

RUSH 2010
“The Jesus I Thought I Knew”
Part 1 – Friday PM
“Bread That Satisfies”

Mike Penninga

Who Do People Say I Am?

- One day Jesus was walking together with his disciples.
- He turned to them and asked, “Who do people say I am?”
- Some say John the Baptist or Elijah or one of the prophets.
- Jesus paused and then said, ‘What about you. . . who do you say I am?’

Great Question:

- That’s a great question.
- In fact, it is the most important question you will ever have to answer.
- In the end, when all is said and done, there is just one question on the final exam.
- Who is Jesus?

Why We’re Here:

- That’s why we’re here this weekend.
- You may think that you came for other reasons.
- For Starfield.
- For a fun getaway
- For a big party
- But I believe God has brought you here so that you can answer this question.
- Who do you say I am?

More than “RUSH”

- We’ve called this weekend “RUSH”, and it’s definitely going to be that.
- But my prayer is that it’s more than that.
- We’re going to spend time in these four main gatherings looking at the Jesus I thought I knew.
- That might intimidate or even scare you.

- But my biggest prayer is that we will encounter God in a way that will change us, that we will leave different than when we arrived.
- Because that's what Jesus does.

My Own Life:

- He's done it in my life.
- I remember when I was seven years old, camper at Gardom Lake Bible Camp in Enderby.
- (Share story)
- Now, almost 30 years later, I can honestly say I don't know what I'd do without Him.

This Will Be Your Weekend:

- For some of you, this will be that weekend.
- For some of you, your life is going to be split in two. . . life before RUSH and life afterwards.
- Not because of great music or great speaking or a great conference, but because a great God desires to touch your life, and show you the real Jesus.

My Family:

- I'd like to show you my family.
- (Photo)

Grew Up in Kelowna:

- We live just down the road, work at a church just down the road, and have called Kelowna my home for my entire life.
- I grew up in North Glenmore, across from the dump, went to North Glenmore elementary school, and then KSS. . . this is my old school (although my old school was torn down)
- Graduated in 1991, hard to believe that's almost 19 years ago. . . most of you weren't even born yet when I graduated.. . thanks for helping make me feel old.
- I think it's awesome that we're at KSS. . . a place of learning is this weekend going to be a place of encountering.

Phones:

- How many of you have phones tonight, invite you to hold them up.
- I'm going to ask you to put them to good use this weekend.
- All weekend long, I'm inviting you to email and text in your questions and comments.
- When you hear something that doesn't make sense, or something you like, drop me a note.
- Here's the info:
 - rush@site42.com
 - 250-681-6767
- I'll be addressing some of the questions at our next sessions.

Facebook Site:

- As well, we're going to be carrying on the conversation on the rush 2010 site on facebook.
- Encourage you to check in throughout the weekend, and afterwards as you head home.

Excited – but Respectful:

- I know you're excited this weekend, and so am I.
- And we're going to have an incredible journey together.
- One request. . . if you're not interested in what I'm saying, I respect that.
- But would you respect the people around you enough to not distract them.
- They might actually care, and I'd hate for them to miss out because of other distractions.

One More Thing:

- One more thing.
- I believe God meets those who want to meet Him.
- The Bible says "Draw near to God and he will draw near to you."
- That's what we want to do this weekend.
- This might be the first time you've been at an event like this that talks about God so boldly.

- I applaud you.
- And I invite you to invite Him to make Himself known to you in a real way.
- So here's what I'm going to ask.
- On the screen is a prayer.
- I'm going to ask us to stand, if you desire, open your hands towards heaven, and pray this prayer after me in your hearts.

Prayer:

- God, I don't even know if you're real.
- But if you are, reveal yourself to me.
- I'm inviting you.
- Help me to hear your voice.
- Show me Jesus this weekend.

Mike pray.

Intro:

- “The turning point in our lives is when we stop seeking the God we want and start seeking the God who is.”
- So who is this Jesus?
- Take a look at this video.

Video – Who Was Jesus?

Opinion of Jesus:

- Everyone has an opinion of Jesus.
- When we went on the streets of Kelowna asking the question, “Who is Jesus”, people fingered us, covered the camera, walked away.
- Because Jesus is offensive.
- He is not just a nice idea.

- People seem to know that how they answer that question, “Who is Jesus”, really makes a difference.

Maclean’s Magazine:

- Look at how Maclean’s Magazine posed the question in a cover article that came out at Easter time.
- (Show picture)
- People are fascinated by Jesus.
- They just can’t agree who he was.

Who Did Jesus Say He Was?

- So I would suggest we should ask, “Who did Jesus say he was?”
- That’s what we’re going to look at this weekend.
- Not sure if you brought your Bibles, if you did, but don’t have them tonight, bring them to our next sessions.
- If you do, open them to John 6.
- We want to talk briefly tonight about “bread”.

Bread:

- As you can see, we have a lot of bread on stage.
- How many people here love bread?
- One of my favorite meals growing up was our Sunday Morning breakfast before church.
- We would take fresh white bread, butter it, and pour chocolate and candy sprinkles or Nutella all over it.
- We called it “Sunday stuff”, because we were only allowed it on Sunday.
- Think about that. . . . parents intentionally hyping their kids up before church!

John 6:

- So Jesus comes on the scene in John 6 and he’s teaching, people are there, hungry, feeds them, over 5000 people with a few loaves of bread and some fish.

- Then he sends his disciples out in the boat, dismisses the crowd, and ends up joining his disciples on the lake by walking on water.
- The people catch up to him on the other side of the lake and say “teacher, when did you get here.
- And Jesus knows their hearts.
- He knows what they really want.
- They don’t want him, they want his miracles.

Read John 6:26-31

Prove It!

- Basically, they said “prove it”
- Prove that you really are from God.
- Show us a miracle.
- Show me the money!
- My response is “where have they been up til now?”
- Didn’t they just see a miraculous feeding, and didn’t they figure out that Jesus crossed the lake without getting into the boat.

Jesus’ Miracles

- By my count, there were five clear miracles in the first five chapters of John.
- The Gospels record 35 miracles performed by Jesus.
- The problem is miracles in and over themselves are rarely enough to convince people.
- The people of Jesus’ day saw plenty of miracles, and yet they still turned against him.
- If you are waiting for a miracle before you put your faith in Jesus Christ, I have two questions for you:
 1. What type of miracle will be enough?
 2. Will you truly believe then?

Broken Tree Branch:

- A friend of mine told a story recently about a college friend of hers who was seeking God.

- This girl was having a conversation at an airport with a Christian, who was trying to explain that God doesn't necessarily work in the miraculous, like causing branches to fall off trees or anything.
- At that precise moment, over his shoulder, through a large window, this girl sees a huge tree branch break right off and crash to the ground.
- Response?
- Is that enough?
- Is that truly God?

Let's carry on, verse 32

Read John 6:32-35

More Bread!

- Many of these people had just been fed miraculously on a hill-side, and now they wanted more bread.
- But Jesus knew earthly bread wouldn't truly satisfy.
- The crowds were content with temporary fixes, short-term fulfillment.
- Jesus was offering them food for their soul that would last.

Challenge #1 – Hunger & Thirst

- I believe Jesus has three clear challenges, and three corresponding questions in this passage of Scripture.
- **Challenge #1** *John 6:35* "I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry again. Whoever believes in me will never be thirsty."
- **Question #1** "Are you hungry and thirsty?"
- Jesus was not talking about physical hunger and thirst
- Becoming a Christian does not mean that you don't need food and drink (I know that for myself!)
- What he was saying is "I will satisfy a longing in your soul which can not be satisfied any other way!"

- *(*** Pick up piece of bread from the display ***)*
- When I eat this bread, I'm going to be hungry again.
- True, I might eat enough that I'm not hungry for a long time (like maybe 5 or 6 hours!)
- But my physical hunger will return.
- Jesus said look to me for your ultimate fulfillment, for your true satisfaction.

Woman at the Well:

- He spoke a similar message to a woman at a well two chapters earlier.
- *John 4:13-14 (NIV)* Jesus answered, "Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again, but whoever drinks the water I give him will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life."
- *(** Hold Up Bread & Water **)* Bread & Water together, the very basic elements of what we need in life.
- Jesus is saying "I am the very essence of life itself. If you have a chronic hunger or thirst which can't be filled in anything you eat or drink, come to me."

Hungering for God

- Maybe you're here today and you have that hunger and thirst which hasn't been satisfied by anything else.
- C.S. Lewis calls it a clue towards the real thing:
- "Creatures are not born with desires unless satisfaction for those desires exists. A baby feels hunger: well, there is such a thing as food. A duckling wants to swim: well, there is such a thing as water.... If I find in myself a desire which no experience in this world can satisfy, the most probable explanation is that I was made for another world. If none of my earthly pleasures satisfy it, that does not prove that the universe is a fraud. Probably, earthly pleasures were never meant to satisfy it, but only to arouse it, to suggest the real thing." C.S. Lewis, *Mere Christianity*

World's Spiritual Quest:

- Our world is on a spiritual quest, but the Bible says they will come up empty apart from Jesus Christ.

- Why? Because nothing else was made to satisfy our deepest longings like Jesus was.
- Augustine said it best, “Our hearts are restless until they find their rest in God.”

