

Wednesday Word

John 6:35 “Jesus said to them, “I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in me shall never thirst.”

When I was growing up my dad used to say of the church: “If the doors are open, we are there.” I am sure many of you who were raised in God’s House can probably relate to the amount of time you spent at your local family church. I have been very blessed in my life to have been very steady when it comes to church attendance. I consider this a blessing because it has kept my faith very steady.

I had coffee with an old friend this past week who grew up in the same church I did. As we reminisced of those days, I discovered his situation was quite different. He is a very gifted man with computer engineering and spent 3 years working in the inner city of Los Angeles in the early 2000’s. Needless to say he had much experience to offer any church he would attend.

But he found himself dissociated with the local church due to the emphasis put on the tradition and expression of the church instead of the Word of God. He explained that he found this was true in many of the denominations that he explored. He felt that the traditions exhausted him and left him emotionally bankrupt. He wrestled with this for many years.

The good news is he has since joined a great local church in the area where discipleship is at the forefront and solid biblical teaching is priority and found great spiritual healing.

This got me thinking about my own church experience and journey. How many times have I worked so hard to appease an organizational practice or expression and completely missed the God who both those entities are supposed to point to? I wonder if anyone else has felt the same.

As we explore the concept of **RESTORING OUR FOUNDATIONS**, I feel it is so important to create a “spiritual steadiness” that allows all we do in our church and all we do in our walk with Jesus to reflect him and him alone. When we begin to allow the work of our faith to be the leading component, we will find spiritual exhaustion when that “work” is complete.

Our relationship with Jesus should be new every morning. He is the very bread of life that we should go to each minute, hour, and day for sustainment. Our fellowship with God, regardless of how it is expressed, should allow rivers of living water to pour from our souls into the world around us. Tired and dead religion will do nothing but deter people away from the good news of Jesus and the invitation into His abundant Life.

Let's consider these thoughts as we continue our Lent Journey!

I love you and God Loves You!

Pastor Eric