flshng lghts in rearvw: Lord, pls get me out this ticket. You’re thinking re making big purchs: Lord, pls help me find great deal. Your team is in middle close game: Lord, pls help them pull off a win. I’m not dimnshng imprtnc or pwr of prayer. But what are your prayer priorts, and do they match up w/God’s? What trying get out J? **Vs. 26.** Smtms mrcls/J strngthn our faith in J; always his intntn. But othrtms ppl: distrcd by his mircls so end up focusing more on mrcl than msg! I think that’s one/reasons J ascndd in hvn and did not remain here on earth. If J were to set up some mrcl clinic smwhere in Jrslm, we’d have 2k yrs/ppl who wldn’t give rip re cross/res but flock to see J the healer, mrcl-wrkr, food-provdr. They’d simply be trying get smthng out/J. And that’s exctly what’s hapnng here, and what we have to guard our hrts agnst: simply trying get smthng out/J.
- **Vs. 26-27ab.** Food spoils. Oh, I know this is gross! But do you have anthng in back fridge: don’t touch, been there since Feb? Any bread in pantry covered w/green/grey fuzz? Stories re spoiled milk: restrnt w/kids; me in HS. Food spoils; doesn’t last. Why have check exprtn date; othrws in for nasty surprise! **Vs. 27ab.** And this “**food that spoils**” isn’t just rotten leftovers in fridge; it’s all stuff in this wrld that only lasts for this wrld. Stuff you have w/you here on earth: not going w/you into hvn; in fact, all this stuff can actly distret us fr our true goal of etrnal life w/J. That’s why J: **vs. 27a.** Not saying it’s wrong to get job, earn paychck, buy groceries. Saying: don’t set hrt on thngs/wrld! We pour so much time/effort into making \$ & buying stuff that will not last; it will spoil; it is not etrnal, only temptry. **Vs. 27abc.** J came to give you what can nvr spoil: forgvns/sins; comfort of presence thruout your life; and prom/etrnal life w/him forever in hvn. That is what: matters; J gracsly gives us; what J wants us receive fr him!
- But that’s not always what we want get out/J. **Vs. 28** – which of course implies: “We can do wrks God requires. Just tell us what to do and we’ll do it! Got coms; we’ll keep; got rules, we’ll obey; got instrctns, we’ll follow.” A very wrk-rights attitude. What were they trying get out of J? Self-justifctn;

wanted earn God's favor by good wrks. J had just said **vs. 27d**. Well, they wanted seal/apprvl fr God too; so asked **vs. 28**. Listen: we're Luths. *Sola gratia* is in our bld. We know: saved by grace alone thru faith/Xp, not by good wrks, bec good wrks, even though flow fr hrt/faith, cannot earn salvtn. We know this! In our ears we can hear Paul in Rom: **"We maintain: a prsn is justfd by faith apart fr wrks/law"** (3:28). Nvrthlss, we: constntly tempted revert back to work-rightsnss. "I'm a good Luth; go ch ev Sun; go BC; confrmd; know Cat; got Bible psgs & hymns memrzd; had kids baptizd; pray bf meals; even go to midwk services & talk re J w/nghbrs. That's gotta count for smthng! Aren't these: 'wrks God reqrs'?"

- **Vs. 29**. So strip away all these good wrks, that are tainted by sin anyway; go right down to stark reality that we: 100% unable save selves. And what's left? Beautfl reality that our salvtn: 100% wrk/God. Not only has God planned slvtn & sent Son; not only has J lived perfectly sinless life & given us credit for it; not only has J taken all our sin on self & bore terrbl punshmnt on cross; not only has J risen fr dead & promsd raise us to etrnal life w/him; but J has also sent us his HS to work faith in hrts to bel that it's all true! You cannot generate faith on own; has be given you by God. So when J: **vs. 29**, stop asking what you need do, and simply trust what God has already done – bec he's done it all, even down to your faith. That: msg Xp came to proclaim. Wrk-rghtsnss & self-justfctn only get in way of that msg. Even w/our Luth heritage, we can still fall back into relgn/wrld (what do I need do earn God's love) instd of standing firmly on relgn/God (what has God's love done for me). **Vs. 29** – in J, who was sealed w/God aprvl at his bap & would be again at his res; who has sealed you w/God's aprvl at your bap & will again at your res on Last Day. You have nthng else in this wrld that matters, except for Xp; he: your evthng!
- That's what Lord was tchng OT Isrlts in wldrns in 1<sup>st</sup> rdng, Ex 16, when gave them the manna. Clearly: gift/God, their daily bread. Crowds here: thinking re that OT manna when **vs. 30-31**. And J cld've: "Wht sign? Kiddng me?! Just fed 20k ppl on hillside ystrdy afrtrn w/little boy's lunch. What more of sign you need?" But instd: **vs. 32**. IOW, quit focsng so much on Mss & start focsng on what Mss pointed ahd to, what manna forshdwd, what God's law given thru Mss has for centuries been preparing you for. **Vs. 33; 35**. The bread/God that gives true life: J! Just as absltly necssry physcl food is for physcl life; so absltly necssry is J for our sprtl & etrnal life. You cannot live w/o food; (think hospice patients who stop eating; they cannot live much longer.) In same way, you cannot live w/o J; cannot have sprtl life w/o J; cannot have etrnal life w/o J. And so J gives us a gift: a bread that does not spoil; a bread fr hvn; not manna but himself as BOL. J gives us himself as gift: at Xmas, born in Bethlhm, laid in manger; on GF, nailed to cross; in sacrmnt – his bdy/bld for our frgvns. This: the gift J wants us to receive fr him & have forever.
- So often we try get smthng out/J, just like crwds did that day: where's guy who gives free food? Don't try get smthng out J; instd receive fr him what he gracsly gives you: himself as BOL. Next wk, we pick it up right here where leave off today & talk re what means to eat J, which is same as believing/trusting in him by faith. But today in BOL discourse, J tchs us to refocus! Earthly food spoils; the stuff of this life does not last! So focus on the food that never spoils, on J/BOL, for in him we will always be satsfd.

### John 6:24-35

<sup>24</sup>Once the crowd realized that neither Jesus nor his disciples were there, they got into the boats and went to Capernaum in search of Jesus.

<sup>25</sup>When they found him on the other side of the lake, they asked him, "Rabbi, when did you get here?"

<sup>26</sup>Jesus answered, "Very truly I tell you, you are looking for me, not because you saw the signs I performed but because you ate the loaves and had your fill. <sup>27</sup>Do not work for food that spoils, but for food that endures to eternal life, which the Son of Man will give you. For on him God the Father has placed his seal of approval."

<sup>28</sup>Then they asked him, "What must we do to do the works God requires?"

<sup>29</sup>Jesus answered, "The work of God is this: to believe in the one he has sent."

<sup>30</sup>So they asked him, "What sign then will you give that we may see it and believe you? What will you do? <sup>31</sup>Our ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness; as it is written: 'He gave them bread from heaven to eat.'"

<sup>32</sup>Jesus said to them, "Very truly I tell you, it is not Moses who has given you the bread from heaven, but it is my Father who gives you the true bread from heaven. <sup>33</sup>For the bread of God is the bread that comes down from heaven and gives life to the world." <sup>34</sup>"Sir," they said, "always give us this bread."

<sup>35</sup>Then Jesus declared, "I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never go hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty."