

## All In: #3 “Missing the Bigger Point” – John 6

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I have to give you a rather lengthy introduction because this will actually help to understand the whole book of John.

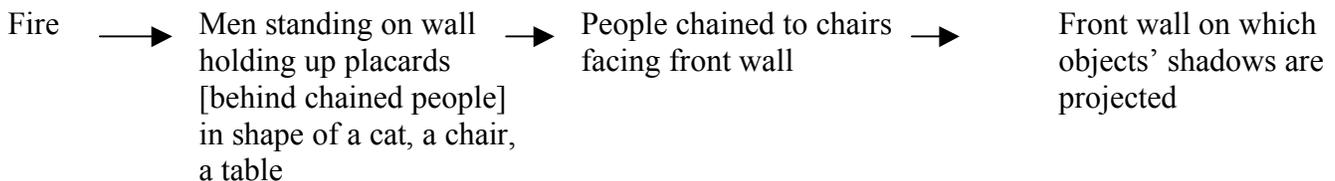
Do you remember that little kid on the internet who just had some dental work done and he was a little spaced out. He said, “Daddy, is this real life?” That is actually a pretty intelligent question.

### **Plato’s Allegory of the Cave [Book VII of The Republic]**

The brother of Plato, Glaucon, asked that of Socrates. Is this real life? Socrates answered: Well, here is a great allegory of what real life is.

Let’s imagine that people in their experience are chained to chairs by their arms and feet, and their heads have to face forward. They have been like this their entire life. They are facing forward; behind them is a giant wall where men hold things over their heads and behind that is a fire. So the fire is casting a light on the object held up by the men and that image is being projected onto the wall in front of the men who are chained to their chairs. All the chained people see are the shadows of the objects.

All of this takes place inside a cave:



The chained people, because they grew up with that view of the shadows as their only experience, think that is real life – those shadowy images. The chained people live happy, contented lives. They are considered wise if they are able to define the nature of things, the colors and outlines of the shadows (like a chair or table or a cat). Even the sounds that the chained men hear are made by the men in back of them and the sounds are the *echoes* made by the men behind them. But the chained people were considered wise if they were able to predict what image is about to show up next and what kind of patterns they can see on the wall in front of them. People are awarded because of their wisdom and knowledge of life in the cave by getting honors and trophies and plaques on walls – but mostly they get a better chair to be chained to, or silver chains, or maybe even golden chains. They is how they keep score in the cave. That is what wisdom looks like.

With that as a backdrop, imagine if one of them were to be unchained and they turned and faced the fire [in back of them] and eventually were able to recalibrate their eyes to see that it was just men holding up placards [in the shape of a table, chair, cat...] and found it was nothing more than cardboard shapes. What they had been defining as real was just an image of a cardboard outline of some thing. It was the men in back of them making the noise – and it was an echo at that.

Let's say it gets even more dramatic. If that same unchained man were to be grabbed and taken outside of the cave against his will into the sunlight where he could see colors and three-dimensional beings. He could see a real cat which made its authentic noise. The man might be frightened or startled but he could sit in a real chair and see a table for what it was and he could see people or who they were – not just the images or shadows of the people but who they truly were. That would be real life. Their spiritual life, what is real and true, that is in the soul of people – not in their bodies.

Socrates continues the story and say – Wait, how would that person now interpret wisdom from the cave? He would think the wisdom of the cave was quite silly. *All those awards, golden chains or silver chains or a fluffy chair, that is how we were able to evaluate who was successful and who was to be envied?* The unchained man would have pity and feel pathetic towards the things he valued prior in the cave – now that he understands what is real and what is true.

Socrates continues. What if the unchained man were to go back into the cave for the sake of those he loved – so that he could tilt their heads a bit, try to free them from that slavery. What do you think would happen? He would be considered an insane man, running around, screaming – *You are living in the Shadow Lands. This is not real. We are spiritual beings, not just physical things; those are one-dimensional and those aren't even the real sounds. There is so much more to life. You are trapped here.* The people in the cave would kill him as a crazy man and that would be the end of him.

