

John 6:35-69

One Liner of the Week

"In our (human) nature, the sad reality is that we love darkness rather than light..."

Food for the Soul

Monday: John 4:1-30

Tuesday: John 4:31-54

Wednesday: John 5:1-24

Thursday: John 5:25-47

Friday: John 6:1-25

Saturday: John 6:26-40

Sunday: John 6:41-71

Discussion Guide

February 25, 2024

Sermon Synopsis

We live in a day where many people claim to be Christians, but few tend to truly have a relationship with Christ. Even within the Church, there are many deconstructing their faith and turning their backs on things they once claimed to believe. Why is this happening to so many people? What does it mean? How are we to remain faithful and true to the Lord when so many are going away? Each of these questions and more are answered in this message. It's all centered around our true convictions of Who Jesus is. We invite you to listen today to be encouraged and challenged. May the Lord bring you to the same conviction that He produced in Simon Peter's life.

Group Question #1

Have you ever wondered why Jesus so often referred to Himself as "bread", "water", "the bread of life", etc...? What is bread? What is water? I don't mean in the scientific sense, but, what do those things represent for us as living, breathing, human people? Think about it. What happens if you don't eat? Or what if you eat very poorly? What about water? If you go without water for more than a week, you'll likely die. Food and water, then, represent what we would call "the necessities of life." You must have these things to live. They are the difference between being dead and being alive. In John 6, Jesus very clearly makes the analogy that He, Himself, is the bread and the drink that we need for spiritual life. But why? Aren't we alive? Aren't even those who don't have a relationship with Jesus "alive"? Read the following two passages together as a group: Ephesians 2:1-8 and Romans 3:9-18. What is the condition of man? What is it that man lacks above all else and is most in need of?

Group Question #2

Here's the simple reality. It really is simple, but, that does not make it easy to accept! Man, outside of relationship with Jesus, is spiritually dead. If we may continue the theme of Jesus being the bread of life, to be without Jesus is to be without that which you need above all and, subsequently, to be dead. Without food we die. This food which, according to Romans 3, no one has, is righteousness. Did you know that righteousness REALLY is required to be at peace with God? Jesus Himself said it in Matthew 5:20 so don't come after the messenger! To please God, you must have a perfect righteousness! If having food instead of not having it is the difference between being dead and being alive physically, how then are we to think of Jesus as He says the words "I am the bread of life."? If you lack physical food, you will die physically. If you lack righteousness, you are ALREADY dead spiritually. That is the testimony of Scripture. But, along comes Jesus saying "I am the bread of life." As a group, read 2 Corinthians 5:21 and Hebrews 4:15. What stands out about Jesus based on these verses?

Group Question #3

What unifies those two verses is the fact that Jesus had no sin. By necessity, we must conclude, then, that He alone, out of all humanity that has walked this earth, is righteous! He, alone, HAS righteousness. The thing we need the most, but do not have, Jesus does have! Boy oh boy... That makes Him infinitely different and infinitely important, does it not? Further, the passage in Hebrews calls the Lord Christ our "Great High Priest". What does a High Priest do? He intercedes on behalf of the people. He stands as a mediator between the people and God. Christ Jesus, who alone was righteous, took upon Himself the sin of everyone who ever had, did, or would believe and gave those same people His own righteousness. In so doing, He interceded for the Church as her Great High Priest. In so doing, He showed Himself to be, truly, "the bread of life". Not only did Christ die on the cross. Not only did He rise again three days later. My friend, Christ LIVED for His people, as well. Without His righteous life, we would be doomed, for it was His righteousness we needed most of all! What love! What incredible, unprecedented love. Spend the rest of your discussion time, together, pondering this, pondering our sinfulness, pondering Christ's righteousness. Discuss how Christ's atonement for the sin of the Church is the great miracle to put to shame all other miracles.