

The 1st Sunday in Lent ~ Sunday, March 10, 2019
“I AM: Metaphor of the Messiah ~ The Bread of Life”
John 6:25-35

Lent—a season of intentional _____, as we examine our hearts, _____, and lives and ready ourselves to _____ once again the death and resurrection of Jesus.

Lent is all about _____ to God, who desires to be in _____ with us.

Over the next 40 days, God calls us on a journey from _____ to _____. He calls us to examine our _____ in light of His _____; our lives in light of His _____; and our merit in light of His _____.

I AM = *Ego Eimi* = two of the most _____ words spoken in the Bible.

“Indeed, when I come to the children of Israel and say to them, ‘The God of your fathers has sent me to you,’ and they say to me, ‘What is His name?’ what shall I say to them? And God said to Moses, ‘I AM WHO I AM.’ And He said, ‘Thus you shall say to the children of Israel, I AM has sent me to you.’” (Exodus 3:13)

Jesus is identifying Himself with _____—He’s saying something about who is He and why He came. He is God in _____ form, coming to save and _____ a fallen humanity.

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“Very truly, I tell you, you are looking for me, not because you saw signs, but because you ate your fill of the loaves. Do not work for the food that perishes, but for the food that endures for eternal life, which the Son of Man will give you. For it is on him that God the Father has set his seal....This is the work of God, that you believe in him whom he sent.” (John 6:26)

““What sign are you going to give us then, so that we may see it and believe you? What work are you performing? Our ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness; as it is written, ‘He gave them bread from heaven to eat.’” (John 6:30-32)

Jesus had exhorted the crowd to _____, but instead they demanded another sign—they wanted _____. Rather than worshipping Jesus as the _____, they wanted Him to continually give them bread to eat with their mouths, not their hearts, just like Moses had done.

““Truly, truly, I tell you, it was not Moses who gave you the bread from heaven, but it is my Father who gives you the true bread from heaven. For the bread of God is that which comes down from heaven and gives life to the world.”” (John 6:32-33)

BREAD FROM HEAVEN

- It wasn’t _____ who gave the Israelites manna, but God the Father.
- *Didomi*, the Greek word for gives, is in the _____ tense indicting that the manna of the past wasn’t the true bread, but only a _____ of what the Father was currently giving in Him.
- The manna gave _____ life, but the bread that He was offering them gives _____ life.
- Unlike the manna, which was only given to Israel, the true bread from heaven is for the _____.

The crowd misses Jesus’ point, and their request for Him to give them this bread forever reveals their spiritual _____.

“I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty.” (John 6:35)

We live in a _____ hungry world that’s desperate for meaning and _____. From the very beginning we were created to serve God and _____ with Him—He was to be our _____ and fulfilment. However, in rejecting God, humanity was left with an aching _____ in its soul.

Augustine rightly observed that every single person has been created with a _____ hole within their soul. And although we can attempt to fill that hole with all kinds of things, nothing can fill our hunger for purpose and significance or _____ our thirst for redemption.

“Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread, and your labour for that which does not satisfy? Listen carefully to me, and eat what

is good, and delight yourselves in rich food. Incline your ear, and come to me; listen, so that you may live..." (Isaiah 55:2-3)

We need to understand our deepest _____ for:

- _____ of who we are and who we were created to be.
- _____ and for some kind of a _____ with the One who Created us.
- _____ from past hurts that bind and imprison us.
- _____ of life, without the burden of guilt and shame.
- _____ of faith that our struggles, trials, and challenges have _____.

4 THINGS ABOUT THE BREAD OF LIFE

- **He's saying something about His _____ in our lives.**
Jesus is the most _____ part of life.
- **He's saying something about His _____.**
Jesus is saying He's available to _____.
- **He's saying something about _____.**
In Jesus' day, bread wasn't just food, it was _____. Jesus offers us a friendship that will never end.
- **Bread symbolized God's _____.**
In Jesus we encounter the _____ of Father, the God of the universe.

Jesus is saying that He came to meet our deepest _____, not just to satisfy our _____ wants and desires.