That allegory of the cave is what inspired an English teacher to write a song when he joined a band. It was called “We Are Spirits Living in a Material World”; Sting wrote that. He used to be an English teacher and knew about the allegory of the cave. He was saying; We are spirits just living in a material world here.

It is this allegory of the cave that inspired the movie, “The Matrix”, the first one. There is so much more to life. The way we are keeping score and the way we reward people is absolutely wrong. It is not even real here.

This idea of the Shadow Lands so impacted the worldview of C. S. Lewis that is why he concludes “The Chronicles of Narnia” with the children, human beings who now they are in heaven, they say – It is true. It is all true what they taught us in school. That life was the Shadow Lands and now this is the way

mountains are supposed to look. This is the way grass is supposed to be green. Even the horses themselves take on their true existence and literally run up a waterfall – further up and further in, he screams. We have got to get closer to what is really true.

By the way, this view of life that C. S. Lewis involved himself in, is the reason they entitled his biography “Shadow Lands”. This is what is real and true.

## **John 1**

Jesus, in the whole book of John, is constantly looking ahead because He knows what it is like in real time and real space. He knows that we are not this flesh, the body, but the soul inside of the body.

The Bible says:

John 1:1-3 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through Him all things were made; without Him nothing was made that has been made.

Yes, eternity first and then the temporal later. He comes to us from heaven to explain what true values are, what really counts, and what is real and what is true.

From now on, in our conversation today, whenever I say the words “real” and “true” – whenever Jesus says “real” or “true” -- He is talking about life outside the cave – to you and I who are cave dwellers. He is trying to wake us up. He is trying to say – There is so much more to life. He is trying to show us the truth. In His experience the Jewish rite of the Passover. Jesus is coming to tell us what these shadow images meant.

## **John 6 - Passover Emphasis in Event**

Look in John 6 now. This long chapter has three parts. Instead of looking at the chapter traditionally, and spending three weeks on it, looking at one part per week, if you see the whole chapter all at once, you will see what Jesus is getting to.

John 6:1-4 Some time after this, Jesus crossed to the far shore of the Sea of Galilee (that is, the Sea of Tiberias), and a great crowd of people followed Him because they saw the miraculous signs He had performed on the sick. Then Jesus went up on a mountainside and sat down with His disciples. The Jewish Passover Feast was near.

That is a loaded statement – the Jewish Passover Feast was near. That is like us saying – It was Christmas season. This is our experience like after Thanksgiving and right around Christmas time. It is on our mind

and what we are supposed to be thinking about. This is a Jewish version of “Jesus is the Reason for the Season”. He is trying to explain: I know Passover is on everybody’s mind. Watch this. This is what it looks like in three-dimensions and in color (referring to Himself).

### **Passover Explanation**

For the explanation of Passover for those who have not read the Old Testament – you might have seen “The Ten Commandments” - let me review some key elements about the Passover.

Israel was trapped in Egypt for about 400 years. As the Jews are about to exit Egypt, God shows Himself to be a strong and powerful and protective God by inflicting on the Egyptians ten plagues.

(Exodus 11) The last plague was the plague of life and death.

(Exodus 12) It was called Passover because the Hebrews were to get an innocent lamb, without blemish, having it around the house long enough for the kids to fall in love with it – true story – and then they slaughter that lamb. They take the blood of that lamb and sprinkle that blood all over the outside of their doorposts, on the top and the two sides. Then they were to eat the flesh of that lamb and to eat it all, with their running shoes on. They are ready to leave Egypt. So God saves the Hebrews through that Passover lamb because God’s wrath passed over those doors that had the blood on them.

(Exodus 14) The next thing you know, Israel is out of Egypt but they are trapped again at the banks of The Red Sea, which is a violent barrier because now the Egyptian army is soon to swam on them and slaughter them. So God parts The Red Sea and the Hebrews walk through the dangers of the water to safety. The most often quoted event in the Old Testament is the Red Sea crossing because it represents salvation. God did it all – dividing the water – and the Hebrews just walked through His provision.

So the first part is the Lamb that was slaughtered.

The second is crossing the Red Sea.

