

Dining on Jesus
John 6:1-71
Bethany Assembly of God
11/26/2023

Central Proposition: You need to eat Jesus.

Introduction

We often use eating metaphors to talk about things that satisfy us or things that we love. We devour books and TV shows; and you've probably heard a grandma saying that her grandbabies were so cute she could just eat them up. So, even though Jesus uses the striking language of eating His flesh and drinking His blood in our passage today, we're actually not too unfamiliar with what He means. He's talking about where we look for satisfaction, how we expect to fill up life, and what desires and longings we cultivate. To continue the metaphor, today we'll discover that He's the food we should be eating.

1. You can move from physical to spiritual food. vv. 25-34

Jesus first pushed the people to think beyond what's immediately in front of them and obvious, and He pushes us too. See John 6:26-27.

- Jesus' criticism was that they took a sign like the one He gave them and made it about their own desires. Once again, we have a group of people who come to Jesus with a preconceived set of expectations and they can't see beyond them to let Jesus teach them.
- We all still need to grow in our ability to see spiritual realities beyond the flesh. See John 6:63.
- We need to learn to seek the spiritual things, to walk by faith and not by sight.

2. You can move from hunger to satisfaction.

We think we will be satisfied by something, but we're not, and the harder we try, the less satisfaction we have. But Jesus points us in another direction. See John 6:35.

- The work of God is to believe in Him and if we come to Him, we will no longer hunger or thirst. You can't help but hear the echo of what He said to the woman at the well.
- Jesus wants people to hear and learn, believing that He is the bread of life that satisfies. And you can be sure of this, that if you have believed, Jesus will not lose you. See John 6:37.

3. You can move from offense to trust.

Jesus said something that pushed most of the people listening too far and they were offended. See John 6:53-56.

- What Jesus describes here is the kind of faith that gains life from Him. He was saying that He should be their sustenance, that they should be so engaged with Him, so bought into His purpose, so taken with what He said that it was like they were devouring Him.

Conclusion

Passages like this challenge us because we are left with questions. But Peter provides us with a great example, even when our faith is challenged or the ways of Jesus offend us. See John 6:67-69.

Jesus has eternal life and believing Him sometimes means that you don't abandon Him because He failed to answer every question, but trusting that He is the source of the answer, even if you don't have it yet.