**John 6**

Introduction

I. God made us as hungry beings

A. He made us physically hungry beings

B. He made us spiritually hungry beings (hungry for love, significance, security)

1. He created so that he could be the satisfaction of our deepest hungers/cravings

2. Humanity has tried to fill its deepest hungers with various things besides God (achievement, wealth, human relationships, beauty, etc.) with disastrous consequences.

II. Notice the tension in this passage

A. On the one hand, Jesus is calling people to himself

“I am the bread of life, come to me, believe in me, feed on me”

B. On the other hand, Jesus is pushing people away

1. He is intentionally making it really hard for people to keep following him. He intentionally says confusing and offensive things

“You’re just looking for me because you want more bread”

“You’ve got to eat my flesh and drink my blood”

“None of you can come to me unless my father draws you”

2. Notice the progression in the people’s offense and confusion

see v. 14-15, 41, 52, 60-61, 66

C. His purpose is to drive the people to a fundamental question: “Why are you here? Why are you interested in me?”

The Passage

I. Jesus as the bread of life (v. 25-51)

A. v. 26-27: Jesus confronts the people because they simply want more food to fill their bellies, but they’ve failed to see how the miracle of bread was a Sign that points to Jesus as savior of their deepest issues.

B. v. 28-29: The only work that God requires of his people is simply to believe in the one he has sent. This is a very bold and audacious claim.

C. v. 30-31: The crowds want proof of Jesus’ authority to say such things

1. They remember that Moses gave bread from heaven for 40 years (manna)

2. Jesus only took earthly bread and multiplied it one time

D. v. 32-33: Jesus corrects their understanding and points to God’s true manna

1. It was not Moses but God who gave the bread. And not only did he give it in the past; he is giving it right now

2. Jesus himself is the true manna—the true gift of God from heaven

E. v. 35

1. Jesus himself is the true manna

2. Jesus is the true bread that can satisfy for all eternity

F. v. 47-51

1. Jesus can bring life, sustenance, and satisfaction not just for a day but for all eternity

G. The Key Issue Jesus is confronting the crowds on

1. “You’re just thinking about your felt needs in the here and now, but I’ve come to deal with your deepest spiritual needs for all eternity”

2. “I don’t just want to give you the bread that you want; I want to be the bread you need.”

II. The type of faith Jesus is calling for (v. 52-56)

A. Jesus is obviously speaking metaphorically

1. His flesh and blood = his sacrifice on the cross where his flesh is broken and his blood is shed for our forgiveness

2. Eating and drinking = believing in him, putting our faith in his sacrifice

B. Why does Jesus speak this way? Why not just say it without the metaphor?

1. Jesus is calling us to a certain kind of faith

a. Not just an intellectual assent to ideas

b. Rather a faith that is like eating. He’s calling us to cherish the truth, chew on it, take it in to our hearts and lives, live by it daily

2. Jesus’ faith in his Father is the model for our faith

a. Jesus faith in God was one that relished God, fed on God, depended on God moment by moment

b. That’s what he’s calling us to

III. The negative response of the crowds and Jesus’ perspective on that

A. The negative response (v. 60-61, 64)

B. Jesus’ perspective on this (v. 65, 43-45)

1. He recognizes that a work of God must take place in a person’s life if they are to come to true faith in Jesus

2. Anyone can enjoy Jesus’ miracles

3. But to trust Jesus as savior (who reveals the ugliness and hopelessness of our sin) and as king (who is in charge of our lives) requires an act of God

Conclusion

I. Are you looking to Jesus to just give you the bread you crave in the here and now, or are you looking to Jesus to be the bread you need for all eternity?

Oftentimes, we’d rather just have a blesser than a savior. We’d like someone who exists simply to help us in our daily lives and solve our problems

II. The marriage analogy

A. Jesus comes to us as a bridegroom, saying “I don’t just want you to want me for what I can give you; I want you to want me for me. ‘For better or for worse.’”

B. He is willing to offend us to get at what’s in our hearts

1. His truth in Scripture may offend or confuse us

2. He may withdraw his blessings and take us through challenges in ways that may confuse and offend us

3. Are we willing to let Jesus offend us and still keep coming to him as our bread of life?

III. What is your bread of life?

A. Where are you going for the fulfillment of your hungers?

Career, possessions, romance, children, etc.

B. Only Jesus can truly satisfy for all eternity

**Discussion Questions**

1. On Sunday we talked about the fact that we are hungry beings and that God desires to be the satisfaction of our hungers, but we often fill ourselves with other things to satisfy our hungers. As you consider your life these days, where do you find yourself going to satisfy your hungers and cravings?

2. Consider the issue Jesus was raising in v. 26 about the crowds coming to him because they simply want more food. Do you find yourself often coming to Jesus not for who he is but for what he can give you in the moment? If so, is that a problem in your mind? How does that dynamic play out in your own life?

3. It was suggested on Sunday that Jesus was intentionally offending/provoking the crowds to get at some key issues. Think of a time in your life when it seemed as though Jesus was offending you (maybe you encountered a truth in Scripture that was offensive/confusing or you went through an experience that was offensive/confusing). How did you respond to that offense, and how did that impact your relationship with Jesus?

4. Consider Jesus’ statement in v. 44 and v. 65: “No one can come to me unless the father who sent me draws him.” What specifically do you think he means by that, and what are the implications of that statement?

5. In v. 35 Jesus famously says, “I am the bread of life. He who comes to me will never go hungry, and he who believes in me will never be thirsty.” How would you respond to someone who makes the following statement: “I’ve been a Christian for years. I’ve believed in Jesus for many years, and his statement isn’t true. I still feel spiritually hungry. I still have these deep longings in my heart that feel unfulfilled. It doesn’t work. Am I missing something?”