The third element which is extremely important is that after the Hebrews were out in the wilderness for 30 days or so, they ran out of food and started grumbling about being without food. God gives them this miraculous meal, every single day, in the morning and it was called “manna”. Manna in Hebrew means “what is this?” That is literally true. Every morning they walk outside and it is like oatmeal flakes all over the place. What is this? Well, it is breakfast, lunch and dinner. They would make bread cakes, manna bread, and that is how God **Provided** for them. He **Protected** them at the Red Sea and He provided for them with this manna.

That is Passover – those three things: the Lamb, the Sea, and the Manna.

All of those things, Jesus is saying, were just cardboard cutouts run across an image that projected onto a wall. There is so much more to the meaning of that event.

### **John 6:8-15 Some Dinner**

In John 6:8, people are hanging around Jesus, following Him because of the miracles He is doing. The people were hungry. Jesus asked the disciples how they were going to feed these people.

John 6:8, 9 Another of His disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, spoke up, "Here is a small boy with five small barley loaves and two small fish, but how far will they go among so many?"

:10, 11 Jesus said, "Have the people sit down." There was plenty of grass in that place, and the men sat down, about five thousand of them.

There were 5000 men alone. Let's just round up and say everybody had someone with them – so 10,000 people there.

Jesus then took the loaves, gave thanks, and distributed to those who were seated as much as they wanted. He did the same with the fish.

All they could eat.

:14, 15 After the people saw the miraculous sign that Jesus did, they began to say, "Surely this is the Prophet who is to come into the world." Jesus, knowing that they intended to come and make Him king by force, withdrew again to a mountain by himself.

It would be simple to have an application right here – and we will do a mini-one – but there is a much bigger story.

The mini-application is – Look at the extent John goes to make sure you understand how little things are. Three times, he says: there is a little boy, with a little bread, barley bread – poverty bread – poor people ate this stuff. There is this little boy with a little poverty bread and a little fish – like sardines. We have nothing. There are 10,000 people and little, little, little.

Jesus says – watch what I can do with a little. So He feeds 10,000 people all you can eat and there are leftovers. Just in that alone, God is showing Himself to be a **Provider**.

He does not need much to make things happen. That is like the *modus operandi* of Jesus the Christ. It is the way God works. He takes little things and makes big things out of them.

He takes a boat and turns it into a pulpit – that was a great pulpit. We are still memorizing what He said from that pulpit. (John 6:25 ...)

He takes a woman's perfume that she breaks on His feet and that has become the very definition of exuberant and extravagant love. (John 12:2-7)

Even better still, look at what He does with people – not very special people but little people, people who don't count – like Peter and James and John, the 11 apostles who believed in Him. Look at what happens. They form a thing called the church and they change the world.

There seems to be implied here that the only requirement to be used by God in great big, huge ways, is not a lot of talent, not a lot of wealth, not a lot of anything – just willingness. It's a little kid who says: Okay, if you take all I have, and it's not much, I won't have anything – but okay.

I think that is part of the application here. God is not limited by many or by few; He just needs people who want to serve Him.

But there is a much bigger story going on here in John 6.

In the first part, He shows himself to be a Provider of food, like manna from heaven. The people see that and, because He is going to be the Manna Mobile, they want to make Him king. They will *make* Him be king if they get their hands on Him. They don't get their hands on Him. He goes into the mountains.

The next plot in this story which is like Act 2 is that while He is in the mountains, His disciples get on a boat and go across the Sea of Galilee, which is about 7 miles wide. Right about the time they hit the halfway mark, a storm breaks out. This is Part 2 of the Passover story. Look at verse 18.

John 6:18-21 A strong wind was blowing and the waters grew rough. When they had rowed three or three and a half miles,

Right in the middle ...

...they saw Jesus approaching the boat, walking on the water; and they were terrified.

But He said to them "It is I; don't be afraid."

*Ego eimi* – "I Am."

Then they were willing to take Him into the boat, and immediately the boat reached the shore where they were heading. (the other side of the Sea of Galilee).

He calls himself "I Am". He says Yahweh – just like He did when He parted the Red Sea. That was the great I Am. That is how God identifies himself to Moses in the Passover. What is your name? My name is Yahweh – Jehovah.

