



HICKORY GROVE

BAPTIST CHURCH

Satisfied

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John 6:22-40

Clint Pressley

²² On the next day the crowd that remained on the other side of the sea saw that there had been only one boat there, and that Jesus had not entered the boat with his disciples, but that his disciples had gone away alone. ²³ Other boats from Tiberias came near the place where they had eaten the bread after the Lord had given thanks. ²⁴ So when the crowd saw that Jesus was not there, nor his disciples, they themselves got into the boats and went to Capernaum, seeking Jesus.

²⁵ When they found him on the other side of the sea, they said to him, "Rabbi, when did you come here?" ²⁶ Jesus answered them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, you are seeking me, not because you saw signs, but because you ate your fill of the loaves. ²⁷ Do not work for the food that perishes, but for the food that endures to eternal life, which the Son of Man will give to you. For on him God the Father has set his seal." ²⁸ Then they said to him, "What must we do, to be doing the works of God?" ²⁹ Jesus answered them, "This is the work of God, that you believe in him whom he has sent." ³⁰ So they said to him, "Then what sign do you do, that we may see and believe you? What work do you perform? ³¹ Our fathers ate the manna in the wilderness; as it is written, 'He gave them bread from heaven to eat.'" ³² Jesus then said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, it was not Moses who gave you the bread from heaven, but my Father gives you the true bread from heaven. ³³ For the bread of God is he who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world." ³⁴ They said to him, "Sir, give us this bread always."

³⁵ 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. ³⁶ But I said to you that you have seen me and yet do not believe. ³⁷ All that the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never cast out. ³⁸ For I have come down from heaven, not to do my own will but the will of him who sent me. ³⁹ And this is the will of him who sent me, that I should lose nothing of all that he has given me, but raise it up on the last day. ⁴⁰ For this is the will of my Father, that everyone who looks on the Son and believes in him should have eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day."

(Pastor Prays)

I heard the phrase used for the first time in public at the Henry Ford museum last week. I was looking at the simplicity of the Model T, how it functioned so well almost 100 years later, how that car was built to last, and how so many products we use today are not built to last. In fact, the term “Planned Obsolescence” describes how a manufacturer of phones, computers or cars, cameras, and furniture plans for the product to become obsolete within a few years. We have all experienced that. Everything seems disposable today. That’s done on purpose. It’s not because we don’t have skilled laborers or the capacity to make quality goods. In the 50s, Brooks Stevens, an American industrial designer, popularized the term planned obsolescence. Here’s how he defined it. “Instilling in the consumer the desire to own something a little newer, a little better, and a little sooner than is necessary.” Stevens grasped the American addiction to stuff, and in verse 27, Jesus will say, ²⁷*Do not work for the food that perishes, but for the food that endures to eternal life, which the Son of Man will give to you.*

The people in the text were like us. He fed the 5000, then crossed the Sea of Galilee, and the people followed him. Verse 26 says, ²⁶*Jesus answered them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, you are seeking me, not because you saw signs, but because you ate your fill of the loaves. And you want more. You are missing the point. Just like so many people here today, you are looking for satisfaction in food, sex, money, looks, or cars or clothes. Jesus says in verse 35, ³⁵Jesus said to them, “I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in me shall never thirst. Find satisfaction in me, come to me. I am burdened, and it's this message that burdens me. If you can ever learn it, ever grasp it, you will be forever changed. There is no planned obsolescence in Jesus Christ.*

Satisfaction in Christ Stabilizes Life

Listen to what Jesus said in the Sermon on the Mount in Matthew 6:19-21. ¹⁹*“Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, ²⁰but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. ²¹For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.* Where is your treasure, your satisfaction? Let me tell you what's going to happen if Christ is your satisfaction. When you are satisfied in Christ...

You will be clear on your purpose in life

Verse 25 says, ²⁵ *When they found him on the other side of the sea, they said to him, "Rabbi, when did you come here?"* Jesus just ignores the question and gets to the root. You're following me for stuff, but stuff doesn't matter. Verse 27 basically says, what I have matters, and I will give it to you. Too many of us in this room have allowed someone else to define who we are or what we are about, and you need to decide today that your defining marker is Jesus Christ. Your motivation is not what some beer commercial or diet drink commercial tells you to be motivated by. All of these things perish. Everything in this world is passing, fading or rusting. Everything you own will be in a yard sale someday. Put your hope and faith and treasure in Christ and he will be your North Star. You will never lose your way. But when your vision is clouded by the things of the world, you spend a lifetime wandering and then it's gone. When you are satisfied in Christ, you will be clear on your purpose in life. When you are satisfied in Christ...

