

“WHAT AN APPETITE ... IN THE RUSH OF THE WIND!”
AUGUST 22, 2021 - THE THIRTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
JOSHUA 24:1-2A,14-18; EPHESIANS 6:10-20; JOHN 6:56-69
Promises for your pocket or purse - Take notes and carry them with you.

Does your appetite change from day to day? Do you have those times when you are really hungry? Do you have times when anything would be fine? Do you have times when you are not very hungry? Are you ever not sure what you are hungry for? Do you get specific cravings? As we continue to reflect on Jesus as The Bread Of Life, we hear of those who had a hard time accepting this teaching. In our spiritual walk, even we can struggle with Jesus and his teachings at times. Our appetite for who he is, and for his teaching, and to follow, can change along the way. In the rush of The Wind, God reveals again God’s appetite for us, and Jesus’ hunger and craving for us. Trust Jesus has the ‘words of eternal life’ to satisfy his appetite to forever call you, to save you, to grace you!

1. In the rush of The Wind, how is your appetite when it comes to following and feasting on Jesus, The Bread Of Life?
 - A. Are you ever not sure what you are hungry for?
 - i. Many are still searching to be satisfied. Some do not know what they are looking for. Too many ‘take it or leave it,’ ‘are not sure,’ ‘say it doesn't matter.’
 - ii. John 6:60-61, 66 - Many people found Jesus' teachings to be difficult, hard to accept. Others find it offensive, and go looking for something or someone else.
 - iii. Ephesians 6:18-20 - Like Paul, pray. Ask God to increase your hunger for him, to find in Christ what will satisfy you.
 - B. Are you one who has a real hunger, a real hunger for Jesus?
 - i. Many know they are hungry. Many know only Jesus can satisfy their hunger. Many want it all, and then some more, and then some more.
 - ii. Joshua 24:15,18 - ‘As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord ...We also will serve the Lord, for He is our God.’
 - C. Are you one who at times has specific cravings, a specific appetite, when it comes to your spiritual life?
 - i. Some of us have very specific needs or cravings such as words and experiences which we look for from others, the Bible, the church, and Jesus to satisfy.

- ii. Ephesians 6:13-17 - Whatever you crave, the Lord provides.
 - a. Eph. 6:13 - If you crave protection, put on The Armor of God.
 - b. Ephesians 6:14 - If you crave truth, fasten the belt.
 - c. Eph. 6:14 - If you crave righteousness, put on the breastplate
 - d. Ephesians 6:15 -If you crave witness, put on the shoes.
 - e. Ephesians 6:16 - If you crave faith, take up the shield.
 - f. Ephesians 6:17 - If you crave The Spirit and The Word, take up the sword.
 - g. Ephesians 6:17-If you crave salvation, take the helmet.

D. Are you one who feels starvation?

- i. Life can steal us of our appetite, and leave us starving for purpose and meaning, for what matters most.
- ii. John 6:68-69 - Like Peter, we know Jesus will calm our starvation for eternity and faith - `to whom else can we go, only Jesus has the words of eternal life, and we have come to believe and know Jesus as the holy one of God.'

2. Feel the rush of The Wind, trust God's appetite and hunger for you is unending – the Living Bread came down from heaven to give you eternal life. God in Jesus knows what he wants. He craves each one of us. God was starving for you; empty without you. Thanks be to God, in grace, God sent Jesus to satisfy his own appetite and hunger to guide you, to forgive you, to love you and to save you!