

Message Thoughts

This week we continued examining our Vintage Faith. We've explored what we believe about the Bible and talked about the importance of letting it hold a place of authority in our lives. This weekend we look to Scripture to see what it tells us about who Jesus is and contrast that with what the world says about Him.

Discussion

Notes for discussion leader in italics.

Read Matthew 16:13-20

During Jesus' time on earth, people had differing opinions on who He was.

What about now? What is our world's view of who Jesus is?

Good Moral Teacher, Prophet, Wise & Enlightened Man, Republican, Democrat?

Read John 6:25-69. *I know it's a long section, but we want to get the picture of what's going on here.*

Describe what's going on in this passage. *Jesus is calling out those following him for the wrong reasons (v26). He's declaring that he is "the bread of Life" (v35) and has come down from Heaven (v38) to offer eternal life (v40).*

Besides the graphic metaphor of "eat my flesh and drink my blood" it all sounds pretty great. Who doesn't want eternal life, right? **Why do disciples start deserting Jesus at this point?**

Jesus was drawing a line in the sand. By claiming to be the Messiah, he was basically saying 'to follow me you're going to have to go against your church leaders, because they're pretty upset with me. Your friends are going to think you're crazy. Your family might disown you. It's about to get real, folks.'

Why doesn't Jesus try to stop those leaving him? "Wait guys! Just hear me out..."

Maybe he understood what a huge leap of faith he was asking of them and knew they weren't ready. Or maybe he wanted followers followers who are 100% committed.

Author Kyle Idleman recently released a book called *Not a Fan*. In it he says that Jesus doesn't want fans, but followers. Fans, he says, are a lot like the folks in John chapter 6; things start to get a little difficult, not as fun, no more free meals and they slip out the back door. Followers are those who decide that even when it's not easy/beneficial/logical they will still choose to follow Jesus' teachings.

How would you describe the difference between a fan and a follower?

Prayer

As we spend some time in silent prayer let's do a little soul searching. Does my lifestyle look like that of an all-in follower of Jesus or just a fare-weather fan? In what areas of my life do I need to submit to the authority of Jesus? How do you respond when Jesus asks, "who do you say I am?"

You may want to read these questions a couple times.

After a couple minutes of silence, wrap things up by asking God to help us truly see Jesus as Savior and Lord.