

Lent4.John6.1.15

Hungry people to be satisfied. What does it take? How are you filled, satisfied? What does it take? Like the people in the wilderness, we often fail to recognize how weak we are, that our every breath comes from God; that we are easily killed. We wander about into dangerous situations, while thinking we have it all under control. We are brought low by an arrogance that calls itself “common sense,” thinking we’re actually superior to others, and most people, unlike ourselves, are stupid. We suffer from incredible false comfort and security. We are influenced by the worse advice in the history of the world, those are: *live your dreams, live your truth, follow your heart, be yourself, find yourself, you be you, listen to your heart.*

Every one of the disciples who said it couldn’t be done had to swallow their pride and pick up leftovers. In spite of them, us. Jesus is driven by compassion, He will redeem them, us from their sins, be killed as a sacrifice, to feed His people today and for eternity.

Then, now, we all live by the grace of God. Especially in our American spirit, you may not like it and neither do I; but we all live by the grace of God. We aren’t the smart or the independent or the self-sufficient. We are the needy, the hungry, the lost, the lonely, the sinners and God loves us more than we deserve, more than could ever dare to hope for. And His love always moves Him to act in you life. He has come for the needy, the hungry, the lost, the lonely, the hurting, the sinner. He does NOT come because we might need His help; He comes because without Him we are lost in the wilderness to the devil; hungry and hurting, without hope apart from Him. It’s the hardest thing to admit and the best thing so confess. We have every breathe, every meal, live by the grace of God or we perish.

There is an amazing connection in today’s readings. God provides food. It was by eating, Adam and Eve that sin entered the world, by eating that Jesus shows who He is, what He has come to do, by eating that we abide in Christ and He is us.

For it is in eating that we live, as true spiritually as physically. Meals through the Scriptures. In Exodus God calls manna His glory, the miracle we hear today, it was near the Passover which is a huge pointer, as perhaps 15,000 fed, Manna, Passovers, feedings, all point

to fulfillment in the flesh of Jesus –eating the Bread of life that comes down from above, the curse of Eden’s eating is undone.

How are you filled and satisfied in life? Rightly learn to see yourselves in the wilderness, so often unaware of your own needs, foolishly pay attention more to your material and physical needs and less concerned over spiritual matters. You forget how fragile you are, unable to make it on your own. How truly helpless, desperate, vulnerable, hopeless you are. And money can’t help or stuff from Amazon or anything the world has to offer, even can make things worse for you. You know things are not right out there or in you.

Yearn for what God gives, feed on His Word, feed on the Word made flesh; without it we starve, in desperate need of His grace. There is nowhere else to turn or you perish.

The wilderness is meant to drive us into the arms of our Savior. Hunger meant to awaken the desire for a bread that you eat and are filled, satisfied. That is how it was then. That is how it is today. God uses your hurts and pains and sorrows and disappointments to bring you to Him. God uses your hunger, your desires to bring you to Him. The Spirit is at work in the great needs of your lives to prepare you for Him who fills those needs.

We want the hunger to go away; Jesus keeps feeding us, wants to fill us so we will be always full. We want the wilderness to go away; Jesus sets His table right in the midst of the wilderness. We want to be shown how to provide for ourselves; Jesus wants us to learn to depend upon Him and what He provides according to His grace, His daily care.

This miracle, foreshadows the Supper. Feeding -a constant theme in Scripture from Genesis to Revelation. It’s all over. How God works and still today, the miracle found on this altar. Our goal is not to figure out His miracles of how He feeds thousands but to come in faith, rejoicing in what He provides. Here is the miracle Bread of heaven, multiplied over and over again as sinners come to eat and yet it is never used up. God’s grace is not in short supply. Always more forgiveness. This meal is what Jesus says it is and does what Jesus says it does and you need that in your life as much as anything. There’s always more.

Repent of yourself. You cannot take care of you in this wilderness. And what does it take for you to be satisfied? Live by grace. Be filled, satisfied in what He gives you now and for eternity.