

LESSONS FROM THE TABLE:

Food Trucks and More!

Pentecost Sunday - June 5, 2022

Overarching Theme: 2022 – *The Year of the Lord's Favor* (Luke 4:19)

Instructions:

When using this material as teacher, feel free to pick and choose the point you want to emphasize in the lesson. *The format of the curriculum is designed to have an abundance of information in which to refer as desired.*

Core Point:

As the world begins awakening from 2 years of pandemic stupor, the words of Jesus proclaiming "the year of the Lord's favor" is a message whose time has come. This passage from Luke 4 harkens back to the 'year of jubilee' of Leviticus 25 and Isaiah 61, a year of a fresh start, a clean slate and reset for everyone who can envision new *possibilities* with God this Pentecost and always.

Reflect on this Scripture: John 6:25-35 (NRSV)-

When they found him on the other side of the sea, they said to him, "Rabbi, when did you come here?" ²⁶ Jesus answered them, "Very truly, I tell you, you are looking for me not because you saw signs but because you ate your fill of the loaves. ²⁷ Do not work for the food that perishes but for the food that endures for eternal life, which the Son of Man will give you. For it is on him that God the Father has set his seal." ²⁸ Then they said to him, "What must we do to perform the works of God?" ²⁹ Jesus answered them, "This is the work of God, that you believe in him whom he has sent." ³⁰ So they said to him, "What sign are you going to give us, then, so that we may see it and believe you? What work are you performing? ³¹ Our ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness, as it is written, 'He gave them bread from heaven to eat.' " ³² Then Jesus said to them, "Very truly, I tell you, it was not Moses who gave you the bread from heaven, but it is my Father who gives you the true bread from heaven. ³³ For the bread of God is that which^[d] comes down from heaven and gives life to the world." ³⁴ They said to him, "Sir,^[e] give us this bread always." ³⁵ Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty.

This Week: John 6:25-35 (NRSV)

The crowd's request for a sign from Jesus is jarring. How can they make such a request the day after the miraculous feeding of 5000+ that they experienced (6:14, 26)? Jesus' words in v. 26 confirm that the crowd does not recognize the sign that has already been enacted before them. The crowd fleshes out its demands for more bread in v. 31 by appealing to their ancestors' experience of manna in the wilderness. Their appeal is couched in the language of Scripture, although it is not an exact citation of any one text. The fact that the crowd, like their ancestors, have already been fed with miraculous bread underscores the irony of their demand. The crowd's request for bread in this verse reveals that they understand only one level of the conversation. The similarity between the crowd's request for bread and the Samaritan woman's request for water in 4:15 is unmistakable and universally recognized. Like the Samaritan woman's failure to grasp the difference between physical water from Jacob's well and the 'living water' of the Holy Spirit, the crowd of John 6 has understood one part of Jesus' words – that the bread of which he speaks is better than the bread given to their ancestors – but does not grasp why it is better. The bread of which Jesus speaks is not given "always," but is given once and for all in the very person of Jesus. Physical bread and water sustain life here temporarily, but do not satisfy eternally. Jesus offers a relationship that will satisfy our spiritual hunger and thirst, promising to sustain us forever.

- The New Interpreter's Bible Commentary, Vol IX, pp 599-600.

Questions to Ponder for Accountability in the Group:

1. After Jesus feeds the 5000, John tells us that the crowds are actively searching for him the next day. Why are they so interested in Jesus?
2. What do you think Jesus means by the statement "*Do not work for the food that perishes but for the food that endures for eternal life?*"
3. The people had just witnessed a miraculous sign (feeding of the multitude), yet in verse 30 they ask for another 'sign'. What do you think they are really after – another sign, more food or something else? What does that say about human nature?
4. Do you think that most Christians follow Jesus primarily to have their pressing needs met, or out of a spiritual desire to be in eternal relationship with him?
5. What do you think Jesus means by "*I am the bread of Life?*" What does Jesus mean by the statement, "*whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty?*"

Activity for the Life of a Disciple:

1. Remember to find encouragement for the day by reading the daily devotional from FUMCC
2. Ponder and pray on this scripture this week: John 6:35 ³⁵ *Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty.*