So Jesus approaches this boat and says I Am. He is saving them from the wrath of the water again.

The application for this little section here is that God protects us. He is not against dead bolt locks but really if you are losing sleep at night because you don't think you are safe enough, you are putting

your safety somewhere else. You are plenty safe in the hands of God. Just trust Him. It does not mean everything is going to work out. It just means that you are going to be close to Him when things go bad.

He is walking us right through this Passover. I can provide for you. I can protect you.

### **John 6:25-69 The Bigger Lesson**

Now, the rest of the chapter is talking about the deeper meaning, the bigger part of this story.

Let's summarize the Passover again. We have manna from heaven; check that box. We have the conquest over the waters; check that box. Passover lamb coming up, I will bet. There is more than meets the eye. It is not one-dimensional but three-dimensional. It is not black and white; it is color. There is a spirit world out there and this is what I need to tell you about all those things pointing to Me.

In this next section, He is going to define what is real (key word) and what is true about this Old Testament ritual called Passover, but also about all of life, what is real and what is true.

It is cave life versus real life – Shadow Lands versus eternity.

The crowd of people who got fed, the 10,000, they woke up the next morning and guess what their stomachs said? *Feed me. Where is Jesus, the guy with the manna?* So they track Him down, going on the other side of the Sea of Galilee and they show up. They say: *We missed you, Jesus, like right around breakfast. We really missed your breakfast.*

John 6:26-30 Jesus answered, “Truly, truly

When Jesus says “truly, truly”, He is talking from outside the cave – real life, true life.

[I tell you the truth], you are looking for Me, not because you saw miraculous signs but because you ate the loaves and had your fill. Do not work for food that spoils,

Quit thinking about cave values ...

...but for food that endures to eternal life, which the Son of Man will give you. On him God the Father has placed his seal of approval.

Then they asked Him, “What must we do to do the works God requires?”

Jesus answered, “The work of God is this: to believe in the One He has sent.”

That would be Me.

So they asked Him, “What miraculous sign then will You give that we may see it and believe You? What will You do? Our forefathers ate the manna in the desert; as it is written: ‘He gave them bread from heaven to eat.’”

So this is a big comparison. It is not suggesting that food is a bad thing and giving people food is a bad thing. Jesus is trying to get them to focus on the meaning of the whole thing altogether. He is comparing eternal food to temporal food. He is talking about the body that is going to die even if you feed it, to the soul that will live forever. He is saying, get out of the cave and think about your spirit. He is trying to get them back to the original source in the first place. It wasn't even Moses that gave you the manna; it was the Father who gave you the manna.

:32 Jesus said to them, "I tell you the truth [truly, truly],

This is the way it really is in real life. I was there outside the cave in the real world.

... it is not Moses who has given you the bread from heaven, but it is my Father who gives you the true bread from heaven. For the bread of God is he who comes down from heaven

...

Me trying to talk you out of the cave, from the real world ...

And gives life to the world."

To the world (shadow land). I am here to unshackle you and to take you out of this cave. I am here to give you spiritual bread for your spirit.

So, if you listen to what is happening here, it is us, I am afraid. Jesus comes and say: You guys look hungry. I will feed you some manna.

*Manna, I like manna.*

He feeds them and then the next time he runs into them, Jesus says – you are not following me. You are just following like a bread truck. You need to understand that I care about your soul. You need to follow the one that God sent to you.

*How do we know that you are the one God sent to us? How do we know that? Maybe you should do a miracle – like give us some bread. We are thinking bread. If you gave us some bread, we would believe that you are the bread man.*

If I keep giving you bread, you are still going to get hungry again. Even if I give you bread for ninety years, do you know what they call a 90-year old -- a dead guy. You will be dead even if you are filled. I am here to give you spiritual food.

*I like it when you say food. Do you mean bread?*

Yeah, I mean bread – for your soul.

*Say it again – say bread.*

You guys are like cave men.

What Jesus is doing here is trying to show them – All that stuff that happened in the Old Testament, that was a test to point you to a total dependence upon God for your bread – so that you would be totally dependent upon God for your *soul*.

