

For What Endures Third Week of Easter Monday, May 5, 2014 8:15 AM
Acts 6:8-15; **Jn 6:22-29** (Today the idea of prosperity is too much involved with consuming and having things.)

Here we have a story of people following Jesus, but apparently not for the right reason. So Jesus addresses them and says, **“You are not following me because you saw signs, but because you had your fill.”**

Now that takes a little bit of unpacking. Of course they saw the sign, but they didn’t see it as a sign. **The sign was the bread, the few loaves that were enough to feed the multitude.** That was the sign. They all saw it, **but they did not deduce anything from that.** Or another way of putting this is they saw this as a sign of plenty and a sign that Jesus was a good provider, but they didn’t see it as a sign of the bread that has come down from heaven. **They didn’t see the spiritual dimension. So Jesus says, “You really should not be working for what perishes but for what endures.”**

We are put on this earth and it is natural for people to desire to prosper. That is, in fact, the real reason for working. **People work so that they can prosper.** Now prosperity might mean something different from age to age, from culture to culture. It may not always be defined the same way. **Today the idea of prosperity is too much involved with consuming and having things**—that’s true. But the idea of prosperity is basic to human life. Human nature is created to prosper. Jesus’ point is not that we shouldn’t prosper, but that **we shouldn’t think only about prospering in a world that is obviously passing away. We ought to think about prospering forever.** The problem isn’t that we want too much; the real problem is we want too little; we settle for too little. Yes, people amass much too much money. They acquire way too many things, but that’s all of a same kind. They aren’t really wanting what they could want: eternal life with God. The saddest thing about the age we are living in is the lack of desire, which then is translated into more and more, **more and more of less and less, because somehow people think they can be satisfied with what is perishable,** and perhaps convinced that they will perish and that’s that and nothing can be done about it. What a sad mistake!