



Sunday, June 7, 2009: Believing in the Bread of Life

Scripture: John 6:26-71

Speaker: Joe Boot

Sermon Notes:

1. Verses 25-27. Jesus doesn't answer the crowd's question directly, but identifies a more basic need in their lives: "Labour for food that endures for eternal life."
2. God doesn't answer our questions merely to satisfy our human curiosity; He addresses our spiritual needs.
3. The crowd continues to misunderstand the nature of Jesus' work, expecting socio-political deliverance.
4. Modern man still wants to solve man's basic problems by economics. The Messianic approach to modern political theory is becoming more blatant.
5. The crowd asks, What sign will you perform? In a non-Christ centered agenda, humans want a demonstration of supernatural power. We, like the crowd, can be guilty of looking at the past and seeking similar demonstrations of God's power. But we are responsible for hearing and obeying Christ in the present.
6. Jesus was the sign given from God, but they refused to believe and looked for another sign.
7. Christ offers Himself as the Bread of Life – His perfect humanity is the basis for His atoning death.
8. Verses 52-59. How do we approach this food? "Eat noisily with a friend" is a literal translation of the word.
9. The crowds insisted on an overly literal interpretation of Christ's words. But the symbolic element here is the personal receiving or appropriation of Christ's work in our lives.
10. Jesus' Temptation is implicit in the crowd's challenge: If You're the son of God, turn these stones into bread.
11. While Satan highlights material needs, Jesus provides spiritual liberation.
12. People have always sought free food, but biblically hard work is required as part of our lives.
13. We should not be offensive in our manner or attitude; but the gospel is offensive until people are drawn of God.
14. Lot and his family lingered, but the Angels pulled them out to save their lives. So the Spirit of God coerces us to come to Jesus. Our salvation *has to be* the work of God
15. Christ continues to fulfill our needs as our Prophet, Priest and King. To join the benefits of the kingdom we have only to feed on Christ as our sustenance and salvation.

Application Questions:

1. Is there anything we can *do* to please God or merit salvation?
2. What does John 6:44, 65 have to say about those who *can* come to Jesus?
3. What does Jesus mean when He says that people must eat His flesh and drink His blood?
4. How does Ephesians 5:10 help us understand the symbolism of John 6?
5. Do I have a biblical view of work, both in theory and practice?