

CELL NOTES 22/9/08

ICE BREAKER

What type of bread are you today? Fresh, mouldy, crusty, half-baked, rye, all natural, easy to butter up?

THEME

Bread

Reading John 6 : 25 - 35

SERMON OUTLINE

- 1) Bread is a staple food – hence Jesus' claim in v 35.
- 2) Jesus as the bread of life :-
 - The key and sustenance for life's journey
 - Provides true satisfaction, and meets our deepest needs
 - Enables us to make sense of life
 - Will never fail those who genuinely seek help.
- 2) All the Jews would know the story of Moses and manna in the wilderness (Ex 16 : 1 – 23). How could God better that? Jesus said, "I am not just temporary provision in the wilderness, but permanent new life available to the whole world."
- 3) Jesus offers real, permanent, universal satisfaction.
- 4) This raises important questions for us as individuals and a church :-
 - What are our real needs, and how is Jesus meeting them?
 - Are our goals and life really rooted in Jesus?
 - How does he offer His satisfaction to others through us?
 - Have we just got a short term (temporary) perspective, or are we building for the long term?
 - Are we concerned for all, or do we write some off, as individuals, as potential leaders?
- 5) Jesus invites us to come rather than go. Whilst true belief inevitably leads to activity, the core is seeing in Jesus the One who will meet our deepest needs – not finding salvation via activity, but by being nourished by Jesus
- 6) Bread only does us good if we eat it!!

QUESTIONS OF APPLICATION

- 1) This week, what are the needs in your life of which you are most conscious? What might it mean practically to depend on Jesus to meet those needs?
- 2) How would you explain to a non-Christian what it means to have Jesus as the basis of your life?
- 3) How are we as a church, as a cell, effective in sharing the good news? How might we be more effective?
- 4) *Bread only does us good if we eat it.* In what ways do you give Jesus a chance to meet your deepest needs?