

I. Introduction to the Bread of Life and Six Fundamentals

Last week, we started John chapter 6, and we saw Christ as the Bread of Life. We talked about the feeding of the 5,000, a story that everybody understands and knows about, even though maybe they cannot find it in the Bible. It is an incredible story that will really lay out just how God will work in your life to give you the Word of God.

If you remember, I gave you six fundamental things that came out of this great chapter that every child of God should know and understand. We took our time with it and laid it out. These six things, just as a recap, because we are going to move into another verse in this same story today.

II. The Supernatural Miracle of God's Word

1. First of all, it takes a supernatural miracle to get God's Word. If you are here this morning and your life has trouble in it, and your life is problematic, and you are not happy with it, and you are unfulfilled, you are the greatest example today of what the world will do for you. It will leave you empty. What God has for you will fill you up, but it is not going to happen just because you come to church. It is not going to happen because you want to be a good person, and maybe you probably are. It happens because God has to do something supernatural in your life.

When God gets into your world through that new birth relationship and you trust Christ as your own personal Savior, as Colby did the other night, then God begins to give you His Word.

Luke 24:45

Then opened he their understanding, that they might understand the scriptures.

If God does not open up your understanding through your personal relationship with Him and give you the knowledge, the wisdom, and the understanding about His Word, then all you are ever going to get is what the world has for you. Most of you who are saved here today, and even maybe if you are here and you are not saved, never trusted Christ, you now see what the world has done for you: nothing. It puts you into a no-win situation. The Bible likens it to a bag with holes in it, that everything you put in it that you think means something, when you get to the end of life, you dump that bag out, and it all fell out because it had holes in it. That is life without Christ. And so that is what we are here for.

III. God's Proving Ground: Impossible Situations

2. The second thing was the fact that God will put you into seemingly impossible situations to prove us. That is why sometimes we have issues in our lives that seemingly overwhelm us, that we do not know where to turn. God is doing that so you will turn to Him. He is doing

that. We used to say that God will put you down so far that all you can do is look up. That is so true.

Sometimes God will put situations in our lives, and it is to prove us. He wants to prove us by what we are going to do. When we face any terrible trial, one of the things that you look for, as we talked about this Thursday night, is that people will either react to it or they will respond to it. When somebody reacts to it, then they just have a knee-jerk reaction, and they deal with it from the world's viewpoint. But when you respond to something, that is where the answers are. Because a response to whatever you are going through in life, whether you are not saved or you are saved and you have issues in your life, the response will always come through the principles of the Word of God.

God will filter whatever you are going through. He will make it more workable. He will put people in your life that will help you, that will be there for you. I tell people that come to me with problems in their life, and they want help, and we are all about helping them. I tell them, "You know what? I can guarantee you this: I cannot take all your problems away just like that. But what I can guarantee you is this: from this point on, you will never have to go through anything by yourself again. We are here for you."

What we do is we take and open up the Bible. We give you principles. We help you apply them. We stick with you. We are not somebody that just goes and tells you what to do. We work with you and help you through every aspect. Because the trials of life, God will put seemingly sometimes overwhelming circumstances to bring us to Christ, and through that, He proves us. That is how He proves us. Are we going to follow the Bible? Are we going to stay with what we know that does not work? You would be surprised with the people whose life is upside down. They are in all kinds of issues, but they see a light at the end of the tunnel, but they just turn and they go the other way. It is a thing where the Bible is here, and God will use circumstances to prove us.

IV. Solitude for Spiritual Growth

3. The third thing we talked about is that God will get you alone and away from all the clutter of life to teach you. My own personal testimony is the fact that a number of years ago, before I moved to Kansas City, I launched into a program to lay out and to cross-reference every verse in the Bible. There are 31,176 verses in the King James Bible. My goal, it took me 10 years to do it, my goal was that I was going to cross-reference every Bible verse, lay it out, give it all three applications, and do everything that I could do. The way I did that was to carve out time when it was just me and God. I would look for every opportunity to do that. There were times that I could get two hours a day. There were times over the holidays that I could actually get eight hours a day. I would just go down someplace by myself with me and the Lord, open that book, and begin to put it all together.

I used every opportunity that I could. I remember one time, years ago, 20 years ago at least, I had found this book that I have told you about this before. It was called *The Kings of Israel and Judah*. It was a guy by the name Knapp. I think it was K-N-A-P-P was his name. Probably the

greatest single book I ever found of laying out the 33 Kings of Israel and the 33 Kings of Judah, which is a very complicated thing. The book was not that thick, but it was incredible material. I knew that I had to get that at one setting. I knew that that was so involved that I just had to take in sections of the Bible and get alone with God and then get what He had for me.