That is why in Deuteronomy 8:2, 3, He is showing the answer key to the test.

Deuteronomy 8:2, 3 Remember how the Lord your God led you all the way in the desert these forty years, to humble you and to test you in order to know what was in your heart (soul), whether or not you would keep His commands. He humbled you, causing you to hunger and then feeding you with manna, which neither you nor your fathers 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.

And He did humble you, causing you to hunger. That was not a bad thing. Then feeding you manna, which neither you nor your fathers even knew what that was, to teach you that man does not live by bread alone – but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.

What part of man does not live on bread alone? Your soul. He gives you these physical longings like hunger and thirst, and then satisfies them to say – Look, I can be trusted with your soul.

That is the exact passage that Jesus quotes when He is starving in the desert, during this temptation. Satan shows up and says: Dude, you could turn that rock into bread.

What, for my body?

See, the temptation is to not obey God's commandments.

Man does not live on bread alone. I care more about my soul than I do my body. So I am going another day without food because my soul is more important. My body is trapped in a cave; my soul is for eternity. I won't risk it.

Just like in the Old Testament, whenever manna is brought up, there is always *grumbling*. So John is just showing here that it is déjà vu all over again in verses 41 and 42.

John 6:41, 42 At this the Jews began to grumble about Him because He said, "I am the bread that came down from heaven."

Because He was. Listen, the whole first part of this thing goes like this:

Jesus is saying, "I Am."

Yeah.

“I am the Passover. I am the manna that came down from heaven. That was like Me against an image on the wall. Those flakes of manna that sustained your body, that was a shadow of who I really am. Here I am right here, in color, three-dimensionally. I am manna.

“There is more. The parting of the Red Sea, that was Me too. It was just an image of Me. You couldn’t see Me face to face. I was like a big pillar of fire that day. I dressed up. And I parted the Red Sea and everybody walked through because the ocean does what it is told around Me. That was an image in the cave and I am Him now.

“Wait, you know that innocent lamb who was slaughtered and blood was sprayed everywhere and you had to eat its flesh? Remember that on Passover? I am that guy too. That was Me dressed up like a sheep. It was just an image across a wall. But this is Me in real life. This is Me outside the cave. Do you see who I am?”

So, the first part, Jesus is saying – I Am Passover.

The second thing He is saying, and it is the theme of the book of John, and we need to hear this: You are not a body with a soul ---- you are a soul with a body. That is your values. You are spiritual and you are trapped right now in skin. Your spirit is eternal and has eternal values outside the cave; the body not so much. The body is going to die. It is always whining about stuff. You can use that whining to point to bigger things. The whining helps you to understand that this is like you with your wings clipped.

Jesus is saying – Would you quit listening to your stomach and start listening to the cry of your heart? That loneliness in there? That is not hunger; that means you are not supposed to be a cave dweller. I am here to set you free from the cave.

Watch how this makes sense.

John 6:53-56 Jesus said to them, “I tell you the truth, ...

Some of your Bibles read “Truly, truly.” Do you know why He is saying that? This is life outside the cave; this is what is real.

... unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink His blood, you have no life in you.

Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, ...

He is talking spiritual things.

... and I will raise him up at the last day. For my flesh is real food ...

Why is it real? Because it is spiritual food, outside the cave. That is what real life is – heaven is real; this is shadow lands.

....For my flesh is real food and My blood is real drink. Whoever eats My flesh and drinks My blood remains in Me, and I in him.

Cave life is inferior to Eternal life. Think that way. And Jesus feeds the eternal life. – They don't like this so much. How come You won't talk about bread? Now You are talking about eating flesh. I don't like this guy any more.

John 6:60-69 On hearing it, many of His disciples said, "This is a hard teaching. Who can accept it?"

How come He doesn't talk about bread any more?

:63 The Spirit gives life; the flesh counts for nothing. The words I have spoken to you are Spirit and they are life. Yet there are some of you who do not believe."

:66 From this time many of His disciples turned back ...