Jesus alone is the giver and sustainer of _____ life.

"His divine power has given us everything needed for life and godliness, through the knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness." (1 Peter 1:3)

Jesus alone is our _____.

"And my God will fully satisfy every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus." (Philippians 4:19)

We need to learn to distinguish between _____ and _____.

3 RESPONSES

#1. The _____.

"Then the Jews began to complain about him because he said, 'I am the bread that came down from heaven.' They were saying, 'Is not this Jesus, the son of Joseph, whose father and mother we know? How can he now say, 'I have come down from heaven'?' Jesus answered them, 'Do not complain among yourselves.'" (John 6:41-43)

Gogguzo = grumbling =

They couldn't believe He was anything more than He _____—as a fellow Galilean; the carpenter's son; Mary's boy. And so, like the Jews in Judea and the people of Nazareth, they hardened their _____ against Him.

Machomai = argue =

Blinded by the ignorance of their own _____ they were unable to understand the _____ significance of what Jesus was saying.

He wasn't speaking of _____ drinking the fluid in His veins any more than He was of literally eating His flesh. Both metaphors were intended to be understood _____.

4 PROMISES

- Those who appropriate Him by faith have _____ spiritual life.
- Those who eat His flesh and drink His blood have _____ life.
- He will _____ on the last day.
- Jesus' flesh is true food and His blood is true drink—the _____ that provides the very life of _____ to the believer.

The abundant life that believers experience in the present won't end with death, but will last _____. This is the believer's great _____; and apart from it, the Christian gospel is _____.

In response to this, much of the crowd outright _____ Jesus and walks away.

#2. The _____.

““When many of his disciples heard it, they said, ‘This teaching is difficult; who can accept it?’ But Jesus, being aware that his disciples were complaining about it, said to them, ‘Does this offend you? Then what if you were to see the Son of Man ascending to where he was before? It is the spirit that gives life; the flesh is useless. The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life. But among you there are some who do not believe...’ Because of this many of his disciples turned back and no longer went about with him.” (John 6:60-65)

mathetes = disciple =

While large crowds followed Jesus, they were only _____ seekers and not _____ seekers. And so, when Jesus demanded that they acknowledge their spiritual _____, confess their sin, and commit themselves to Him as the only source of _____; when He required more than they were willing to give; they were _____ and chose to turn their backs on Him.

Those who resist or reject Jesus’ teaching fail the test of _____ discipleship.

“If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples...” (John 8:31)

Continued _____ to the words of Jesus always make true disciples.

#3. The _____.

““Do you also wish to go away?’ Simon Peter answered him, ‘Lord, to whom can we go? You have the words of eternal life. We have come to believe and know that you are the Holy One of God.’” (John 6:67-69)

Jesus uses the _____ of the false disciples to contrast the _____ of the 12.

While the crowd was only willing to accept Jesus as a kind of second _____ whom they hoped would supply for their physical needs, the 12 saw Him for who He _____ was.

2 MARKS OF TRUE DISCIPLESHIP

- _____ (we have believed)–which marks their spiritual _____.

- _____ (to whom shall we go?)–which marks their _____.

Unlike the false disciples who made a final decision to _____ Jesus, the 12 had made a permanent _____ to follow Him. In this way, John contrasts the sharp difference between the _____ and the _____.



Jesus is making a direct claim to be God _____. He’s saying that He alone is the _____ of everlasting life; and He alone can _____.

When it comes to feeding on Jesus all we need is _____.

Every Sunday we’re invited to come to the table and receive _____ for yesterday, _____ for today, and _____ for tomorrow. However, our experience of communion with God needs to be more than just a _____ thing. Feeding on the Bread of Life involves spending time with Jesus _____.

The real Jesus isn’t always easy to _____ and His _____ aren’t always easy to take. However, whenever an individual encounters Jesus, a _____ has to be made.

**Jesus is offering us the free gift of salvation today.
The Bread of Life is available for the taking.**

What are you going to do about Him? How will you respond ?

Notes: