

Maybe The Worst Easter Message Ever

Maybe the worst miracle ever:

John 6:1-23

Every other miracle meets a **PHYSICAL NEED**;
this one is just **SPIRITUAL**.

If we are coming to Jesus with only our **EARTHLY PROBLEMS**, then we are missing **JESUS**.

Maybe the worst illustration ever:

John 6:24-65

Just as a body without **FOOD** is **DEAD**,
our spirit without **JESUS** is **DEAD**.

Bread can't just be **READ** about, **TALKED** about
or **THOUGHT** about; it must be **CONSUMED**.

Maybe the worst crowd response ever:

John 6:66-71

Jesus' teaching wasn't hard to **UNDERSTAND**,
it was hard to **ACCEPT**.

We now have the same choice to either:

REJECT
PRETEND
CONSUME

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Maybe the worst miracle ever:

John 6:1-23

Every other miracle meets a _____;
this one is just _____.

If we are coming to Jesus with only our _____
_____, then we are missing _____.

Maybe the worst illustration ever:

John 6:24-65

Just as a body without _____ is _____,
our spirit without _____ is _____.

Bread can't just be _____ about, _____ about
or _____ about; it must be _____.

Maybe the worst crowd response ever:

John 6:66-71

Jesus' teaching wasn't hard to _____,
it was hard to _____.

We now have the same choice to either:

Life Group Study Questions

For the week of April 9, 2023

MY STORY

1. Jesus called Himself the bread of life. Bread was a food the people of that time and culture would have eaten daily. What food or beverage do you consume most frequently? Is there something you have every day?

2. Easter is an incredible reminder for believers, no matter how new or seasoned in their faith, of what Jesus did for us more than 2,000 years ago on the cross. Is there anything specific you were reminded of this Easter season?

Quick Review: Looking back at your notes from this week's teaching, was there anything you heard for the first time or something that caught your attention, challenged, or confused you?

DIGGING DEEPER

In the passage this weekend, Jesus asserts that just as food sustains us when we eat it, He sustains believers who fully consume Him and take Him in. Chris talked about how this need for Jesus is much bigger than the fixing of our temporary problems, and if we are only coming to Jesus to meet temporary, physical needs, we will miss Him.

This is not to say that Jesus doesn't care about our temporary needs, but He cares much more about our eternal needs. This is demonstrated throughout the Old and New Testament. Read the account of God sustaining the Israelites in the wilderness in Deuteronomy 8:2-10. Underline or highlight in your Bible with two different colors the physical provisions of God and the spiritual lessons or outcomes He wanted for them.

Deuteronomy 8:2-10 New International Version (NIV)

² Remember how the LORD your God led you all the way in the wilderness these forty years, to humble and test you in order to know what was in your heart, whether or not you would keep his commands. ³ He humbled you, causing you to hunger and then feeding you with manna, which neither you nor your ancestors had known, to teach you that man does not live on bread alone but on every word that comes from the mouth of the LORD. ⁴ Your clothes did not wear out and your feet did not swell during these forty years. ⁵ Know then in your heart that as a man disciplines his son, so the LORD your God disciplines you. ⁶ Observe the commands of the LORD your God, walking in obedience to him and revering him. ⁷ For the LORD your God is bringing you into a good land—a land with brooks, streams, and deep springs gushing out into the valleys and hills; ⁸ a land with wheat and barley, vines and fig trees, pomegranates, olive oil and honey; ⁹ a land where bread will not be scarce and you will lack nothing; a land where the rocks are iron and you can dig copper out of the hills. ¹⁰ When you have eaten and are satisfied, praise the LORD your God for the good land he has given you.

For the Israelites, it was food they asked for, and for the disciples, it was signs and wonders (John 6:30-31). We all have things we come to Jesus for. What are some of the desires or needs you frequently bring to Jesus in prayer?

Scripture encourages us to bring all our needs to Jesus, no matter how small or big, temporary or eternal—both are important to Him. Looking at what you wrote above, what is the life span of each of those needs or requests? How many of them are temporary versus eternal, physical versus spiritual? Do you tend to focus on one more than the other? Is there one you could focus on more?

Read Matthew 7:7-11. How does this instruction from Jesus fit with, challenge or strengthen the idea that there is a bigger eternal need He wants to meet than the temporary needs we bring before Him?

Matthew 7:7-11 New International Version (NIV)

⁷ “Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. ⁸ For everyone who asks receives; the one who seeks finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened. ⁹ “Which of you, if your son asks for bread, will give him a stone? ¹⁰ Or if he asks for a fish, will give him a snake? ¹¹ If you, then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give good gifts to those who ask him!

What would our prayers look like if we kept both ideas in mind at the same time (that He wants us to come to Him with all our needs, but He is ultimately our greatest need, the giver of life, and what sustains us)?

Sometimes the difficulty of following Jesus is wrestling with the reality that although He gives us instructions like the one above, He doesn't always answer the way we think or desire He will. Is there any encouragement or advice you would tell a friend who is doing what these verses say to do yet not seeing their need met the way they desired? What are some things that are not helpful to say in these situations?

TAKING IT HOME

1. Is there anything in this week's message or study you want to focus on remembering this week?

2. Are there any needs you are currently praying for in which you can use the reminder that Jesus is the greater need and the sustainer of life? Are there any needs you want to pray more for?

TIPS ON GROUP PRAYER

Prayer is an important part of being in Life Group. Over the years, we've found that group prayer goes better when we follow three simple guidelines.

WE PRAY FOR ONE TOPIC AT A TIME - Anyone in the group is free to introduce a prayer request, either before prayer begins or during the prayer time. Once a topic is introduced, the group focuses on that request alone. Once it's covered, the group moves on to the next topic.

PRAY MORE THAN ONCE - Because the group is focusing on one topic at a time, each person is encouraged to pray several times during the prayer time for those topics they feel most led to pray about. No one is required to pray.

WE KEEP OUR PRAYERS SHORT AND SIMPLE - Group prayer goes better when members keep their prayers short and to the point. When someone prays for a long time, it's hard for the other members to stay focused and long prayers tend to intimidate those who are just learning to pray out loud in a group. No one is required to pray out loud.



On April 29 & 30, the Church is leaving the building! No in-person services will be held as we head out into our local communities to serve our cities in the name of Jesus. Mark your calendars and sign up to serve with your Life Group! Scan the QR code or go to northcoastchurch.com.

