



**John 6:25-26, 51, 60, 66-69 New Revised Standard Version**

<sup>25</sup> When they found him on the other side of the sea, they said to him, “Rabbi, when did you come here?” <sup>26</sup> Jesus answered them, “Very truly, I tell you, you are looking for me not because you saw signs but because you ate your fill of the loaves.

<sup>51</sup> I am the living bread that came down from heaven. Whoever eats of this bread will live forever, and the bread that I will give for the life of the world is my flesh.”

<sup>60</sup> When many of his disciples heard it, they said, “This teaching is difficult; who can accept it?”

<sup>66</sup> Because of this many of his disciples turned back and no longer went about with him. <sup>67</sup> So Jesus asked the twelve, “Do you also wish to go away?” <sup>68</sup> Simon Peter answered him, “Lord, to whom can we go? You have the words of eternal life. <sup>69</sup> We have come to believe and know that you are the Holy One of God.”

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**“Maybe someday you will understand, that something for nothing is everybody’s plan.” –Bob Dylan**

It was called Freebies for Sports Fans. I found it at the school bookfair somewhere around my fifth-grade year. The book was a small paperback filled with contact information for various professional sports organizations and teams, which shared how one could go about obtaining free memorabilia from those teams. These “freebies” ranged from stickers and player cards to small pennants and signed photos. I thought it was the neatest thing, but it did not take long for me to discover not everything was free. Some things called for a self-addressed stamped envelope and others required a couple of dollars as a “handling fee.” In spite of the minimal charges, I did obtain my fair share of sports “freebies” for about a year’s time.

It would appear that the audience in John 6 had a thing for “freebies” as well. As the chapter opens, we find what has come to be the most popular of Jesus’ miracles when he fed a multitude with a few loaves and fish. The next day, some of the same crowd went looking for Jesus. Not finding him in one place, they traveled elsewhere until they found the one who had supplied them with a great feast the previous day. Seeing through their motivation for searching, Jesus plainly stated they were only looking for him because “they ate their fill.” The truth was they needed something more than physical bread; they needed the bread of Jesus. Jesus was by no means advocating cannibalistic practices, but rather emphasizing the intimate relationship people needed with him in order to understand the inbreaking of God’s Kingdom.

- 1. We may search for Jesus because we want something.**
  - 2. What we want is hardly enough for long-term needs.**
  - 3. When there is no commitment it becomes easy to walk away.**
- Prayer Pebble:** Lord, help me to want you for the right reasons.