

Mount Olive Wednesday Night Bible Study and Prayer Meeting

November 4, 2020

John 6: 55 - 60

55 For my flesh is meat indeed, and my blood is drink indeed. 56 He that eateth my flesh, and drinketh my blood, dwelleth in me, and I in him. 57 As the living Father hath sent me, and I live by the Father: so he that eateth me, even he shall live by me. 58 This is that bread which came down from heaven: not as your fathers did eat manna, and are dead: he that eateth of this bread shall live forever. 59 These things said he in the synagogue, as he taught in Capernaum. 60 Many therefore of his disciples, when they had heard this, said, This is an hard saying; who can hear it?

Pastor Tom began with the question:

What do you have to have to live? What are the essentials for life?

-Air

-Water

-Food

We learned that you can go a long time without food but you can only survive 3 days without water, depending on the conditions. Our physical bodies need nourishment from physical food and water.

Verse 55

“For my flesh is meat indeed, and my blood is drink indeed.”

*Here Jesus is talking in the spiritual sense. We have essentials to our spiritual life...spiritual food and drink.

*In the Catholic (and Lutheran) doctrine, the bread and juice once blessed and served at Communion actually turns into Jesus' Body and Blood. This is called **transubstantiation**. This is the mystery of Communion we talked about last week. Methodists believe that the bread and cup are symbols of the body and blood. In either case, without the Cross where Christ's body hung and where He bled we cannot have the essentials for Spiritual Life. We cannot be alive in Christ Jesus.

*Many people today might be considered Spiritual 'zombies' in that they are alive in their physical bodies but dead spiritually.

Pastor Tom related about a boy at church who was playing with a purple bear in Sunday School. It turns out that in a video game this purple bear character eats children and keeps their souls. Pastor Tom explained to the boy that only Jesus or Satan can have your soul. This was an example of the scary times we are living in, much like the times described in the book of Revelation.

Verse 56

“He that eateth my flesh, and drinketh my blood, dwelleth in me, and I in him.”

*This is a promise verse. Jesus is talking about spiritual food. If you believe in Him, then you have spiritual nourishment AND Jesus will be in you. Many of us have felt the presence or peace of God (the Spirit of God) within us during times of struggles, confusion or even calm times. That still, small voice speaks to us because we have been fed spiritually. The Holy Spirit may lead you to comforting verses in the Bible just when you need them.

Pastor Tom gave the example of his sister, Martha, who is dealing with her only child battling cancer. Psalm 30:5 mentions the joy that comes in the morning. This verse really spoke to Martha.

*Finally, in regards to the different interpretations of the body and blood of communion, do not get caught up in arguments about this. Just agree to disagree.

Verse 57

“As the living Father hath sent me, and I live by the Father: so he that eateth me, even he shall live by me.”

*This reminds us of the ‘Newsboys’ song, God’s Not Dead. God is alive, so if you are spiritually in Him, your spirit is alive as well.

Verse 58

“This is that bread which came down from heaven: not as your fathers did eat manna, and are dead: he that eateth of this bread shall live forever.”

*This is Jesus’ concluding argument for the Jewish leaders, summarizing what has been discussed/taught in all of Chapter 6 so far.

Verse 59 & 60

“These things said he in the synagogue, as he taught in Capernaum. 60 Many therefore of his disciples, when they had heard this, said, This is an hard saying; who can hear it?”

Pastor Tom read these last two verse to get us thinking for next week:

When something is too hard for us to grasp or understand, we just can't get it OR we just don't want to hear it.

*In regards to the church:

How has the church compromised at times in dealing with the 'hard stuff'?

How has it worked out for us when the church has tried to smooth out the rough/difficult ideas?

Go in peace, go in joy, go in love!

*May the Lord watch between me and thee,
While we are absent one from the other.*