I will never forget. We were somewhere, Europe, South Africa, I forget where we were, but it was like a 12-hour plane flight back from wherever we were to back to Chicago or whatever it was. I had made up my mind, I stuck that book in my backpack, and I made up my mind that that was going to be my time. The flight was not full, and I got out of my seat and went back in the back, and I had it pretty much to myself. I put my headphones on so I was not distracted. When the wheels went up, I opened down my tray and I went to work. Twelve hours later, when we touched down in Chicago, I closed my Bible, and I had all that done. It was the time that it was alone time. God has to get you alone, and sometimes He has to force that situation to get you alone. Much of what I learned today and teach you today is stuff that I learned back there that He put into my basket, the fragments, remember last week? And I have lived on them forever.

V. The Role of Others in Spiritual Growth

4. The fourth thing is that God will use other people in your life to get you to His Word. I mean, how can I pass this up? This is Colby. One of the finest young men. He came out here from Washington State, and you guys took him under your wing. Everybody brought him in. Everybody loved him. God will put people into your world when you have a tough time or you are looking for answers. God will put somebody in your world. I say this almost without exception: everybody here this morning that is a part of this church, you got here because somebody cared enough about you to help you and bring you along. And here you are today.

My whole job is to build people to build other people. That is what we do here: reproducing yourself in others. First Timothy 2:2 says that the things that you have heard of me, the same commit thou to faithful men. That is what we do. Sharing your life with others. Taking what you have when you see somebody does not have it or somebody has a need, or they are going through a really tough time, and you being that lifeline to them. You being that person who reaches out to them. You bring them to church. You get them around good, solid people who love God and the Word of God. Then you just simply let the Holy Spirit of God do the rest. It starts obviously with your own family: your wife and your kids, and then it will grow to include others.

You want to see what is really happening in a Christian's life? You never listen to what they say. Just look at their family. Look at their kids. Good or bad, they are the reality of what and who we really are. Kids cannot get out from under the responsibility.

VI. Storing Up Fragments for Later Growth

5. The fifth thing is that God will not only fill you up today, but He will store up the fragments for later growth. Twelve baskets full. There is a commercial on television that is for one of the credit cards or something. The guy always ends the commercial by asking, "And what is in your wallet?" I have a question for you: what is in your basket this morning? What is

Christ storing up for you? What have you gotten into in the Bible that you really did not understand, but God, you just put it aside, and God has got it in the basket of fragments, and pretty soon He is going to pull it all together for you?

Isaiah 28:9-10

Whom shall he teach knowledge? and whom shall he make to understand doctrine? them that are weaned from the milk, and drawn from the breasts.

For precept must be upon precept, precept upon precept; line upon line, line upon line; here a little, and there a little:

That is the basic things of the Bible to the meat, that is the doctrine things of the Bible. You gather it in, and you can understand some of it now, but in time God adds it all up for you when you follow the process that He has for you. Most of God's people just simply will not do that. That is why they go through their whole life. They will be saved 20, 30, 40 years, and they are still asking the question that somebody asked when they just got saved. You have to ask yourself, what is in your basket today?

VII. God's Word Reveals Who God Is

6. The sixth thing is that God's Word will reveal who God really is in your life. Boy, do we need that one. Honestly, most of God's people have no idea who Christ really is. They have some idea in their head, some concept that they have formulated based on what they have heard or the churches they went to. But in reality, they do not have any clue. To prove that point beyond debate, just look at God's people that have been saved 10, 15, 20, 30 years. They still have no clue. They could not, they are like the people in Hebrews chapter 5, verse 12, that you have to over and over and over again teach them the first principles of the oracles of God. Why? They are not learning anything. They are still struggling with the same old problems today as they were the day they got saved. It should not be that way.

There is a key word in the Bible you have to learn. It is called victory. God gave you the victory over sin when you got saved, but that victory over sin when you got saved only leads to a victory over the problems and the issues in life. Most Christians are like the little Christian mice. You see the scientist put down in a maze, and they put a piece of cheese down at the end, and the mouse tries to find its way through, and he bangs his head on every wall until he finally works his way through hoping to find the cheese. That is the way most of God's people go through life, hoping they find heaven at the end. God, we are all in this maze of life. But I thank God that when God gave me the Word of God, He gave me a chainsaw, and I just cut down the walls and walked straight to the cheese. That is what God's people need to do today.

VIII. The Attitude and Motive of the 5,000

Today, I want to look at another aspect of the feeding of the 5,000. I want to show you another great truth about us as God's people. In the Bible, God's people are like the sheep. Everybody knows that. Without a doubt, I do not know if you know this, that sheep are the dumbest animals

on the face of this earth. Without a doubt, they easily get lost, they get separated from the flock, they are very timid, they are afraid, they are easily deceived by the circumstances and the surroundings. They walk right into something and do not see the danger of it.

Somebody said one time, I asked a guy, I was out at a farm in Montana, it was not a farm, it was a ranch, it went on for 50 miles, it was incredible. It took two days to get by horseback to get to the other side of the ranch. I asked him about sheep, and he says, "Yeah, you know, you can always tell when sheep get sick." Now I am thinking in my mind there is a message in this because Christians are likened to sheep. He says, "When sheep get sick, they do two things." I say, "What is that?" He says, "Well, they quit eating." I said, "Amen." He said, "What did you say?" I said, "Never mind." I said, "What is the second thing?" He says, "They want to separate from the other sheep." I said, "Amen." He says, "What did you say again?" I said, "Never mind." That is exactly what God's people do.

When you start to get out of fellowship with God, the first thing we do as sheep is we quit eating. The second thing we do, we do not want to hang out with the people that are the good sheep anymore. In a spiritual sense and a physical sense, God, to help them and to deliver them from being deceived, God has given the sheep, both spiritually and physically, two things to help them. Of course, I am going to talk about it in the aspect of a church here in a spiritual sense.

The first thing He gave us as sheep is a shepherd. Every pastor out there thinks he is the shepherd. That is not true. There is no place in the Bible where in the New Testament where that pastor is likened to a shepherd. The Shepherd, that is the Lord Jesus Christ. You will find that in:

Isaiah 40:11

He shall feed his flock like a shepherd: he shall gather the lambs with his arm, and carry them in his bosom, and shall gently lead those that are with young.

Jeremiah 51:10

The LORD hath brought forth our righteousness: come, and let us declare in Zion the work of the LORD our God.

Ezekiel 34:12

As a shepherd seeketh out his flock in the day that he is among his sheep that are scattered; so will I seek out my sheep, and will deliver them out of all places where they have been scattered in the cloudy and dark day.

Ezekiel 34:23

And I will set up one shepherd over them, and he shall feed them, even my servant David; he shall feed them, and he shall be their shepherd.

John 10:2

But he that entereth in by the door is the shepherd of the sheep.

1 Peter 2:25

For ye were as sheep going astray; but are now returned unto the Shepherd and Bishop of your souls.

Hebrews 13:20

Now the God of peace, that brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant,

That is the Lord Jesus Christ. A pastor is not a shepherd. A pastor is a sheepdog. Those are the two things that God gave the church, that He gives to a flock. He gives them a shepherd, His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ, and then He gives the church a sheepdog. That would be me.

If you have never been on a farm where they have sheep and watch a sheepdog work, you are missing a blessing, brother. Those dogs are incredible. They never take their eyes off their sheep. They either lay down and watch them, and sometimes they have multiple, and they stage themselves. They are incredible. When a sheep starts to get out of the thing, he goes and he nudges him back, and if the sheep does not respond, he barks at him. If that does not work, then I have seen them, they nip at their heels. We have a dog at home, Izzy. Izzy is, we fight over this all the time, but she is a sheepdog. Mostly Border Collie, sheepdog. This dog talks to you. We had a little white dog, his name was Otis, named after the drunken Andy in Griffith Show. My wife's favorite character in that particular thing. Otis was a little white, looked like a sheep. Izzy had never been to Shepherd School ever in her life. She had an instinct, this is going to sound stupid, instinct in her. It was in her by instinct to shepherd that little white dog. She thought it was a sheep. She would nudge it along. She would bite on its heels. That is what they do. As a sheepdog, that is what a pastor does. He guards the flock. He makes sure that the heresy does not come in. Sometimes he has to bark at you. Sometimes he has to nip your heels. But the dog never hurt the sheep. They are always nudging him in the right direction and trying to protect him. That is a great analogy. Those two elements will work to keep the sheep safe in a physical sense, but also in a spiritual sense.

Matthew 13:38

The field is the world; the good seed are the children of the kingdom; but the tares are the children of the wicked one;

You as sheep, that world is scary out there. You can get deceived in it easily. That is why God gave you a Shepherd, the Lord Jesus Christ. That is why He gave you a church with a sheepdog. In God's people today, the number one issue is simply they get deceived. I have been in this business for a long time. I am telling you, it is true. Most of the time, they deceive themselves, just as Israel did. We know the parallels are incredible. We are our biggest problem. We are. In Christianity, attitude is everything.

Now I want you to see something today, but first you need to understand some things. God will give you and me a lie to believe if we really want one.

Ezekiel 13:3-5

Thus saith the Lord GOD; Woe unto the foolish prophets, that follow their own spirit, and have seen nothing!

O Israel, thy prophets are like the foxes in the deserts.

Ye have not gone up into the gaps, neither made up the hedge for the house of Israel to stand in the battle in the day of the LORD.

That clearly tells you that God will give a man a lie to believe if that man wants one. We always use that in the case of an unsaved man, and that is absolutely true, but I have to point out to you, there are unsaved people here. This is God's people, the nation of Israel, and I am telling you on the authority of the Word of God, if you are saved here this morning and you reject the Word of God and do your own thing and come up with your own crazy ideas, God will give you a lie to believe if that is what you so desire. That is where we get deceived, unbelievable. When we set ourselves up to believe what we want instead of what God says, that is exactly what happens.

This is exactly how people get out of fellowship. It is a lifestyle of deception. Deception, living a lie, pretending you are one thing and actually believing it. Deception will always lead to denial, and you find a lot of God's people today that go to churches, they claim to be saved, probably we are, but their life is one of complete denial, and yet they want to portray to everybody that they are right and everybody else is wrong. Yet when you look at it, they lose their kids, they lose their Bible-believing church. I have seen it all my ministry. On Monday, the church is the greatest thing since sliced bread, and you love it, and on Tuesday, something happened, and now you do not like it anymore. They lose their marriage. They completely deceive themselves, and God will not use them in any capacity. They get an attitude about something and will not deal with it biblically, so they just pretend that they are okay, and yet, you see it, how many times have I seen it where their own kids want nothing to do with them?

One hundred percent of the time, the old biblical principle, birds of a feather flock together, they link up with other people just like them, and then together they soothe each other's wounds and feed each other's egos, and in all cases, it is an absolute trainwreck. The whole Christian life is a trainwreck as far as what the Bible says. Yet they are right, and everybody else is wrong. It does not matter what is not going on in their life. Somebody said to me one time about one of you, and I will not say who it is, and they said, "Well, I do not like so and so, and I do not like the way they do this," and this person that said that was absolutely worthless. My answer to them was, "Oh, I understand, but maybe just say this, I like what they are doing for the Lord a lot better than what you are not doing." That is the bottom line. Do not give me this gash about your right. Do not give me this gash about how spiritual you are.

From a Bible standpoint, Ezekiel chapter 13, people get the lie that they want to believe, that that is where they want to deceive themselves. I have seen it happen. God may pull one or two of your kids out of your toilet bowl life and establish them, but at the end of the day, God is done with you. You are going nowhere. All you have is Facebook and Twitter and your friends on that, but as far as, you know, you may get on face to face with Facebook, but your face to face with God like Moses is not going to happen.

My message today is built around one verse. I am going to tell you right now, this is where I have you, it is going to be a tough message. The sheepdog is going to bark a little bit today. There are some things that we as a church need to understand today. I love you. The dog, sheepdog loves the sheep. You never hurt him. But sometimes he has to bark at him. Sometimes he has to nip at the heels. You decide which it is today. This verse I am going to preach on today will show us that in Christianity today, as in Jesus' day, not everybody was on the same page with Him. Yet if you just read the story of the feeding of the 5,000 and never really study it, you would come away thinking all 5,000 people were behind Him. This study will deal with two things that you and I need to fully look at in our Christian life, and one of them is attitude of heart and your motive.

After this incredible feeding of this miracle of the 5,000 with the loaves and the fishes,

John 6:15

When Jesus therefore perceived that they would come and take him by force, to make him a king, he departed again into a mountain himself alone.

In this great miracle of the feeding of the 5,000, not everybody had the right attitude and the right motive. That would be true of Christianity today. That would be true of churches today. I would be less than honest with you if I would like to be able to deceive myself, but if I would like to think that everybody here is on the same page and you would not fit in this category, but I am probably wrong on that, but I would like to believe that. Probably will continue to deceive myself and believe that. But you will have to decide for yourself.

We saw last week that God set it all up for them, all 5,000 of them. He got them to a place where there was much grass. He got them alone. He did a supernatural miracle for the food. They could have all they want and even more for later. Everything they needed to get all God had for them, just like you have here, all you want. Now they want to take Him by force to make Him their king. But He reads so well the hearts of men, does He not? I want you to know this morning, right now, in this moment of time, He is reading our hearts. Not everybody is really who they claim to be in this story. Just as in Christianity and most churches, not everybody is really who they claim to be. He perceived the real reason for their action to make Him king.

