

Series – What has John seen?

9. The Bread of Life – John 6: 25-40

Our passage this week includes the first of the famous 'I am' sayings found in John's gospel, each of the sayings encapsulate a faith fundamental – so the focus is Jesus as nourishment, real eternal nourishment. This passage, this conversation, carries on from, and thus relates directly to, the account of 'the feeding of the five thousand' (John 6: 1-15), and that account ends with Jesus' concern that the people will make him king by force as they could not see beyond the obvious, the provider of a miraculous free lunch.



Read John 6: 25-40

1. 'I am the bread of life'. Jesus challenges the people, what or who comprises this bread, and invites them to consider who he is from the evidence provided.

1a. What is the relevance to, or relationship between, the feeding of the five thousand and the provision of manna in the desert (Exodus 16)?

1b. How would you detail the nourishment you receive from 'the Bread of Life'? What sort of 'life' it is without this nourishment?

1c. What's wrong, when in need, with expecting bread on demand?

1d. Jesus says to the people that now that he is here something has changed in what God requires of you, unlike the time of the Israelites wandering in the desert, when to do what God required was to comply with the commandments/law. What has changed? Is this in fact a change or another thing to contemplate/consider about the commandments today?

2. To paraphrase verse 27, your endeavours should be directed, not to short term gain or benefit, but work for long term and lasting benefit.

2a. How can we today focus our endeavours on long term/eternal objectives? What compromises might need to be made?

2b. If we do this, are we in or out 'of line' with society in general? How do we remain an accepted and valuable member of the community if we choose not copy or surrender to the pressures from advertising/media/government to work for short term fixes and benefits?

2c. What compromises, if any, should the church make to follow this teaching? How do you see this working?

Prayer. Verse 34 remains a relevant prayer always: 'Lord, from now on give us this bread'.