Where did they go? They went back to the cave where it was cool and predictable, one-dimensional and fake. But they were never scared.

... and no longer followed Him.

:67 "You do not want to leave too, do you?" Jesus asked the Twelve.

:68 Simon Peter answered Him, "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. We believe and know that you are the Holy One of God."

## **Conclusion**

Let me tell you the bigger application for the whole chapter.

1. **Jesus is out to save your soul.** That is how He serves himself as the Passover lamb. That is why He came and He died. What do we have to do to have this? He says in John 6:29;

John 6:29 Jesus answered, "The work of God is this: to believe in the One He has sent."

You don't work. You believe in the One that He has sent.

Do you know how Jesus saves your soul? By paying for your debt against God and the wrath of God just passes over you – just like in Passover.

You have to make a decision some day in your life. You need to say: I will not try to earn God's favor. I will just believe in the One that He sent, the real one – not the image but the real one, Jesus. That is the overarching theme of the book of John.

2. **Jesus wants to change your soul, all of you.** Jesus wants to absolutely, positively re-arrange your values. He wants to take you out of the chains of those chairs and drag you up to see life from eternity and live in such a way that you are glad that He drug you out into the sun and then you started seeing things for the way they really are.

So, He says: Why do you keep score like you do? Who has the most expensive chains? You have silver chains and this guy has gold chains. He has a big chair and you have a little chair. You are chained to a wall in a false reality. That is why He keeps saying things like: It is not how much spend but how much you give. It is not how many people serve you; it is how many people you serve. A lot of you guys who are first in the cave, you are going to be last when it really matters.

How much of the Beatitudes (Matthew 5) are just like a book report from eternity?

Blessed are those who mourn, ...

Blessed are those who suffer ...

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness ...

That is how it works *forever*. Somebody want to get those down?

Here is some unusual insight. What if we applied Deuteronomy 8:3 to our own lives? God humbles us. Maybe the reason we are not getting everything we want from God – bread, God, more bread – maybe it is because He is trying to test us to see if we care more about our bodies and our reputations than our souls. He causes us to hunger and then feeds you with manna, which neither you nor your parents even knew about – but to teach you that man does not live by bread alone – but every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.

What if you were to live in such a way because you were not getting everything you wanted and then because you were not getting it and after you threw your little tantrum and then started realizing – you know what? Maybe there is a whole lot more to life than this.

The people who get this have something in common. One of the groups who understands this verse – the soul is more important than the body – are the persecuted – just like Jesus promised. Blessed are those who are persecuted (Matthew 5:11). In their persecution, because they follow Jesus and sometimes end up in a prison, they lose everything and then realize there is a contentment within their soul because they have chosen to be a follower of Jesus Christ, regardless of the consequences. They are missing meals and losing weight and they are desperately in need of a drink – and they go, I have never been happier.

Sometimes people who are very sick get to this place where they start to realize that if you have your health, you have got everything. Then they lose their health. After they have enough doctors' appointments and all the wrestling and fighting, somewhere along the line they think – wait a minute. I have been spending so much time and money and energy on my body. I am realizing that it won't even be here in a few years. They start turning inward and focusing on their spiritual life. It is because of their being humble and they are starting to get it. They start writing devotions. How many of us have read biographies by people who are paralyzed or seriously injured or were in prison for Jesus. We go, Wow, the depths! Because God drug them out of the cave.

Sometimes old people get it because they have been everywhere and done everything. They have seen the sunrise in Paris and the sunset in Moscow. They have had extravagant experiences. They have done it. Their deep abiding love for their mate still has something missing. Even grandkids, they have them bouncing on their knee; no, there is still something missing. That loneliness is a calling for heaven. The cave experience is not enough. So, sometimes old people get it.

Sometimes it is people who are just wise and deep. Sometimes they are rather melancholy because they have figured out somewhere that this world has everything they want but nothing that they need. They want to get out of this bloody cave.

Who would you be if you did not care at all what other cave dwellers thought about you? Or what kind of chair you are sitting in and how fancy your chains are? Who would you be if you did not care about life in the cave?

