

Sermon: John 6-Bread From Heaven

Denver Church of Christ, March 29, 2009

I. The Signs 6:1-24

A. Feeding Five Thousand

- The Passover, a feast of the Jews, was near: Passover is a yearly festival celebrating the Exodus and God's sustenance of Israel in the wilderness.
- Five barley loaves: Barley was always regarded as simple fare, more often fit for animals than for men. "Small things are not always contemptible. It all depends on the hands in which they are." (Taylor)
- The men sat down, in number about five thousand: Refers to heads of families.
- This is similar to Moses and manna from heaven. Jesus brings them bread from heaven. Jesus sustained them in the wilderness just like Moses.
- Moses had predicted that God would send them a prophet: "The Lord your God will raise up for you a Prophet like me from your midst, from your brethren. Him you shall hear. (Deuteronomy 18:15)
- They were about to come and take Him by force to make Him king: This miracle really impressed the crowd and fueled their revolutionary hopes.

B. Jesus walks on the water.

- The geographical setting makes the Sea of Galilee very dangerous. Mount Hermon rises to 9200 feet 35 miles away. This led to high winds and unpredictable weather.
- In Mark 6:48 we read that Jesus watched the disciples as they rowed across the lake. His eye was on them all the time. God is always watching us in the storm.
- The situation that we are in sometimes just seems to provoke storms. Down through the ages Christians have found themselves in places that stirred up storms
- We so often feel that when we are doing the work of Jesus, it should be easy. After all, isn't God helping us? But sometimes, God tells us to do something and allows it to be hard as we do it.
- Jesus rescues the disciples from futility. Jesus wants us to work hard; but He never wants us to work in futility.

II. The Sermon: Bread From Heaven 6:25-59

A. Bread Satisfies

- Everyone hungers for God whether they realize it or not. There is a God shaped piece inside of each of us. It can only be filled with God.

- We try to fill it with many things: Family, material things, career, pleasure, etc. The problem is always the same-it perishes.
- Solomon discovered the same thing when he exclaimed in Ecclesiastes 1:2-ff **"Meaningless! Meaningless!" says the Teacher. "Utterly meaningless! Everything is meaningless." 3 What does man gain from all his labor at which he toils under the sun? ...13 I devoted myself to study and to explore by wisdom all that is done under heaven. What a heavy burden God has laid on men! 14 I have seen all the things that are done under the sun; all of them are meaningless, a chasing after the wind."**
- Listen to the words of Jesus- **"Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.**
Matthew 11:28-30
- "We are meant to have life. This doesn't mean biological life, it means quality of life. There are two Greek words that are translated into English as "life." The Greek word "bios" means to be alive. The Greek word "Zoë" has to do with a quality of life. John 1:4 states **"In him was life, (Zoë) and that life was the light of men."** John 20:31 states **"But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life (Zoë) in his name."**
- Jesus wants us to have Zoe, a quality of life that extends into eternity!

B. Bread Must Be Broken

- Bread must be broken in order for it to satisfy. Jesus was broken for our sins in order to bring us to God.
- Isaiah 53:5 states **"But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was upon him, and by his wounds we are healed."**
- John 6:28 states **"Then they asked him, "What must we do to do the works God requires?" 29 Jesus answered, "The work of God is this: to believe in the one he has sent."**
- Jesus did the work for us, he was broken. Our work is to believe and rely on him.
- We are saved by God's grace through faith. The people were offended by a "broken" Messiah. Many turned back because of disappointment.

C. Bread Must Be Consumed

- Bread has no value until it is consumed. It has to get inside of you.
- Jesus is a person. He is someone you can get to know. He reveals the mind and heart of God. He reveals what God acts like, what he cares about. He reveals his heart.
- What is your relationship with God and his Son like?
 - Is it business like-I do my job
 - Is it legalistic-I obey the rules

- Is it an afterthought?-I get around to it when everything else is finished. It isn't my top priority
- Is it about love-communication, understanding, friendship, learning and growing, heartfelt and devoted
- Will be expressed in what we do day to day.
- Challenge: Matthew 6:33 ***"But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. 34Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own."***

III. The Sifting 6:60-71

- ***On hearing it, many of his disciples said, "This is a hard teaching. Who can accept it?"*** Jn 6:60
- Jesus is calling people to become his true disciples. They are those people who will accept his words and believe them. They are convinced that Jesus has the "words of eternal life." Jesus' true disciples will believe and follow him even when the message is difficult to accept. When Jesus words are presented a sifting of hearts happens. Each person who hears the message will find some aspects of it challenging and difficult to embrace. Some people will turn back, others will humbly follow. Many in the crowd rejected this version of the Messiah. It wasn't the Messiah that they were looking for.
- Challenge: Luke 9:23 ***then he said to them all: "If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me. 24For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for me will save it. 25What good is it for a man to gain the whole world, and yet lose or forfeit his very self? 26If anyone is ashamed of me and my words, the Son of Man will be ashamed of him when he comes in his glory and in the glory of the Father and of the holy angels.***