

Message Series: **'Who Do You Say I Am?'**
Message Title: **'Who Feeds Your Hungry Heart?'**
Scripture Source: **John 6**
Date: Sunday, April 3, 2016
Teacher: John Garner

Everybody's Got a Hungry Heart

What are you hungry for? Happiness. Purpose. Peace of mind. Love. Comfort. God. Forgiveness. A fresh start. Healthy relationships. Life has a way of bringing out different hunger pangs. Beyond the physical ones. Where do you turn to find nourishment or satisfaction for your internal hunger pangs?

The sources for soul nourishment are as varied as the pangs felt in the deep places of our hearts and minds. Hunger pangs demand our attention and action. Illustrate: the longing for love can lead people to look for love in 'all the wrong places.' We seek to satisfy with 'stuff', experiences, relationships and the list goes on and on, yet true satisfaction and soul health eludes many.

Soul Nourishment Offered: John 6:35-51

This amazing offer comes on the heels of a dramatic miracle of feeding thousands of people with a seemingly paltry amount of food. Yet, Jesus manifested his power in a way that met genuine physical needs...and the crowds come clamouring for more...not more of Jesus, but of what he provides for them. John 6:26 He is simply a means to an end.

Jesus startles them with his bold declaration. He claims to be and offers the true bread from heaven that can satisfy the deepest and most pressing matters of the soul...your soul included. John 6:33,35,51. Our greatest need is for forgiveness of sins so that we can be reconciled to God and enjoy a nourishing and indestructible relationship with Him that begins on earth and extends throughout eternity.

How is Soul Health Experienced?

Listen to Jesus instructive words. John 6:35

"The person who aligns with me hungers no more and thirsts no more, ever." Compare Psalm 34:8

"Taste and see that the LORD is good; blessed is the man who takes refuge in him."

We need to understand the source of a meaningful and lasting life. Jesus explicitly states in terms that deeply offend many people, that faith or reliance on his sacrificial death and shed blood for the forgiveness of sins is at the heart of his ability to feed the hungry heart. John 6:53-56

This hard and unflinchingly direct declaration of Jesus cut against the streak of self-centeredness that says, 'I don't need God's sacrifice, I can save myself through my good works and noble intentions.' Jesus says, 'No. You need what only I can provide for your sin-sick soul, my forgiveness and grace, freely offered to all. Trust me and follow me.'

What Will You Do?

When many people stopped following Jesus because of his searching and hard words, he turned to His closest followers and asked a probing and direct question. John 6:66-69 "Do you also want to leave?"

And his question echoes through the passage of time and finds a place among us today. Will we turn away from Jesus because of the terms he lays down...or will we believe and follow Jesus?

Share the Bread

We are called to share in word and deed the truth of Jesus with others. That our lives would be marked by faith, hope, and love and create a deep interest in the souls of others...that conversations would happen and the gracious offer of Jesus would be passed on...one life at a time.