

Focus: The Eucharist is the only food that we need.

1. Within the Kerygma, a BIG emphasis on the Eucharist

- a. Food and drink are incredibly important for our bodies. Also for our souls.
- b. Three points:
 - i. Further understanding what Jesus means when he talks about this food (John 6)
 - ii. Eating this food is not optional if we want eternal life from him. (John 6)
 - iii. If this food doesn't move us to surrender and repentance, then there is a serious problem.

2. John 6

- a. Verses 1-15 → Feeding the five thousand with five barley loaves and two fish.
 - i. When they had eaten their fill, they gathered up all that was left over, twelve baskets full, in order that none be wasted.
 - ii. Jesus can perform miracles; he can break the laws of nature; he doesn't want his miracles to be wasted.
- b. Verses 16-21 → Jesus walks on water in the middle of a storm.
 - i. They had rowed about 3 or 4 miles into the strong wind.
- c. Verses 22-59 → Bread of Life Discourse
 - i. Verses 22-24 → The people discover his absence and find him.
 - ii. Verses 25-34 → Jesus tells these people to seek only the food that leads to eternal life, which "the Son of Man will give you". He tells them to believe in him, because this is what God wants. They demand a sign, similar to the bread Moses gave in the desert. Jesus tells them that the Father has given them bread from heaven, which gives life to the world.
 - iii. Verses 35-40 → Jesus tells them that he is the bread of life and those who believe in him will have eternal life.
 - iv. Verses 41-51 → They disbelieve because he is so familiar to them. Jesus responds by saying that only those who are drawn by the Father will believe in Jesus, only those who are taught by God. Those who ate the bread that Moses provided ultimately died. Those who eat the bread that Jesus provides will never die. "...the bread which I shall give for the life of the world is my flesh." (!!)
 - v. Verses 52-59 → They respond in disbelief: "How can he give us his flesh to eat?"
 1. *"Truly, truly, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you; he who eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day. For my flesh is food indeed and my blood is drink indeed. He who eats my flesh and drinks my blood abides in me, and I in him."*
 2. *"This is the bread which came down from heaven, not such as the fathers ate and died; he who eats this bread will live forever."*
- d. Verses 60-71 → Dissent from His Disciples
 - i. Many of his disciples said, "This is a hard saying; who can listen to it?" Jesus doesn't explain it away, but instead tells them that he has spoken the truth. They are thinking from a fleshly, human perspective, while he is speaking from the perspective of God. He acknowledges that there are some who do not believe.
 - ii. "After this many of his disciples drew back and no longer went about with him." (6:66)
 1. Jesus said to the twelve, *"Will you also go away?"*
 2. Simon Peter responds with the only worthwhile response: Surrender. "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life; and we have believed, and have come to know, that you are the Holy One of God."

3. This is our incredibly generous God.

- a. If this doesn't move you to surrender and repentance...

Reflection Question and Reading:

1. Have you surrendered your life to Jesus and his Church yet? What role does the Eucharist play in your life?
2. **Read:** Acts 2:42; Matthew 16:21-26; Luke 14:25-35