

# The Bread of Life

19<sup>th</sup> Nov 2006 – The King's Centre – Peter Thompson

1. Introduction - John 6:25-69
2. "So why did the disciples turn away from this amazing offer of eternal life?"
  - a. If we don't struggle with the passage, have we really understood?
  - b. First problem – Jesus tell them they've asked the wrong question
  - c. Do we demand the Jesus answers the questions we set?

## ----- PROVISION -----

3. "What the disciples are looking for is what they got in the Old Testament – provision. We see God's provision right at the start with his provision to Abraham of a son and his promise to his descendants"
  - a. Gen 22:15-18 – God's starts his covenant and his provision
4. "But then we see the cycle of decay – where the nation of Israel was faithful to God, then fell away, then way faithful again."
  - a. Illustration - God provides the promised land but all the Israelites could was complain - Num 14:1-5
  - b. Story of God healing my back at New Wine

## ----- CONTROL -----

5. "The problem with provision is that is actually about control – the Israelites didn't really like all that they were so dependent on God in the wilderness. This all started in the Garden of Eden with the Tree of Knowledge"
  - a. Knowledge of good and evil was actually about control, the desire to choose between good and evil, rather God make the decisions for Adam and Eve.
  - b. But the consequences were:
  - c. Death (Gen 3:19)
  - d. Separation (Gen 3:10)
  - e. Conflict (Gen 3:17-18)
6. "And Jesus challenges the issue of control in this passage"
  - a. Read v41-45 - Eternal life remains the prerogative of the Father
  - b. Read v28-30 – The listeners think belief is a response, a validation of Jesus work or teaching, but Jesus is requiring them to take a pro-active step of faith when the father draw them.
7. "We often sell Christ to cheaply - it costs – we have to give back control!"
  - a. CS Lewis interviewed by American Christian journalist – he would not say that he 'made the decision', rather he described it: 'His [Gods] compulsion is our liberation'
8. "So if God is so sovereign, what should be our response?"
  - a. Armenian or Calvinist – no-one is saved without the Father
  - b. 1. Thank you Father, and 2. Please save my friends
9. "We often see our job as to win souls but it's interesting to see how Jesus described his role in in v38"
  - a. Read v38-39 – The Father acquires - Jesus retains

----- PRESENCE -----

10. "Jesus is offering presence, but the listeners wanted something to take away"
  - a. Sketch about man asking Jesus for bread but Jesus not letting go of his hand
11. "Some OT figures Abraham, Moses, the prophets and other key figures experienced the presence of God. That presence becomes available to all through the Holy Spirit In the new covenant (v35-36)"
  - a. Jesus describes this in a similar passage when talking with the woman at the well (John 4:13)

----- COVENANT -----

12. "Provision + Presence = New Covenant, and covenant require sacrifice and blood – Jesus doesn't shy away from this, in fact I don't think the listeners response in v52 is too unreasonable!"
  - a. Read v52-56 - Sounds gruesome!
  - b. Just spiritual? – unfortunately the greek word very physical and could also be translated as 'munch' or 'chew'
13. "Thankfully Jesus demonstrates what he means in the last supper."
  - a. Read: 1 Cor 23b-26 – The bread and wine are used as sacraments to allow al Christ's follows to partake in his sufferings
  - b. A real, substantial transaction is needed – us in him, him in us

----- RESTORATION -----

14. "Us in him, and him in us – it's what we had in the Garden of Eden before the fall. Christ's work in the new covenant restores that which was lost in the Garden of Eden"
  - a. Some we get now, some when there is a new heaven and earth
  - b. It is the principle of the Kingdom which Christ proclaimed – 'now and not yet'
  - c. Restores eternal life
  - d. Restores relationship with God
  - e. Restores harmony with people and the planet
15. "God is 100% faithful to his covenant with us, but how much do we operate in that covenant?"
  - a. How much time during an average week do we operate as though we are in covenant with Christ?
  - b. Do we just operate in covenant when we 'feel spiritual?'
16. "Our joy should be that Father is always draw us to him, so let's increase our covenant time with Christ"