To get this story together, you have to jump over here in the same chapter to verse 25 and 26. He goes into a mountain. The disciples come looking for Him because again, find Him because He goes because He does not want them to take and force Him to be king. This is what happens:

John 6:25-26

And when they had found him on the other side of the sea, they said unto him, Rabbi, when camest thou hither?

Jesus answered them and said, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Ye seek me, not because ye saw the miracles, but because ye did eat of the loaves, and were filled.

You see, there were people in that congregation, just like in congregation today, that they cared nothing about the supernatural miracle to them. Listen to me. To them, what Jesus was, was a

spiritual meal ticket. So many of God's people today, just like back then, they just go through, they go to a Bible-believing church or not. They take all the supernatural food from God's Word, and they never do anything with what He gives them. It is incredible.

We expect Him to be there for our every need, do we not? Yes, we do. Answer every prayer and actually get upset with Him when He does not come through.

Psalms 46:1

God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.

You better be there when I need you because you promised me that. We cry out when our kids are sick or need an operation. "Oh God." We cry out when we struggle with some issues in life. "Oh God, I do not know if I can do this." We get a bad report from the doctor, and the first thing we do is fall on our knees or drive home and say, "Oh God, I am putting it into your hands." We so much appreciate His death on the cross and the suffering that He went through for you and me to have our salvation. But not one time will we be inconvenienced to pay a price or suffer for Him. But boy, just do not let Him come through for us one time.

We as God's people, as the nation of Israel in the Old Testament, AJ said it last time he preached, are the most selfish, godless excuses for a child of God you could ever find. We take everything God has for us. He is just our spiritual meal ticket. We take everything He has, everything He gives us. We demand, we pray over our food for God to give us strength to serve Him and then never serve Him. We are incredible. It is all about us. Just like Israel. He fed 5,000. They saw the great miracles, and they wanted to make Him king, not because they loved Him, not because they believed in the miracle. They just wanted to keep eating. A lot of God's people are like that.

We are today, as God's people, the poster child for Luke chapter 6, verse 46, when He says,

Luke 6:46

And why call ye me, Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say?

We see it with Israel, and we see it with us.

Isaiah 29:9-13

Stay yourselves, and wonder; cry ye out, and cry: they are drunken, but not with wine; they stagger, but not with strong drink.

For the LORD hath poured out upon you the spirit of deep sleep, and hath closed your eyes: the prophets and your rulers, the seers hath he covered.

And the vision of all is become unto you as the words of a book that is sealed, which men deliver to one that is learned, saying, Read this, I pray thee: and he saith, I cannot; for it is sealed:

And the book is delivered to him that is not learned, saying, Read this, I pray thee: and he saith, I am not learned.

Wherefore the Lord said, Forasmuch as this people draw near me with their mouth, and with their lips do honour me, but have removed their heart far from me, and their fear toward me is taught by the precept of men:

You know what Israel did? They do the same thing we did. They gave God lip service, but their heart was far from Him. Now look at the result here.

Verse 9: He says, "You stagger like a drunk, but you are not drunk. You trip and fall over everything like a drunk does, yet you are not drunk. You stumble in the darkness of this world because there is no light of God in it, and you stagger and fall like a drunk does, and you have never had a drink."

Verse 10: He gives you a spirit of deep sleep, and He covers your eyes, and He covered their eyes with the men that you follow out there, the people you hang out with, your Facebook buddies, your crowd that you run around with. They are as blind as you are because of your attitude of heart toward Him.

Verse 11: God sealed the book, and you are no longer going to get anything from it. That is why, you know you have been saved 10, 15, 20, 30 years, and you still cannot figure the Bible out. You know why? Spirit of deep sleep. Book sealed to you. God sealed the book, and you now get nothing from it but stupid stuff. You are blind to that book and the real issues of life.

Verse 12: You yourself know nothing and are so caught up in all of the things that you are going through and stumbling over.

Verse 13: You know what the real reason is why you were like this and why the way we are. "Wherefore the Lord said, Forasmuch as this people draw near to me with their mouth, and with their lips do hear me but they have removed their heart far from me and the fear toward me is not taught by, is not by the word of the Lord but by the precept of men."

That is where we are at today. Why? Lip service. We just tell God what we think He wants to hear. We get up and we pray great things, but it really does not mean anything. We say to each other, "I will pray for you," and then lose sight of that 10 seconds later. There are all kinds of people out there God would love to put into our lives, but you know why He does not? Because you do not care. Lip service. You get what you want. I get what I want. We get what we want from God but forget Him. We use Him just like we use churches and everything else in life. We can just do whatever we want to do and give Him lip service. "Thank you, Lord, for saving my soul. Do not bother me today. I have things I have to do. Jesus, lover of my soul." I wish we loved Him as much as He loved us.

