

Read:

Exodus 16:1-15

John 6

Both the crowd of Galilean Jews and Jesus' own disciples experienced something remarkable. The Galilean Jews experienced Jesus' miraculous provision of bread in a wild place and understood this as a sign pointing towards *something*. Jesus' disciples experienced a startling revelation when Jesus' meets them *on* the stormy lake at night.

Jesus later explains the meaning of these events in terms of teaching about *bread*. He identifies two kinds types of bread his listeners are working for:

1. The kind of bread that sustains a purely material existence ("food that spoils"), and;
2. The kind of bread that sustains a more "religious" existence (the Law of Moses).

Questions:

1. In what ways do you perceive our society emphasises the primacy of a purely material existence?
2. At what point in your own life do you feel the draw to invest your energies in this existence?
3. Where has God disrupted your pursuit of material existence with some form of suffering?
4. In what ways do you, as a Christian, are you aware of our tendency to reduce faith to mere functionality?
5. Where has your Christian life become defined by outward *function* that doesn't really reflect an inward hunger for Jesus or his kingdom?

The third kind of bread, Jesus' alternative to both of these, is *himself*.

Questions:

1. Discuss what Jesus means by his statement in 6:29: "The work of God is this: to believe in the one he has sent."
2. Discuss what Jesus means in 6:53-58 by "eating the flesh of the Son of Man and drinking his blood."