

Lenten Service #5 March 25th Text: John 6:66-68

FROM THIS TIME MANY OF HIS DISCIPLES TURNED BACK AND NO LONGER FOLLOWED HIM “YOU DO NOT WANT TO LEAVE TOO, DO YOU?” JESUS ASKED THE 12. SIMON PETER ASKED HIM, LORD TO WHOM SHALL WE GO? YOU HAVE THE WORDS OF ETERNAL LIFE.

Friends traveling to the cross to witness his death but also the life he gives,

Divorce. No not marriage. Divorce from Jesus. Jesus had inspired excitement in his followers, a Wow which turned to an UGH entering the hearts of others.

Ever have your friends divorce you, that is reject you? We all have. For two years many followed him as he could have filled a small bball arena full with 5000 people. He fed them all with some bread and fish. Very small amounts to feed this crowd. Yes he is the one. Finally someone who will make us healthy and happy. Jesus is not a circus entertainer who throws peanuts to us. Jesus is not a fast food King. He never promises health.

Sad to the people here who rejected him knew a Savior was coming, one promised long ago. Tragically he was not their type of Savior. They wanted a King who would rid them from the cruel rule of the Roman government. How could this happen? An enemy had been at work! He attacked the Bible. Satan had attacked the people with a lie.

They had bread on their mind but Jesus would give them bread different from what they wanted. He told them he came from this Father in heaven. All who ate from this bread that is, who who took him in by faith, would live forever.

Hard to believe that some of those who rejected him The people who walked all those miles with him. Ate with him. Saw his miracles. When he spoke with authority like no one else. But they divorced themselves from him. Preparing them to do his work and off they go. They divorce from the Wow and go back to their Ugh. They reject him.

It wasn't just them The enemy still hates Jesus and his Word. There is false teaching. Critics of Christianity in the media, in churches, on campuses, to destroy and damage our faith in Jesus. You know the DONE's-Done with church and won't come back. Then there are the NONE'S-people who claim they have no faith. Satan is still lying.

What about us? We were Wow's weren't we? We promised enthusiastically to remain faithful to God and his Word in the front of church. There when we were confirmed. Vows broken?

Do you hear Jesus voice here in these words, his tone, his inflection?

YOU DO NOT WANT TO LEAVE TOO DO YOU? JESUS ASKED THE 12. What happened then?

Peter spoke: LORD, TO WHOM SHALL WE GO? YOU HAVE THE WORDS OF ETERNAL LIFE?

I LOVE Peter here because he is so on. You Jesus have the words of eternal life. No one else. As you hold your Bibles-this is God's own love story, his words of life, death, and his resurrection, words of salvation. These words have terrific power. These words of terrific power changed our cold stone hard hearts to faith and him, and him alone.

I do not know how many Christians there are in the world-This I do know: Every one of them have done nothing to create saving faith in their hearts. Everyone-you and I included came to faith by some powerful means-one agency, one path. Saving faith came to you in a visible fashion called your Baptism. It is the single most powerful force for God in this world-GOD'S WORD. THE GOSPEL.

That's what brought you and me to trust that the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ has purchased and won for us the forgiveness of all our sins. He did it all and paid for it all!

There are theories and ideas about coronavirus and what will happen is an unknown. There are jokes, lock downs, fright and fear everywhere. There is hoarding, name-calling, and everything else you can throw in the bin.

Jesus gave us the word of eternal life. There is only one source of for ETERNAL LIFE IN HEAVEN: Peter had it right. LORD TO WHO SHALL WE GO? YOU HAVE THE WORDS OF ETERNAL LIFE.

We are blessed and do not want to lose what Jesus has given us. We are blessed. You and I sit here washed in the blood of the Lamb of God! We are forgiven and we have eternal life.

Every time we open his Word Jesus is the guest preacher. He promised to take us thru the door marked death. So it's no more Ugh but Wow what a Lord and Savior we have. Amen