Oh, we love what we get. The Bible. "Oh, you want? I would not be anywhere else with this church. I have looked all over the place. You just cannot find a church like this that teaches the Bible." It is all talk. It is all gas. It is all hot air. It is all lip service. Like the men in John chapter 6, you try to force Him to be your king. You pretend that everything is okay, that you can get everything for Him but giving nothing back to Him. You know why? He is just your spiritual meal ticket. That is all it is.

God's people today, we have deceived ourselves. There is no real biblical relationship with Him or His Word. There is no real commitment in anything to His work or what He has called us to do. What does the song say? "What can I do for Jesus?" Let me answer that for you: not a thing. "I am too busy getting everything I need. I want everything God has for me, and if you do not give it to me, I will leave church. I am going to get an attitude." Not one time. Not one time. Most of us ever sat down and simply sat in the quietness of staying and wondering and asked the Lord, "Lord, what do you really want me to do for You? You have done so much for me. What do you want me to do for You?" It is not about that. It is, "Lord."

I had a preacher tell me one time, I learned a lot from this guy. In a lot of ways, he was a real mentor in my life. He said one time to me, we were talking, I was driving him down to Springfield, and we would have some good long talks about people in the ministry. He says, "Let me tell you something, Bob, about people. People will never remember what you did for them yesterday. All they want to know is what you are going to do for them today." Boy, if that is not true with us and God. We do not remember what God did for us yesterday. All we want to know is what are you going to do for me today? What are you going to fix for me? Do not bother me with all the things that you need. I do not want to get into that. I want what I need.

Like Israel,

Malachi 1:7-8

Ye offer polluted bread upon mine altar; and ye say, Wherein have we polluted thee? In that ye say, The table of the LORD is contemptible.

And if ye offer the blind for sacrifice, is it not evil? and if ye offer the lame and sick, is it not evil? offer it now unto thy governor; will he be pleased with thee, or accept thy person? saith the LORD of hosts.

Like Israel,

Hosea 4:10

For they shall eat, and not have enough: they shall commit whoredom, and shall not increase: because they have left off to take heed to the LORD.

Aspiring Christian life going down of a child of God. Never enough, always want more, but there is no real increase in your life with God. Why? It is simple. He tells you at the end of the verse, "You have left off to take heed to the Lord." I say it again. It had to be in the heart of every one of us this morning. "Why call ye me Lord, Lord, and not do the things which I say?" Just like Israel. We got our lie, and we actually think we are okay just because we come to a Bible-believing church, have the right Bible to show up Thursday night and Sunday morning. Now God has given you everything that He has.

Micah 2:11

If a man walking in the spirit and falsehood do lie, saying, I will prophesy unto thee of wine and of strong drink; he shall even be the prophet of this people.

God has now given man in the nation of Israel and today the spirit of falsehood. God's people are walking in it today. We are so deceived in what we believe. Our life is a disaster. Our children are a disaster. Your marriage is a disaster. There is not one speck of God using you in anything in your life, and yet you are right, and everybody else is wrong.

IX. The Spirit of Falsehood

If I may just a moment, allow me to talk to you about the spirit of falsehood. There are a number of different spirits in the Bible. There is a spirit of jealousy. There is a spirit of fear. There is a spirit of falsehood. Most people do not understand this, but within any family, and what I am about to tell you is a reason why so many people that I have met all my Christian life are really nice people. They are good people. They come to church. Their kids wind up being a disaster. People scratch their head. I know I have over the years, so I figured this out and looked at it and said, "Now what in the world is going on?" You know what is going on? I am going to tell you something. As a mom and dad, you are the prevailing spirit in your family. Whatever spirit that you have, whether it is a spirit of truth or your life is not really what it needs to be, and it is a spirit of falsehood.

The spirit in the Bible is like water. Ezekiel chapter 40 through chapter 48. Water gets everywhere. Without you ever, your kids ever seeing you take a drink, maybe you do not, ever do this, ever do that, ever lose your temper, without ever seeing that. Whatever spirit is emanating from you, whether it is based on the Word of God or based on just you do not want anything to do with it, you have got your own career in your life, that same spirit will manifest itself into your kids.

