

Sermon Series: Following Jesus Through His “I AM” Statements

Sermon Topic: “I AM the Bread of Life”, by Pr Wendy Chiang

Sermon Text: John 6:25-59

- The opening of Chapter 6 starts with the miracle of Jesus feeding the 5000. The people believed He was the prophet who was to come into the world, and wanted to make Him their political king. Jesus, knowing this, withdrew from them (John 6:14-15)
  - Following Jesus may mean turning down higher levels of authority even when they are offered, or demanded of us.
- In this passage, Jesus exposes their motivation for seeking Him- because He met their physical needs. Jesus emphasised there are 2 kinds of food: food for the body and food for the inner life, the latter of which is essential. Jesus told them to seek spiritual nourishment that comes from Him.
  - **Discuss: What kind of bread are you working for in your life? Are you satisfied?**
- However, the people asked for a 2<sup>nd</sup> miracle by quoting the example of Moses: the miraculous provision of manna their forefathers experienced in the desert. They needed to see before they can believe. 1 Thess 2:9 says that even Satan can perform false signs and wonders. We must be careful.
  - **Discuss: In what ways are miraculous signs and wonders important or not important to your faith in Christ?**
- Jesus sought to deepen their understanding- It was God who provided the manna, not Moses. And in the present, God gives true bread in the person of Jesus Christ. Someone more powerful than Moses is here.
- Jesus repeats 7 times in this passage that He came from heaven, asserting that He is God. He came to give fullness of life.
  - **Discuss: What does fullness of life looks like to you? What do you think the fullness of life that Christ promises look like? Share your thoughts.**
- Jesus makes it clear He is the source of a fulfilling life. His Word (the Bread of Life) can fulfill us despite disruption, disappointment and devastation, here and now.

- However, Jesus said that not all who have seen Him will participate in what He offers. While the offer of this eternal life is a gift from God, accepting it requires 2 human actions: coming and believing. Coming to God involves listening and learning from the Father. Those whom God draws will listen to Him.
  - **Discuss: What is a question or a current issue that you are facing? How has God been addressing it? What did you hear?**
- The Jews argued over His words. They took offence at His analogy of eating His flesh and drinking His blood. We have the benefit of hindsight in understanding His figurative language, which is an illustration that points to a greater truth – Jesus gives life when we receive Him into our inner being, like physical food.
- The Jews responded with resistance and hardness. They couldn't accept what they were hearing. This was the reason they walked away (ref John 6: 60-66)
- We are prevented from hearing Jesus' divine words when we resist/dispute Him (a result of listening to our human wisdom and logic). When you find it difficult to understand the words of Jesus during your time with Him, don't dismiss Him. Ask Him humbly- show me what you have to teach me.
- In this season, many things are not under our control. We do not know what will happen tomorrow.
  - In times like these, it is needful to pause and reflect- is Jesus' word enough for me? Does He really satisfy?
- We will never be permanently satisfied if we run after external things to satisfy us. Our inner life must also be satisfied. There is something wonderful when we hear Him – His words are life. Our spirit must be fed with His truth to be satisfied.
- Despite restrictions to physical gathering as a church, Jesus said: I am the bread of life. He comes to me will never go hungry, and he who believes in me will never be thirsty. God will teach us through His Word. It calls out to us.
  - **Discuss: How do you eat this bread? What steps can you take to eat more of Jesus' bread? How can your cell group help you succeed?**