

## False Disciples

John 6:22-29

Now we pick up John's narrative in verse 22: "The day following."

That is, the day after Jesus had fed more than five thousand in a miraculous way, and the day after the multitude had desired to take Him by force and make Him a king. Also it is the day after the disciples had had such a horrifying experience the night before. It is the next day after all of that.

Now there is a contrast here that identifies two types of disciples: the true and the false. One is saved and the other is not. Yet both are often referred to as disciples (cf. vv. 59-69).

To understand this, you must first understand the word disciple. In the general definition the word just simply meant followers. For example: Jewish disciples would follow their master around, often imitating him. Their goal was to someday become a master and teacher themselves. But with Jesus' disciples they understood that they would remain disciples of their Master and Teacher forever.

Michael Wilkins said, "The call to be a disciple meant to count the cost of allegiance to Jesus, but this took various forms. The Twelve were called to leave all and follow Jesus around – including leaving family, profession, and property – as a training time for their future role in the church. Apparently others besides the Twelve were called to such a following. But, while all disciples were called to count the cost of allegiance, leaving everything and following Jesus around was not intended for all."

Now the marks of a true disciple are quite simple:

First, he's deeply concerned about obeying his Lord. Second, he longs for the presence and power of Christ in his life. Third, he desires worship with his Lord – that is true worship. He doesn't need miracles to worship. He doesn't need excitement and glamor. All he needs is God's Word and he will worship.

Now the marks of a false disciple are just the opposite of the true:

First, obedience doesn't concern him too much. Second, he can worship with or without the Word of God, the presence of Christ, or the power of Christ, as long as his flesh is aroused he thinks that he can worship.

Third, he needs the miracle, he needs the excitement, and he needs the glamor. The people in our text, the people who followed Jesus to Capernaum, were false disciples. They were following Him for the wrong reason. They were following Him for the wrong

purpose. They followed Him for what they could get; they were not interested in either obedience or worship.

Jerry W. Arnold  
All Rights Reserved