



Who is Jesus? The Gospel of John – Week 18

Preacher – Sandy Mason | Text – John 6:59-71

Summary:

As Jesus concludes his discourse on the Bread of Life, he begins to meet resistance not just from the Jewish religious leaders who opposed him, but also from some of those who were following him. For many, Jesus' claim that he alone is the source of eternal life was too much to accept, even for many of his disciples. And so there comes a fork in the road – many choose to abandon Jesus, but the faith of others grows even deeper. Hence, Peter's great confession in this passage: "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life, and we have believed, and have come to know, that you are the Holy One of God." The same truth that caused some to reject Christ caused others to cling to him even more!

Discussion:

1. What was the most important take-away for you from this week's message?
2. What (if anything) is significant about the fact that Jesus speaks the difficult truths in this passage *in the synagogue* at Capernaum?
3. Why do you think Jesus' words in John 6:35-58 are such "a hard saying," as his followers argue? **Application: What is difficult for you about Jesus' message?**

4. What does Jesus suggest would vindicate his teaching about his own divine role and nature (v. 62)? How do the crucifixion, resurrection, and ascension of Jesus testify to his claims?

5. Application: How does Jesus' teaching about the role of the Spirit inform/expand your understanding of Jesus' role as the Bread of Life? What's the Spirit's role in the life that comes from Jesus' flesh and blood (vv. 51-58)?

6. What caused some to believe while others turned away? What does Jesus say about this?

7. What's Peter's confession? Why is it so powerful? **Application: When did you first make this confession yourself, and what brought you to that point?**

8. Notice Jesus' words on the coming betrayal by one of his disciples (v. 70). If Jesus knew what Judas would do, what does it say that Jesus continued to allow him inside the inner circle (the Twelve)? How does this speak to Jesus' complete submission to the Father's will?

9. 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?