For What are you Working? Ray Stedman

I. Introduction.

- A. Text: John 6:22-40.
- B. Bread is a symbol for life.

II. Jesus came to give something more valuable than mere bread—the food that endures to eternal life.

A. Food should not be the only reason one works.

B. The most important thing in life is not to keep alive.

C. The thing that differentiates us from the animals is that having a full belly does not keep a man satisfied.

D. Jesus was sealed by the Spirit—He was unique.

E. The person who asks what they can do to do the works of God answers wrongly in two ways.

- 1. "We can do everything because we have the resources." This is religious elitism.
- 2. "We can do nothing—God must do it all."
- 3. Both of these answers are wrong—there is something one can do—believe.
- 4. This recognizes that God is present in a person's life to be available to him.
- 5. A believer can count on the Lord to be involved in the simple tasks of life.

F. The will of the Father is eternal life, not food.

- 1. There is a universal hunger for bread beyond the physical.
- 2. To come to Jesus is to "eat of Him"—this is seeing Jesus present in one's life.
- 3. The mystery of conversion.
 - a. Not all who see will come.
 - b. All who are chosen will come-if one can come to Jesus, he is chosen.
 - c. There is no sin that Jesus cannot forgive.

d. All who come are safe and secure in Jesus because of His work, because it fulfills the Father's will, because it involves the resurrection of the body and because it involves the gift of eternal life now.

Application questions:

1. What can we do for God? Explain.

2. How does Jesus meet that deeper hunger for life that all have?

3. How might knowing that all have this hunger help with sharing Christ with others? Explain.
