

Sermon Series: *Conspiracies, Adversaries, & Unbelief*

Trinity Core Value: We pursue spiritual growth and life change together in community

LOOKING BACK

What subjects in school were you most confused by? How did that confusion make you feel towards yourself, your teachers, or other classmates?

When I was in high school, I struggled with math and the confusion made me doubt myself and caused me to have a poor image of who I was. It also led to anger and resentment towards the teacher and others who couldn't or wouldn't be willing to help. Confusion often illicit a variety of responses like these and as we see in this passage, the confusion that Jesus creates will be handled differently by different groups of people.

How do you tend to respond when someone says something that is hard to believe or understand?

Whenever we hear something hard to believe or understand we can respond in different ways:

- Anger
- More confusion
- Doubt
- Seek sources to understand...thank you Google
- Ask questions

In this passage, rather than going to Jesus and asking Him clarifying questions, the Jewish leaders grumbled and argued, and walked away without the Bread of Life and as a result, from eternal life

LEARN FROM GOD'S WORD

What other sayings of Jesus have people been confused about in John's gospel?

- John 2:20-22-The Jewish leaders were confused about Jesus' statement about the temple representing His body that would be torn down and raised up 3 days later
- John 3:3-8-Nicodemus was confused by Jesus' teaching on being born again by the Holy Spirit
- John 4:13-15-The women at the well were confused by Jesus' statement regarding living water
- John 4:32-34-The disciples were confused by Jesus' words on His ministry and completing His mission being His food/sustenance

How does Ephesians 2:1-2 describe our spiritual state before our trusting in Jesus as Savior? How does it describe our spiritual state after (Ephesians 2:5)?

Before trusting in Jesus, we were spiritually dead in our sins and trespasses, but through God's mercy, we have been raised up to life through Jesus. This truth has been important to our time in John's gospel as we see that the Spirit is the one that makes people alive to respond to spiritual stimuli. We can't get mad or take credit when people don't understand or when they do. It's simply the work of the Lord and He gets the praise!

Read and reflect on Paul's words from 1 Corinthians 2:14. What role does he say the Holy Spirit plays in our ability to understand spiritual truth?

Apart from the Holy Spirit dwelling in us, we would not be able to understand and comprehend spiritual truth. Praise God for His Holy Spirit that illuminates our hearts and minds to know God through His truth

At least seven times in this passage it says Jesus "*comes down from Heaven.*" What does this reveal about Jesus' identity? What does it reveal about His authority? In light of Jesus' identity and authority, what should our response be to His words?

This statement reveals Jesus' divine origin. He's not merely a good teacher, prophet, or miracle maker, but He's God in the flesh who has come down from Heaven to His people to die for their sins. This means that Jesus has absolute authority and validity when He speaks and therefore He is to be believed, trusted, and obeyed

What does Jesus use eating and drinking as a metaphor of in John 6? See John 6:35; 36, 40, 47.

Throughout this chapter, Jesus uses eating and drinking as a metaphor of partaking of Him through believing and trusting in Him. As we are believing in Jesus for who He is, we are connected to Him and sustained by Him

Recall all the promises Jesus associated with believing in Him as the Bread of Life:

- John 6:33-He gives **life** to the world
- John 6:35-He who comes to Jesus will never go hungry; they will have their spiritual hunger satisfied
- John 6:50-51-For those who "eat" of Jesus, they will never die
- John 6:58-For those who feed on Jesus, they will live forever

What is the connection to Jesus as the Bread of Life and eternal life?

The only source of eternal life is Jesus. If someone is seeking eternal life, then they need to come to Jesus to meet that need. Religion, rules, regulations won't do, but only by trusting in Jesus

Reread John 6:51 and answer: who is invited to come and eat of the Bread of Life? **ANYONE!** How glorious that the Father invites any and all who are hungry to come to the table and eat of the living bread of life to find salvation.

DISCUSS TOGETHER

John 6 contains so many wonderful and precious truths and promises. Take a look back over the chapter and share which truths or promises are a source of encouragement to you so far.

Leaders, this is a great opportunity to exhort and encourage one another through the powerful truths contained in John 6. Hopefully there will be some great sharing and connection to how these truths are ministering to people in your group.

Are there any hard sayings in Scripture you've heard or read that you've wrestled with? How have you sought clarity or answers with those hard sayings?

As we see in our passage this week, Jesus says some pretty hard things, things that were meant to distinguish between those who really wanted to hear how to find eternal life verses those who were simply seeking another meal or miracle from Jesus. This is a great opportunity to share how even as Christians, we wrestle with some of the difficult things of Scripture and that's okay. Please do not feel the need or seek to offer answers if someone says they are still wrestling with a passage, but maybe this will provide an opportunity to meet with them one-on-one. The goal here is dialogue and to show others, "you're not alone," and we need to keep going to the Source

How do you seek to be spiritually nourished by Jesus on a daily basis?

Feeding on Jesus sounds kind of strange and mystical but it's really not. We feed on Him by trusting in Him and going to Him daily through prayer, reading His word, fellowship with other believers (aka the body of Christ), praising Him, etc.

Take a moment to evaluate: What other types of "bread" compete with Jesus being your source and sustenance for life?

Let's be real with each other, it's easy to find nourishment and fulfillment in other sources of "bread" the world offers. For some it may be a job or position in the company, others it may be possessions or toys, education, ministry, or relationships with others. In and of themselves, these things are not bad things, but as Christians, we can make these things more important and as a result, spiritually starve ourselves. As Christians, we need to daily keep coming to the bread of life and partaking of Him to meet our spiritual hunger

How did the Father draw you to Jesus? Was it through people, circumstances, or both?

Talking with a gentleman this week, I was once again amazed and thankful how the Lord draws people to His Son Jesus. No one testimony or salvation story is the same and so we can't limit God to working only one way, but recognize, appreciate, and celebrate that the Father is working behind the scenes in ways we don't even realize. This question is meant to reveal the mystery and wonder in

salvation but to encourage us as the people of Trinity to be looking and expectant when it comes to the Father's working salvation in the lives of people of our relational world

What practical lesson(s) can we learn about *our role* in spreading the gospel from 1 Corinthians 3:6-7? Why is it freeing to know that the Lord is the One who is responsible for the results when it comes to sharing the good news with people in our relational world?

While it is true the Father is the One that draws people to the Son, it is equally true we get to play a role by planting and watering the gospel seed in people's lives. It's not an "either/or," issue but a "both/and." As the people of Trinity, we aim to be seed sowers and seed waterers, and leave the results up to God. Knowing the Lord is ultimately the One responsible for the growth frees us up to simply love and share with people without thinking the results are up to us.

PRAY TOGETHER

- The Lord to bring more servants to help serve with the various ministries in need
- Our students going to camp in June
- Our church to have a relentless desire and obedience to share with those in our relational world on how they can find and partake of the Bread of Life

RESOURCES

In Job 23:12, we see the word of God being valued as a source of life and sustenance. If you're looking for a way to sustain your soul with the word of God, try the Essential 100 Bible Reading Plan. <https://www.bible.com/reading-plans/25-the-essential-100>