We are sitting here this morning, and I am preaching the Word of God, and I can tell you this right now, 100% accurate, the Holy Spirit of God is walking up and down these aisles. I do not know what your problems are, maybe you are great, maybe you are doing good, maybe you have no problems, I do not know, but whatever your issue is, the Holy Spirit of God is pushing your hot button. You know why? That is what a spirit does. I cannot stop it, I cannot control it, I cannot make it start. It is God's spirit that permeates this place when the Word of God is preached, and let me tell you something, in your life and in your family, when the Word of God is not permeating it, there is a spirit that goes forth, spirit of falsehood.

Job 26:5

Dead things are formed from under the waters, and the inhabitants thereof.

Whose spirit came from you in your life with the people you hang with, in your own family, whose spirit comes from you? Because that spirit will either be the spirit of God or be the spirit of falsehood, spirit of deception, spirit of whatever. But you cannot stop it. Boy, I saw that years and years and years in my ministry working with people, good people, and yet I spent half the night out looking for their kids. They were deacons. They were pastors. I just could not figure it out, and then one day I came across that verse, and it all connected for me, and I thought to myself, it is the spirit.

If I could give you any advice as a parent, if I could give you any advice as an up and coming parent if you have got kids, this would be my advice to you over everything else. I mean, yeah, the Bible, all that stuff is great. But over everything else, it would be watch the spirit that comes from you and your family. Because somebody is walking in the spirit of falsehood. They think here they are doing wonderful. They think here that everything is okay. You know what to do? You have got the front door locked and bolted, and you have got all the hinges welded shut. The devil comes in the back door. You are sitting there thinking, "Wow, it is great. I am doing good. I go to church. I go to Old Path Baptist Temple. I have got a King James Bible." It is not about any of that if you have got the wrong spirit. It is about what spirit comes from you.

You watch two Christians get into an issue, and you do not have to worry about, you know, everybody says, "How do you know who is right and who is wrong?" It is simple. Whoever wants to sit down with the Word of God and work it out is the one who is doing what is right. The one who does not want to do it and moves on and goes someplace else, there is the spirit of falsehood. Now you get both of them to sit down and get into the Bible. You know what you do? Praise the Lord. You solve the problem because you have the spirit of the Holy Spirit of God. But you either have the Holy Spirit of God permeating your world or you have the spirit of falsehood.

The spirit of falsehood. That spirit is like water, boy. It just gets you everywhere. Just like Israel,

Jeremiah 23:25

I have heard what the prophets said, that prophesy lies in my name, saying, I have dreamed, I have dreamed.

We live in a dream world. That is what he said. He says they live in a dream world. Israel was in a dream world. They are walking around like everything is wonderful. They are walking around like everything is fine. They are walking around. They have got the priesthood. They have got the sacrifices. They have got everything. Just like most Christians have their Bible. They have their church. They have their Sunday morning service. They have their Sunday evening service. They have their wedding service. They have everything they have going. You know what? It was a falsehood. It is a dream world. You know why? You never want to go to a church where the pastor just tells you how wonderful you are. And you are wonderful. You do not want that dream floating around in your head. I never want you to leave a preaching service that I preach that you are not looking at yourself. You are stopping and wondering who you really are.

You preach sermons, and people get upset, and they get mad. "Well, I do not think you should have said that." Well, you know what? I said it. Maybe after a while, you will think why I should have said it. Maybe when the Holy Spirit of God starts to work on you and wakes you out of that dream world you are in, you will see it. Probably not. But you never know. It is a dream world. God's people, you know, Martin Luther King said, "I have a dream." Yeah, he sure did. Now, you know what? Christianity has a dream world. We are living in it. We think everything is fine. Everything is wonderful. Everything is beautiful. Everything is great when it is not because we are walking in the spirit of falsehood. That is why people do not like churches. I have to say this for you. I mean, you are either a masochist where you like to cut yourself and bleed or you hurt

yourself, or you just like good preaching because why some of you stick in here I do not understand because I do not cut myself any slack. I am not preaching this to you. I am preaching this to me.

It is a situation where, you know what? We need this message. In the day and age we live in, this whole world we are living in is a dream world. They are trying to propagate you that the world is a great place. We are getting better. Build back stronger. Build back this. You are not going to build back nothing. This thing is over, but they want to populate the dream that everything is okay, and you are doing just wonderful. And we are not.

Just like the nation of Israel in

Hosea 8:12

I have written to him the great things of my law, but they were counted as a strange thing.

The great things of God have become strange things. We do not get it. We do not understand it. The great things that God wants to give to us, we look at it when we say, "What in the world is that?"

Just like Israel,

Isaiah 5:20

Woe unto them that call evil good, and good evil; that put darkness for light, and light for darkness; that put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter!