You are free from the performance factor

Let me show you what I mean. Verses 27 and 28 tell us, ²⁷ *Do not work for the food that perishes, but for the food that endures to eternal life, which the Son of Man will give to you. For on him God the Father has set his seal.* ²⁸ *Then they said to him, "What must we do, to be doing the works of God?"* Do – that is activity. What do I need to do? How can I earn, gain, deserve God's favor? Listen to what Jesus says in verse 29. ²⁹ *Jesus answered them, "This is the work of God, that you believe in him whom he has sent."* Do you understand how salvation works? So many people think there is a scale of sorts in Heaven, and when you die, hopefully you've done enough good deeds to outweigh the bad things. And if the scale is tipped enough, God welcomes you in. Please get that out of your mind. If there were a scale, the negative side is so overloaded with all of our sin, nothing you can do or say, labor or work would change that. We don't work for God's love. We work from God's love. The way we are accepted by God is through belief. We look to the cross of Christ, believe that he died on the cross in our place, we turn from sin and are saved. If you could do something to get into Heaven, then you would have earned it. We believe in grace. Salvation is a free gift from God through faith in Jesus Christ. And when you treasure Christ and are satisfied in Christ, you don't work to earn salvation; you live and work because of what Christ has done. You bear fruit. There is evidence of a changed

life, and you are freed from the performance factor. Let me tell you something else. When you are satisfied in Christ...

You are secure in your struggles

Here's what I mean. When you give your life to Christ and make a decision to follow him, there is something else going on that you are not aware of. Jesus describes it in verse 37. *³⁷All that the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never cast out.* And then again in verse 39. *³⁹And this is the will of him who sent me, that I should lose nothing of all that he has given me, but raise it up on the last day.* These two verses make us secure in our salvation and in our lives. If you ever struggle with whether or not you are saved, we need to get past that. Otherwise, you will remain spiritually paralyzed. Here are some thoughts on being secure in salvation. First, it is described as gift from God to Jesus. In both verses, God gives salvation. He moves, he initiates and completes. We are not the action as much as we are the object of salvation. Secondly, when we come to Christ, we have been given. The reason we wake up to salvation is that God woke us up. If it were left to ourselves, we would not come to him. And finally listen to the language in verses 37 and 39. Whoever comes to me, I will not cast out. And then 39 says, I will lose nothing of all he has given me but will raise it up on the last day. If you take 37 and 39 together, they give you a great foundation for security in salvation but also in life.

This week so much has happened in the Baptist preacher world. Rick Byargeon died at 54. Keith Thomas, dead at 57. Rick Warren's son, 27 years old and committed suicide. Any of these things are enough to rattle you. And certainly we mourn all of them, but we don't mourn as those who have no hope because we do have hope. The Lord says to his people in Isaiah 43:2, *When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you; when you walk through fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you.* Verse 4, *Because you are precious in my eyes, and honored, and I love you.* I don't know what you have found yourself in the middle of, but this text speaks to your value. God's love for you in Christ and the security you have when God is your Father and Jesus is your Savior. By treasuring Christ, I'm secure in my struggles.

Security is one thing, and it's good to have it. It keeps you from worrying. But security is passive. It allows you to relax. I need something that not only allows me to relax but keeps me moving forward. When you are satisfied in Christ...

You are confident in the future

Let me show you what I mean. Notice how many times Jesus uses the phrase, God's will. Let's look at verses 39-40. ³⁹ *And this is the will of him who sent me, that I should lose nothing of all that he has given me, but raise it up on the last day.* ⁴⁰ *For this is the will of my Father, that everyone who looks on the Son and believes in him should have eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day.*" All of us are looking for God's will. We want God's will in life, marriage, work, and relationships. I know a guy who is truck shopping and wants the truck that is God's will. I think we miss the point when we divide God's will down like that. In this context, God's will is described as faith in the perfect life and sacrificial death of Christ. God's will is that believers are confident, secure, will have hope for the future, and will be raised on the last day. With that in mind, I can make decisions with confidence when I am satisfied in Christ and treasuring Christ above all things. I can move forward in confidence and security and with hope.

When church is over today, Steve Adams and I will get in a car and drive 703 miles to Ruston, LA, where I will preach my friend's funeral. I'm profoundly sad that he's gone, but underneath the profound sadness is clarity and hope because Rick treasured Christ and is now with him. You're going to die one day and look back on what your life was about. What you treasure here is what you will live by there. Turn this morning to the God who loves you and gave his son for you and by his spirit now calls you to be satisfied in Jesus Christ.

(Pastor prays)