



Grain

“Life has taught us that love does not consist in gazing at each other but in looking outward together in the same direction.” - Antoine de Saint-Exupery
Submitted by Reverend Sue Schneider

Field

56 Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood abide in me, and I in them. 60 When many of his disciples heard it, they said, "This teaching is difficult; who can accept it?" 64 But among you there are some who do not believe." For Jesus knew from the first who were the ones that did not believe, and who was the one that would betray him. 65 And he said, "For this reason I have told you that no one can come to me unless it is granted by the Father." 66 Because of this many of his disciples turned back and no longer went about with him. 67 So Jesus asked the twelve, "Do you also wish to go away?" 68 Simon Peter answered him, "Lord, to whom can we go? You have the words of eternal life. 69 We have come to believe and know that you are the Holy One of God." John 6:56, 60 & 64-69

Thoughts

Our bread lessons from St. John began with Jesus physically ensuring people had enough to eat during the feeding of the 5,000. We think better when we're fed and not worried about how to get our next meal. As a matter of fact, several years ago, a psychologist, Eldar Shafir of Princeton University and his colleagues did a study with sugar-cane farmers in southern India that proved just that.

Shaifir and the other researchers visited 464 farmers both before and after harvest. “The farmers scored significantly lower on the tests before the harvest, when money was tight, suggesting that their worries made it harder to think clearly. In fact, worrying about money impaired the farmers’ thinking almost as much as going without sleep for a full night, and was the equivalent of a 13-point drop in IQ.” Shafir said, “The most likely explanation for the results is that people have a limited amount of ‘mental bandwidth’, and financial worries leave less available for other cognitive tasks.”

Jesus provided bread as physical food and he offered himself as the bread of life. Anyone could be helped in the moment and then forget about Jesus or could stay (abide) in Christ.

When Jesus fed the 5,000, the people wanted to turn him into a king. Later, when Jesus talked about his followers abiding in him, many fled. Different audiences? Or, was he just getting too close to something? Were some who had been fed or were never hungry clinging to a narrow world of scarcity? Abiding in Jesus broadens our bandwidth and makes us want to help our neighbors have access to abundance. Peter recognized the widening of his own vision as being everything. He marveled out loud about that. “Lord, to whom shall we go?” Happy Monday!

Prayer

Highly recommended.

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Many blessings upon you,

Pastor Cindy