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| **SERIES** | Discipleship 101 |
| **BIBLE** | John 6:25-71 |
| **TITLE/TOPIC** | I am the Bread of Life! Are you Leaving Too? |
| **OVERVIEW** | Most sermons are carefully crafted appeals to help people take positive steps forward. Most sermons present the truth and application of that truth as something reasonable and attainable. Many pastors and churches persuade with a minimalistic approach – believing people will only do the bare essentials that God desires. As Jesus is calling disciples to Himself, He preaches with an entirely different heart. Jesus makes claims about Himself that are hard to believe, He makes believing in Him something that is uncomfortable, and He sets up discipleship as something extremely hard to commit to. Jesus speaks truth and asks if we want to leave. This is true discipleship – exclusive devotion and intensely personal trust in Jesus. Don’t leave – but believe. |
| **SCRIPTURE BREAKDOWN** | **(BELIEVE) Jesus calls disciples away from trivial things to the most important work – to believe in Him for eternal life (25-29). *28****Then they asked him, “What must we do to do the works God requires?”* ***29****Jesus answered, “The work of God is this: to believe in the one he has sent.”*  **(Believe Jesus is God’s greatest SIGN) Jesus calls disciples to believe in the greatest miracle of God; not manna in the wilderness but Himself as the true bread from heaven. (30-33) *32****Jesus said to them, “Very truly I tell you, it is not Moses who has given 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 the bread that comes down from heaven and gives life to the world.”*  **(Believe Jesus alone can SATISFY) Jesus calls disciples to believe that He alone can satisfy, and promises that He will save and keep and raise up everyone who believes in Him. (34-40)**  ***35****Then Jesus declared, “I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never go hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty*  **(Believe Jesus’s BODILY SACRIFICE is the means of salvation) Jesus calls disciples to believe that His flesh was given for the salvation of the world, and that only those whom the Father draws can believe in Jesus this way. (41-51)** ***51****I am the living bread that came down from heaven. Whoever eats this bread will live forever. This bread is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world.”*  **(Believe Jesus must be INTERNALIZED by faith) Jesus re-emphasized His exclusive claims and requirements of personal faith knowing it caused many unbelievers to struggle to believe. (52-59) *52****Then the Jews began to argue sharply among themselves, “How can this man give us his flesh to eat?”*  **(Believe Jesus alone has WORDS of ETERNAL LIFE) With words full of the Spirit and life, Jesus calls disciples to the highest level of faith and commitment to Him. (60-71) *67****“You do not want to leave too, do you?” Jesus asked the Twelve.* ***68****Simon Peter answered him, “Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life.****69****We have come to believe and to know that you are the Holy One of God.* |
| **GOSPEL** | How does this sermon bring people to the Gospel?  This sermon helps people understand Jesus from His own claims. He said the greatest work is to believe (have active trust in Jesus). He said we must believe Him – “I am the Bread of Life, I am the greatest miracle, My flesh was given for the life of the world, you must eat My flesh and drink My blood (through faith)… Only the Father can draw you to Me to believe. These words are full of the Spirit and life.” |
| **NEXT**STEPS | Begin | Connect | Engage | Grow | Disciple  Begin – Believe in Jesus in this exclusive and personal way. Take Him in by faith and be filled with His life.  Disciple – Share the gospel not as something “easy” to accept but with the full weight of Jesus call. |