Read John 6:36-40

- **Challenge #2** *John 6:37* “Whoever comes to me I will never drive away.”
 - **Question #2** “Have you come to Jesus?”
 - The bread is offered, but have you accepted it?
 - Maybe you think you’ll be the one person he turns his back on and says, “Nope, sorry, too far gone, can’t make anything of him, can’t work with her.”
 - That’s not what Jesus says.
 - “Whoever comes to me, I will never drive away.”
 - Test him on this
 - See whether you will be accepted
- Jump down in the conversation to verse 50

Read John 6:50-51

Challenge #3 *John 6:51* “Anyone who eats this bread will live forever.”

Question #3 “Do you know for sure that you will live forever?”

World Religions:

- As I’ve studied other world religions, one thing which strikes me every time is the uncertainty they face at death.
- I had a unique opportunity at Willow Park Church a few years back with my good friend and youth pastor, Joel Feddersen. . . we were asked by a grade 9 teacher to share with her students what Christianity was all about, as part of their course on World Religions.
- We shared with them for an hour, answering questions, explaining what Christianity is all about, how God has changed our lives.

- And then they headed off to the Islamic Center down the road, and we asked if we could tag along.
- It was a very interesting experience, listening back to back to the claims of Christianity and the claims of Islam.
- We had a chance to ask questions there as well, and I asked the gentlemen leading the discussion: “How do you know when you’ve done enough? Can you ever really be sure of your salvation?”
- His answer almost shocked me. He paused, and said “You never really know. You just hope and rely on the goodness of Allah that what you’ve done will be enough.”

Jesus Provides Certainty:

- Friends, you don’t have to live with that uncertainty.
- Jesus is very clear here. . . we can know that we have eternal life.
- You can know where you’re going after death.
- You can have confidence that what Jesus has said will come to pass because the one who promised is faithful.

Conclusion – Heart of Passage:

- Let me come back to heart of this passage.
- The crowds were looking for temporary fulfillment. . . “Give us more bread!”
- Jesus was offering them food for their soul that would last. . . “Bread of Life!”

Bread Must Be Eaten:

- The one thing about bread is that to receive the benefits, it must be eaten.
- It is not enough to be around bread, to study bread, to be with people who have eaten bread.
- You must take it in yourself. (eat a piece of bread)

This Weekend:

- This weekend, we’re going on a journey to discover the Jesus who really is, not just the Jesus you thought you knew.

- The turning point in our lives is when we stop seeking the God we want and start seeking the God who is.
- But it's not enough to discover him.
- We have to respond, to take him in.
- Moving from this (looking) to this (tasting)

Closing:

- Taste and see that the Lord is good.
- Going to invite the team to come, you can stand.
- Encourage you to text / email questions throughout the weekend.
- Email – rush@site42.com Text – 250-681-6767
- Let me pray for us.

“Bread That Satisfies” Personal Reflection Study Guide

History (Making it Personal)

- On a scale of 1 to 10, how much do you love bread? How long do you think you could go without it?
- Share about a time which stands out in your mind when you were absolutely famished. What were you craving at that time? Was it satisfying when you ate it?
- What are the most common things our world turns to for satisfaction? What are those things in your own life?

Digging Deeper (Looking to the Bible)

- Read the rest of *John 6:52-71* as Jesus expands on the call to eat his flesh and drink his blood (sounds weird, but it's not about cannibalism). This teaching caused many to walk away from Jesus. Discuss the meaning behind Jesus' words, and why they are so hard.
- Jesus talked about not running after food that spoils, but food that endures to eternal life. Read *Isaiah 55:1-2* – do you find you're running after that which won't satisfy you?
- Look at Jesus' words in *John 6:37-39* when it comes to “losing one's salvation”. Is salvation something that can be lost? Look at these other texts as well. *John 17:12, Philippians 1:6*.
- Jesus promises those who look to him will have eternal life. The New Testament reiterates those promises throughout: *1 Corinthians 15:52* and *1 Thessalonians 4:16*.
- Look how *John 6* ties in with the practice of the Last Supper. Read *1 Corinthians 11:23-26*.
- Spend some time looking at the 7 “I AM” statements of Jesus in John (see message outline for references). What can we learn about his characteristics by the metaphors he choose?

Taking it Home (Application)

- What type of things are you substituting in your own life for the “Bread of Life”? Are they fulfilling? Is it time you stopped running after things that spoil?
- Make a commitment for this week to spend some time feeding on God's Word every day.
- Spend time pondering on this quote by C.S. Lewis:
“A car is made to run on petrol [gasoline], and it would not run properly on anything else. Now God designed the human machine to run on himself. He himself is the fuel our spirits were designed to burn, or the food our spirits were designed to feed on. There is no other. That is why it is just no good asking God to make us happy in our own way without bothering about religion. God cannot give us a happiness and peace apart from himself, because it is not there. There is no such thing.” C.S. Lewis, Mere Christianity (Harper Collins, 1952) p.50

