

Dealing With Disappointment

- The 6th chapter of John begins with Jesus feeding the 5,000.
- The crowds are excited, intense and growing.
- He sensed the crowd wanted to make Him King by force.
- After this incident, He sends His disciples across the lake and retires to a solitary place.
- A fierce storm comes up and these experienced seamen are concerned for their safety.
- “Hearing” their cry for help, Jesus walks out on the water to rescue them.
- On His return the huge crowds are again ecstatic and hang on His every word.
- He then begins to teach them saying things like;
 - “I am the bread of life” & “I came down from heaven”.
- But these statements are confusing and inconsistent with the expectations of the crowds.
- Hey!...they say.
 - We know this guy.
 - He's the carpenter.
 - We know his family.
 - He came down from heaven??? - Really??? - Can that be true???
- He continues speaking to them.
 - “I am the living bread & Anyone that eats this bread will live forever”.
- His followers become frustrated.
 - What is He saying?
 - What does it mean?,
 - This is too hard they say,
 - Who can accept it?
- Many are disappointed, turn back and no longer follow Him.

- ***What is it that Isaiah said in chapter 55?***
 - ***For my ways are not your ways and my thoughts are not your thoughts.***

- At this point, Jesus turns to His disciples and ask**Do you want to leave too?**
 - To whom shall we go? Peter replies.
 - You alone have the words of life!
 - We know you are the holy one of God!

- Didn't we feel led to ask God to double our congregation in the 1st year of our new pastor?
 - Were we not led by the Spirit of God when we made that request?
 - Didn't we pray and speak the word of God in faith?
 - Were not two or three or more of us in agreement?
 - Did we not ask these things in the mighty name of Jesus?

- ***For my ways are not your ways and my thoughts are not your thoughts.***

- Did we not follow the scripture correctly by bringing the sick to the elders of the church to be anointed with oil and prayed for according to the gospel of James?
 - Didn't we pray in faith, expecting a complete healing?
 - Doesn't the word say by His stripes we were healed? (past tense)
 - Didn't the peace of God settle about our hearts and minds in Christ Jesus?
 - Doesn't it still reside in our hearts to this day?
- So why then, did the result of the biopsy come back as malignant?
- ***For my ways are not your ways and my thoughts are not your thoughts.***
- What do we do when our understanding of the Word is not met and disappointment comes knocking on our door?
 - To whom shall we go?.....You alone have the words of eternal life!
 - Yea though I walk thru the valley, I will fear no evil for you are with me.
 - Never, never, never will I leave you and never will I forsake you!
- The apostle Paul desperately wanted to continue his travels preaching the gospel but was confined to a prison cell.
 - A seemingly unjust and untimely termination of his ministry.
 - He is now confined to expressing his gospel in the form of letters.
 - However those letters are still preaching his gospel some 2,000 years later.
- ***For my ways are not your ways and my thoughts are not your thoughts.***
- ***My knowledge of the word and ways of our God is less than complete.....However***
 - ***I believe with all my heart that He knows my thoughts and the intent of my heart.***
 - ***That He is always acting in my best interest.***
 - ***And that He orchestrates the affairs of our lives for His purposes.***
- ***I don't know what tomorrow holds.***
- ***But I do know who holds tomorrow and I'm convinced He holds my hand.***
- ***I know He will never leave me or forsake me and is an ever present help.***
- ***He has promised to walk with me thru the valleys of this life &***
- ***My experience with Him over more than half a century confirms His word.***
- ***We may not fully understand the answers to our prayers.***
- ***But we know without a shadow of a doubt that our God is faithful and will see us thru!***