

John 6:25-27

Let's set up the scene that brings us to this passage. Jesus' popularity with the people has climaxed. The popularity was more in what Jesus did than what He said. They were spectators, longing to see more miracles for the sake of entertainment more than learning who He is as being God. Jesus had just fed the 5,000+. Jesus went to the other side of the Sea of Galilee through the miracle of walking on the water.

We pick up from there in verse 22

22 The next day the crowd that stood on the other side of the sea saw that there was no other small boat there, except one, and that Jesus had not entered with His disciples into the boat, but that His disciples had gone away alone. 23 There came other small boats from Tiberias near to the place where they ate 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 small boats, and came to Capernaum seeking Jesus. 25 When they found Him on the other side of the sea, they said to Him, "Rabbi, when did You get here?"

Words to the People

26 Jesus answered them and said, "Truly, truly, I say to you, you seek Me, not because you saw signs, but because you ate of the loaves and were filled. 27 Do not work for the food which perishes, but for the food which endures to eternal life, which the Son of Man will give to you, for on Him the Father, God, has set His seal."

If you want a good personal Bible study, give attention to each of the "Truly, truly's" that are found in this chapter.

Jesus' statement of verse 26 is His response to their following Jesus because of wanting another free covered-dish meal. Jesus, however is trying to get them to be aware of their spiritual need that has eternal ramifications instead of focusing on their physical hunger that is always short lived no matter what that hunger is for.

When I came across these verses two weeks ago, God started saying to me, "Pay attention to the last part of verse 27."

Let me read that part to you again. "For on Him (the Son of Man, Jesus) the Father, God, has set His seal." That which the Father has set His seal is that which gives food for eternal life. What is this seal that Jesus is talking about? For us as non-Jewish people who did not live in that day, this seal doesn't make sense. But, the Jew of that day knew exactly what Jesus was saying.

There are some seals that we know about that will help up understand what Jesus is talking about.

Good housekeeping seal.

Certified SC grown

ASCP seal of certification for Med Technologists.

Notary seal

That is kind of what is going on in this passage.

Let me explain it through presenting you with a scenario that was a common occurrence in that day and time. You are a Jew who has come into Jerusalem to celebrate Passover. You have brought with you a lamb from your flock that you have set aside to be killed for the Passover. Not so fast, the lamb has to pass inspection. The Jewish leaders look over your animal. They tell you that your animal is not acceptable for sacrifice. You give up the lamb, pay a fee, and they provide you with a lamb that they have determined is acceptable for sacrifice. That lamb has received a seal of approval or authentication for sacrifice on Passover. Incidentally, the lamb that you gave up will be sold to someone else as being approved or authenticated. That is one thing that angered Jesus to cleanse the temple. So the seal of approval for sacrifice is that which Jesus is talking about here. Eternal life, then is found through the sacrifice of the Son of Man as the Lamb of God, who has received God the Father's seal of acceptance.

Why is that important for us? If God did not accept the sacrifice of Jesus Christ, we would still be in sin. We would be barred from temple area to offer sacrifice for our sins.

We find this word seal in other places in Bible. Each is related to us and to Jesus having the seal from God the Father. I want to take you those passages so that you can learn how the seal of God applies to us.

Romans 4:9-11

⁹ Is this blessing then on the circumcised, or on the uncircumcised also? For we say, "FAITH WAS CREDITED TO ABRAHAM AS RIGHTEOUSNESS." ¹⁰ How then was it credited? While he was circumcised, or uncircumcised? Not while circumcised, but while uncircumcised; ¹¹ and he received the sign of circumcision, a seal of the righteousness of the faith which he had while uncircumcised, so that he might be the father of all who believe without being circumcised, that righteousness might be credited to them,

This is kind of hard to understand because it is so wordy. Let me see if I can explain it. Abraham is the father of the nation of Israel. He was counted as righteous before God so that he received the seal of righteousness, which is mentioned in verse 11. The seal of righteousness did not come to Abraham through works, but by faith. So then, Abraham is not only considered father of the circumcised which is always thought of to be Israel. Abraham is also considered father of uncircumcised, which is us, by virtue of our faith in Jesus Christ. Our right standing with God does not come by works. Our right standing with God comes through faith. When we confess that faith, we receive the seal of righteousness. God certifies us as righteous. Being right with God by faith is a position we have that we will never lose. Therefore, the seal of righteousness is not only a declaration of approval. It is also the declaration of ownership.

1 Corinthians 6:19-*Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and that you are not your own?*

Let's move to the second passage that explains how the seal of Jesus's approval from the Father affects us. This passage reinforces the idea that the seal is the declaration of ownership.

2 Timothy 2:19

19 Nevertheless, the firm foundation of God stands, having this seal, "The Lord knows those who are His," and, "Everyone who names the name of the Lord is to abstain from wickedness."

The first task of this verse is to identify "the firm foundation." When the context is considered, the firm foundation is talking of the church and the local church. So, the local church, Maple Baptist Church in our case, has the seal. What seal do we have? It is God's seal of ownership. This verse tells us two ways this seal is on us as the church. First, every member of the body of Christ, the church has God's divine assurance that they belong to God. "The Lord knows those who are His." That is comforting for that tells me that God is intimately, personally interested in me as an individual as well as on us as a church as a whole. Jesus said in John 10, "My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me. And I give eternal life to them, and they shall never perish; and no one shall snatch them out of my hand." Sure there may well be those members of churches who are true members of the Church because of not having placed faith in Christ. Those will be separated in judgment.

Second way of God's ownership is more practical. It is through personal holiness. "Let everyone who names the name of the Lord abstain from wickedness." That is not an option. It is a demand. It is not what can be. It is what is to be.

1 Peter 1:15 puts it another way. "Like the Holy One who called you, be yourselves holy also in all your behavior."

Be separate. Be different. In this you show proof that you bear the name of Jesus. It is not something we only do. It is something that we are. The cause of that is given in the last verse I want us to consider in regard to seal.

Ephesians 1:13-14

¹³ In Him, you also, after listening to the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation— having also believed, you were sealed in Him with the Holy Spirit of promise, ¹⁴ who is given as a pledge of our inheritance, with a view to the redemption of God's own possession, to the praise of His glory.

This passage identifies the seal God has placed on you. The seal is the Holy Spirit. It is His active part of your salvation. Chosen by God the Father, redeemed through the blood of Jesus Christ, sealed by the Holy Spirit.

The Holy Spirit empowers to live holy lives. The Holy Spirit is God's mark of ownership on you. The Holy Spirit as a seal is God's security on your life, and it is God's statement of the finished transaction of your life belonging to Him through the redemption of Jesus Christ.

As we come to this table, we come back to John 6:27. This bread symbolizes for us the food that endures for eternal life, and that which has the seal of God on Him. It is the seal that is on you. You are approved through your faith in Jesus Christ. You belong to Him through a transaction of redemption that is finished. You are secure in Him through the presence of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.