Now we call the good things are called evil, and the evil things are called good. Spirit of falsehood in a dream world. God's people today have to see themselves because they serve God with their lips but not with their hearts. We will take and demand everything you think He should do for you. As I said, get mad when He does not come through the way we think. Never one time do we ever consider what He wants for us. But, "Oh, how I love Jesus."

X. The Importance of Biblical Principles

The key to all this, always having the right spirit as well as we can, is to always have a biblical principle you follow in everything that you do. This is why I beat you to death on biblical principles. This is why you should have a notebook of them. This is why you should memorize them. This had to be the fragments in your basket that God brings up when you need them. Every situation you will face in life, there will be a biblical process to go through it and fix it. Or at least understand it. We should never violate those principles. For the principles of the Word of God will be the heart of God.

When He talks about giving lip service and your heart far from Him, He is simply saying that we talk all the right things. We say the right thing. We have learned a lingo. But our heart is not based on the principles of the Word of God. If you took the whole Christian life and boiled it down to just one thought, it would simply be me and you as God's child getting into the Word of God and making God's heart our heart. That will simply be what we do with the Word of God.

This is why you see God's people, and I have had them in my ministry all my life. I know there are a lot of young Christians here, and you are learning and growing, and you know what, I love that, and we are here to answer your questions and help you. But you know what, from a pastor's standpoint, somebody that has been saved what, 10, 15, 20, 30 years, you are still asking the questions that newborn baby Christians are asking. What is wrong? Why have you not come to the place where you understand these things now? I know you are not going to understand it all, but come on. Sometimes I get email questions from people who obviously know better. I mean, they have been around in the Bible for 30 years, and it is still the baby two-step. You know why? Because all their life they have deceived themselves. They never built a real relationship with God.

If you put the Song of Solomon in front of them and told them to lay out God's view of you and your view of God, they could not do it if you put a gun to their head. If you took them over to Ephesians and asked them to lay out the book and show you how that is, the spiritual Song of Solomon, they could not do it. I am not expecting all you young guys and gals to do that. I am not expecting your moms and dads to be able to do that. But let me tell you something, if you have been around in the Bible for 20 years, come on man. What is going on? "Why call ye me Lord, Lord and not do the things which I say?"

I know. As well as I say that, some of you are right on the ticket, man. Just like the feeding of the 5,000. I do not know how many of them did not have the right attitude or the right motive, but I know some of them did. Maybe the majority of them did. That is true of any church. You are going to find people who have it together. You are going to find people who understand it. You are going to find people who, every day of your life, you strive to put those principles to work in your life. You do everything you are supposed to do. We all fail. We all make mistakes. Everybody is going to crack a thousand. It is not about that. It is about the consistency of our lives around the supernatural book. It is about not taking God just as my spiritual meal ticket. Not just wanting from Him, but finding out like that song that Danny sang at the last one. Finding out what you can do for Him. What does He want from you? Not what do you want from Him. What are you willing to give Him? I mean, on the cross, He gave you everything. You are going to hold it back now? You are going to dribble it out a little bit at a time? Really? What if He had taken a year to die on the cross and nailed one hand six months later and nailed the other hand and then six months later one foot and the other? Would that have worked? He was a total complete sacrifice for you and for me in everything that He did. But we do not see it that way. It was complete for me, but I am going to dribble it out and dribble it out to Him as I see fit. Oh, I want everything that He has got for me, but here, Lord, I am going to give you one breadcrumb at a time.

We need this message in the day and age that we live in. We need this message because we are all up against it, and we are living in a world that is an absolute walking spiritual falsehood. If we do not stay in that book, if you do not stay those promises in your life, if you do not understand what I have said today and see how the nation of Israel, that 5,000, not everybody. I mean, when you read the story, wow, you think, "Wow, 5,000 people, they want to make Him king." No, they do what we try to do. We try to force Him. We do not do what is right. We do not

follow the protocol, but we, like them, we try to force Him to be our king. You know what He did to them? He left them and went someplace else. You know what it will do when we try to do it? He will just move off someplace else. Oh, you are still saved. But the bottom line is He wants no part of the spirit of falsehood. He wants the spirit of truth. I am not saying you are not going to make some mistakes. You are not going to do some dumb things, and you are going to be 100 percent perfect. Nobody is, but it is the consistency of it. That is why this story is a powerful story. That is why. I gave you the feeding of 5,000 last week, and I just could not move on without showing you that because God's people back then are just like God's people today. We are all just a half a step away from making Him our spiritual meal ticket and never one time caring about what He does. We are so busy. We have our careers. We have this. We have that. We just do not have. Oh, we were so thankful that He gave it all to me, but you do not understand, Lord, I am so busy. I just do not have time to give anything back. I am going to fall to it.