



Who is Jesus? The Gospel of John – Week 17

Preacher – Sandy Mason | Text – John 6:41-58

Summary:

Continuing the discourse from earlier in John 6, Jesus further explains what he means when he says, “I am the bread of life.” This passage reveals a conflict between Jesus and the Jewish religious leaders because of Jesus’ clear claim to divinity. It also reveals the hopelessness of those who would seek for eternal life apart from Christ. With some truly shocking language, Jesus declares both the exclusivity of the path to eternal life (through Christ alone), and the radical inclusivity of his invitation (none are excluded from the offer of eternal life).

Discussion:

1. What was the most important take-away for you from this week’s message?
2. Why were the Jews (probably local religious leaders) grumbling about Jesus’ claim to be ‘the Bread of Life’? Why was this problematic for them?
3. In vv. 44-46, what Jesus saying about the relationship between himself and the Father?
4. What is the mechanism by which people come to Christ? Notice the emphasis on “hearing” and “learning” in verse 45. **Application:** How did ‘hearing’ and ‘learning’ factor into your own conversion to Christ?

5. What was the result of the manna? What is the result of the bread of life? Why do you think this was a difficult concept for Jesus' hearers to understand, much less accept?

6. How would you characterize the response to Jesus' claim that his flesh was to be consumed as bread, to bring life to the world (see v. 52)? Why do you think they reacted this way?

7. What does it mean to 'feed' on Jesus' flesh? To 'drink' his blood? This is obviously a revolutionary concept for those who heard this message. **Application:** In what ways are we prone to forget what it means to truly feed on Christ? How does the human tendency to prefer 'transactional holiness' (that is, seeking righteousness through works of the Law), rather than radical dependency on – and intimacy with – Christ himself, show up in your life?

8. **Application:** What does it mean to 'abide' in Christ? What does it mean for Christ to 'abide' in us?

9. Where does our life come from (see v. 57)? What does that mean for our dependence on Christ?

10. How would you 'title' this section? In other words, how would you restate the main purpose John had (as the author) in writing this passage?