

### Verse 26

Some of the people who saw the miracle of the multiplication of the bread and fish went back to find Jesus, but He was not there, nor were His disciples. They got in their boats and rowed to Capernaum and when they found Jesus, they asked Him when He got there. Jesus knowing their hearts as He knows what is in man (John 2:25) saw the true motives they had in seeking and following after Him. They were not seeking Him because they loved Him, loved His message, or had been spiritually changed, but rather out of selfish desires and motives as they wanted physical food. Jesus knowing their hearts and not fooled by the external actions rebukes them and exposes their motives. Jesus is going to build on the fact that they saw Him multiply bread and how they were now desiring physical food to explain that He is the bread from Heaven and the spiritual food that leads to eternal life.

### Verse 27

Jesus knowing that they are seeking after the temporal, physical food tells them to not work for the food that perishes (as they were doing), but to seek after the food which endures for eternal life.

- John 4:31-34 Meanwhile the disciples were urging Him, saying, "Rabbi, eat." <sup>32</sup> But He said to them, "I have food to eat that you do not know about." <sup>33</sup> So the disciples were saying to one another, "No one brought Him *anything* to eat, did he?" <sup>34</sup> Jesus \*said to them, "My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me and to accomplish His work.
- Matthew 4:4 But He answered and said, "It is written: 'Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes out of the mouth of God.'"
- Matthew 16:26 For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world and forfeits his soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul?

### The Father's seal on Jesus

Jesus who is the Son of Man, gives eternal life because the Father has set His seal upon Him.

The Greek word used for seal is ἐσφράγισεν (esphragisen) which means to seal, to put a mark on an object to show possession, authority, identity, or security.

- sphragízō (from 4973 /sphragís, "a seal") – properly, to seal (affix) with a signet ring or other instrument to stamp (a roller or seal), i.e., to attest ownership, authorizing (validating) what is sealed.
- 4972 /sphragízō ("to seal") signifies ownership and the full security carried by the backing (full authority) of the owner. "Sealing" in the ancient world served as a "legal signature" which guaranteed the promise (contents) of what was sealed.

In antiquity the king would press his signet ring into wax that was on documents to show that what had been sealed was from the king himself. If something was sealed by the king it meant that it was sent on behalf of the king, was authenticated by the king, had been authorized by the king, spoke the words of the king, ensured the promises of the king, had the protection of the king, and carried the authority of the king.

Jesus, the eternal Logos has the seal of the Father upon Him signifying that Jesus was sent by the Father, had been authenticated by the Father, spoke on behalf of the Father, and had authority given by the Father.

Jesus had the authority to give the food that endures to eternal life because God the Father had set His seal upon Him.

- **Matthew 28:18** And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, “All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.
- **John 17:1-5** Jesus spoke these things; and lifting up His eyes to heaven, He said, “Father, the hour has come; glorify Your Son, that the Son may glorify You, <sup>2</sup>even as You gave Him authority over all flesh, that to <sup>[a]</sup>all whom You have given Him, He may give eternal life. <sup>3</sup>This is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent. <sup>4</sup>I glorified You on the earth, <sup>[b]</sup>having accomplished the work which You have given Me to do. <sup>5</sup>Now, Father, glorify Me together with Yourself, with the glory which I had with You before the world was.
- **John 12:49-50** For I did not speak <sup>[s]</sup>on My own initiative, but the Father Himself who sent Me has given Me a commandment *as to* what to say and what to speak. <sup>50</sup>I know that His commandment is eternal life; therefore, the things I speak, I speak just as the Father has told Me.
- **Luke 10:16** “The one who listens to you listens to Me, and the one who rejects you rejects Me; and he who rejects Me rejects the One who sent Me.”
- **John 13:20** Truly, truly, I say to you, he who receives whomever I send receives Me; and he who receives Me receives Him who sent Me.”
- **John 1:18** No one has seen God at any time; the only begotten God who is in the bosom of the Father, He has explained *Him*.

### **The seal on believers**

The Bible states that those who God sovereignly and monergistically regenerates and saves through faith are sealed by the Holy Spirit. The believer is sealed by God as to show that we belong to the King, we have His authentication that we are His sons, we have been given His approval through His Son, we have protection from the King, and we have the promise of perseverance throughout this life which leads to glorification!

- **2 Corinthians 1:20-22**
- **2 Corinthians 5:1-5**
- **Ephesians 1:1-14**
- **Ephesians 4:30**
- **2 Timothy 2:19**
- **Revelation 7:3-4, Revelation 14:1, Revelation 22:1-5**

We see that throughout the New Testament being sealed involved the Holy Spirit. Jesus had the seal of the Father upon Him which can be seen by the Holy Spirit descending and lighting on Him at His baptism. The Father declares “This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well-pleased.” We as believers are also sealed by the same Holy Spirit of promise when we are saved. We are not His only begotten Son who He is well-pleased with, but we are His adopted Sons whom He has loved before the world was. The Father set His seal upon Jesus to have authority to give the bread that leads to eternal life. Those who are regenerated and sealed by the Holy Spirit have a promise that they will dwell with the Bread of Life forever. The promise that we will have eternal life and dwell with Him forever is the most certain promise we can have because it has been made and sealed not by an earthly king, but by the King of Kings!