That is where Jesus is trying to get you. He is trying to get you outside the cave, teach you a set of values and way of looking at life, and then get you back in here to be repulsed by the things you used to brag about. He wants you pulling those stupid plaques off the walls and saying – Really? Most likely to predict the next shadow.

The last thing to apply to this is that Jesus doesn't just want to transform your life and save your soul but around here at Grace, these are the values that generate a lot of everything around here: our spending, our energy. So if we send people around the world, if we buy bread for somebody in Africa, or send coats to people who had been in a tsunami, that bread is going to be a short little help. We are going to send some spiritual food too.

There is a sociology professor at the University of Texas whose latest research, after looking at Christian benevolence for 100 years, they have figured out that when Christians go and bring bread, they change the whole place and make it right. They bring bread for the body and then they bring Christ for the soul. They bring justice and dignity and love and civilization. This man has studied how when Christians

bring the whole thing, body and soul, life starts from that epicenter and moves out. So when we send people around the world, we are sending bread and we are sending life.

Around this campus, it is the same thing. At a church this big that has so many things going on, it can look very consumer-like. I want you to understand something. We don't do this to serve you. The children's ministry is not for babysitting.

The youth ministry is not set up so we can produce good citizens who will get through the tumultuous times in their lives without too much injury or embarrassment to their parents. The objective in the student ministry is to drag students out of the cave and expose them to what is right and real and true and then give them the backbone to send them back to send the other cave dwellers who are chained to their chairs and who are keeping score by smooth skin and straight teeth and popularity – just like the adults.

Our adult ministry can look like a cafeteria. Oh gosh we just really want to help you when you are newly weds, then when you are a young parent, and then when you have a number of kids, and then when you are parenting adolescents. We are here to help you – but it is kind of like manna.

I have to let you know there is so much more. The purpose in all of this happening here is to help you understand that man cannot live by bread alone but every word that proceeds from the mouth of God. That is what we do here. We have hired the wrong people and have the wrong people in charge if we are just a bread truck. If you are following Jesus and you are really just following a bread truck, it is just a matter of time before He says: No more bread for you. You are missing the point here.

So we are out to change everything at Grace Covenant Church. That is what we do. No cave dwellers.

What would it be like to be Peter interviewed by *The Jerusalem Post* after this whole thing. Can you think about that? Peter is sitting there and the reporter walks up and says: *Wow, tough day. 10,000 followers yesterday and I am looking around and it looks like 12. You are going to make church gross today. What are you doing? 10,000 people are scattering anywhere but here.*

(Peter) I am going to follow Him.

(Reporter) Really? You are going to follow Him? Let me read you a quote: Unless you eat My body and drink My blood, you shall not have life but if you do eat My body and drink My blood, you will have eternal life. That is a quote in red right there, the words of Jesus. You are okay with that? You understand what is happening there?

(Peter) No, I really don't know what He means but there is a lot that He says and I don't understand it. I really don't. And this was a particularly unsettling day. I could see it in my head – eat My body and drink My blood. But here is the thing. I pray that on some Sunday morning, I am going to wake up and this is going to make sense to me. But where can I go? I am going back to fishing and an old religion? That stuff is too predictable to be true. It is like images on a wall in a cave. Besides, and you won't understand this, but when I am around Him, and especially when He talks, there is a growling in my soul and when He talks the growling goes away and I am at peace whenever I am around Him. His words have eternal life in them. So, you put this down and spell it right. My name is Peter, P E T E R, and you write that I am all in. That is why I am following Him. I don't get Him but I am all in.

Lord: I pray we could understand that the world we live in is not the real world. There is a spiritual world that when we look at other human beings, we look into their eyes and we see souls instead of irises, that we would see people bearing the image of God and we treat them that way. We look at the way our lives are lived and, God, I confess that I am collecting gold chains to compare to other strangers. That is so foolish.

God, I pray we would be people who would live out the songs that we sing. All my soul needs is Your love that covers me. I want everyone to know that all my souls needs if all Your love that covers me. Without You, I am nothing, absolutely nothing without You.

Lord, let that be the desires of our heart and the expressions of our lifestyle. We pray this in Jesus' name. Amen