

A Follow Up Bible Study

Building on the Messages of the Lessons from the 11th Sunday after Pentecost

Warm Up

Other than Jesus' resurrection, the feeding of the 5,000 is the only miracle recorded in all four Gospels. The image of 5 loaves of bread and 2 fish is a very common image in Christian art. What do you think is the significance of these 2 points?

1. Sermon for August 16, 2020

Text: Romans 8:35-39

Theme: Christian, chill! You are totally secure in Christ's love.

Share your questions or comments regarding Sunday's sermon.

Share your questions or comments regarding Sunday's sermon **text**.

2. While Paul never used the word *secure* in the text, the sermon focused on the basis of our security. Explain how Paul addressed security or did it feel like Pastor Huffman was importing that idea into the text?

3. The phrases: *in the love of Christ - in Christ - in God's kingdom* are synonyms. They all describe a situation or relationship that the Bible also calls *life (eternal life)* and *salvation*. Do you see the connection? Share your thoughts about this.

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4. Hell, eternal death, is the greatest danger that exists. It is complete and total separation from God and all that is good, forever. So when Paul asks the question: *What will separate us from the love of Christ?* He is saying, *What can cause us to go to hell - lose our salvation (eternal life/faith) - go back to the state in which you were born?* Paul offers quite a list of candidates, circumstances that are out to rob us of our safe status with God. He also lists things that are powerful and mysterious, unknown potential threats. Which of these would you or your family frankly find challenging?

- ♦ *trouble - distress - persecution - famine - nakedness - danger - sword*
- ♦ *death nor life, angels nor rulers, things present nor things to come, powerful forces, height nor depth, anything else in creation*

5. The sermon started off contrasting *security dependent on circumstances* with *security dependent on Christ no matter what the circumstances*. Christians will live through circumstance. Why and how does dependency on Christ make a big difference?

6. There are many Christians today that expect that Christians who hold to God's Word will face persecution even in our country. The US Constitution guarantees us rights that should prevent persecution, but the Bible doesn't guarantee *no persecution*. In fact it guarantees we will be persecuted in at least some manner. How do we prepare for this? Should we arm ourselves?

First Lesson: Isaiah 55:1-5

7. While the call goes out to come *buy wine and milk* and speaks of *bread and rich food*, how does the context make it clear that this is not an invitation to a Shady Maple buffet?

8. This invitation is pure grace - pure gospel. What does that mean?

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9. ³ ...*Yes, I will make an everlasting covenant with you,...* **You** is plural. Who is **you**?

⁴ *Look, I appointed him as a witness for peoples, a leader and commander of peoples.* Who did Yahweh appoint and to what role?

⁵ *Look, you will call out to a nation you do not know, and a nation that does not know you will run to you, on account of the Lord your God, because of the Holy One of Israel, for he has glorified you.* The **you** and **your** are single. Who does **you** refer to?

Gospel Lesson: Matthew 13:44-52

10. Jesus took his disciples off to a place where they could be alone. EHV and others translate *deserted place*. Others: *desert, wilderness, remote, quiet, lonely, isolated*. What's the challenge in finding an English word for this kind of location?

11. What does Matthew mean when he said Jesus wanted *to be alone*? For what purpose?

12. Matthew offers us a condensed or simple version of this event. He simply says, *he saw a large crowd*. John tells us Jesus got out of the boat and went up on the hillside. From there he saw the crowd coming toward him. Likewise Matthew says Jesus had compassion and healed their sick. John doesn't mention that, but reveals Jesus brings up the matter of food as soon as he saw the crowd. Jesus set out to feed them. All the other accounts share that the disciples brought this up when it was getting late. Mark emphasizes that Jesus took time to teach the crowd. Luke makes reference to it. What insights do we gain from the 4 accounts?

What main points do you sense that Matthew is making with this account?

What other details do you recall from the other accounts of the feeding of the 5,000?