

Sermon Series: Life In His Name
Sermon Title: The Bread of Life
Text: John 6:1-59

Discussion Questions:

One of the most well-known “anthems” of the 1960’s is the Rolling Stones song, “(I Can’t Get No) Satisfaction.” It was written in 1965 by Keith Richards and Mick Jagger, and includes lyrics such as:

*When I'm drivin' in my car, and the man come on the radio
He's tellin' me more and more about some useless information
Supposed to fire my imagination – I can't get no satisfaction
'Cause I try and I try and I try and I try –I can't get no, I can't get no*

*When I'm watchin' my TV and a man comes on and tell me
How white my shirts can be
But, he can't be a man 'cause he doesn't smoke
The same cigarettes as me – I can't get no satisfaction
'Cause I try and I try and I try and I try –I can't get no, I can't get no*

As much as I dislike this song (sorry - not a fan of the Rolling Stones), I have to admit that the lyrics and message of this song strike a chord in the hearts and minds of millions. Each and every one of us are hard-wired with a deep need to find satisfaction in life.

Discuss as a group our need, as humans, to find satisfaction:

- What would you say is the greatest need inside each person?
- Create a list of the various appetites that God has “wired” into us?
- What are people spiritually hungry for?
- What are people spiritually thirsty for?
- To the point of the Rolling Stones song - what messages are we constantly receiving in our culture about how we can find satisfaction in life?

Examination:

- Read **John 6:1-15**.
 - According to verse 2, what is the bottom-line reason that Jesus had large crowds of people following Him? How do you think Jesus felt about this? How do you think the disciples felt about this?
 - The reference to Jesus going “up on a mountainside” in verse 3 might be indicating more than meets the eye. How might this action of going up on a mountainside compare with Moses going up on a mountain to hear from God back in Exodus 19 & 20?
 - Why do you think John includes the detail that the Passover was near (v. 4)?
 - It’s interesting that Jesus tests Philip by asking him where they might purchase bread for all the people (vv. 6-7). How often do you think Jesus tests us - and in what ways?
 - What do you make of Andrew mentioning this boy with SMALL portions of bread and fish (vv. 8-9)? Does it seem odd that Andrew would even think to share this?

- Do the math - if there are 5,000 men present, how big would you estimate the total crowd to be? Does it bother you that they didn't count the women & kids?
 - How important is it to offer thanks to God before eating a meal (v. 11)?
 - How do you imagine this breaking of the loaves and fish? Does it make sense for Jesus to break and distribute every piece to such a large crowd? Doesn't it make far more logistical sense that the disciples were the ones breaking and distributing? What do you think happened in their hearts when they would break a loaf apart - and more would appear right before their very eyes?
 - Without over-spiritualizing too much, can you see how this event pointed to exactly what would happen with the disciples, after Jesus went up into heaven? Twelve simple men, being tasked with distributing the message of life in Christ (the Gospel!) to the entire world! Do you think they were overwhelmed with the enormity of the job that Jesus had given them - or do you think they might have remembered how Jesus can take the small, and make it more than enough?
 - What do you suppose is the significance of including the detail that twelve baskets were filled with the leftovers (v. 13)?
 - What would be your guess as to why the crowds wanted to make Jesus "king by force" (v. 15)?
 - Verses 14 & 15 are a case of being right (Jesus was, indeed, the Prophet referred to by Moses, as well as being a king) - but being so very wrong (their motive for following). Can you think of other ways that people can be right about Jesus - but so very wrong?
- Read **John 6:25-59**.
 - Once again, Jesus is able to discern motives. He knows WHY the people are working to find Him wherever He goes (v. 26). What, instead, does Jesus tell the crowds they need to work for (v. 27)? What does this work entail (v. 29)?
 - The key to understanding why the people refer to manna (v. 31) - is that manna appeared EVERY SINGLE DAY. Jesus had miraculously given them bread the day before. Now they want it again. Does it upset you that the crowds just want more, more, more! Does it surprise you? Are we any different today?
 - What did Jesus mean when He said in verse 35: "I am the bread of life - whoever comes to me will never go hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty"? How has Jesus satisfied your hunger and your thirst?
 - What does Jesus mean when He equates "living bread" with His "flesh" (v. 53)?
 - Can you see how it might have "put off" His listeners when Jesus declared to them, "whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life"? Does this still turn people off to Christianity? Why do you think Jesus would have said this if He knew that people would struggle with this teaching?
 - How do we LIVE because of Jesus - when we FEED on Jesus (v. 57)?

Application:

Give some serious thought this week to what you are depending on to give you satisfaction. Ask yourself whether these things truly satisfy your deepest hunger/thirst - or whether they are "temporary fixes." Ponder these words of Jesus - that HE IS OUR LIFE. Make a conscious effort this week to feed on the flesh of Jesus - and find your deepest satisfaction in Him.