

## What's Most Important

- Most imp to you in life right now? Speaking to wide range of people; diff ages, interests. But what about you, as person, individually: what is most imp to you in life right now? What consumes you, dominates attention, top priority in life; how changed over years? What imp when young? My daughters, pretty dresses; son, Legos. You when in grade school, HS? Baseball, volleyball, GPA? Little older – HS sweetheart? Get through college years – landing good job? Engaged: planning wedding, starting family. Middle years: success in occupation, profession. Then kids get married. Then grandparent: hold baby's baby. Then responsible for parents in their old age. Reach twilight years, look back on what priorities had been over years. What about now? Where now? What's most imp now? Sure not dresses, Legos imp when my kids' age. Priorities change with every stage of life, and various life events (good or bad) change what's most imp, so that what's most imp now probably diff from once was; chances are priorities will change again in future.
- Sometimes priorities change for better; sometimes worse. See that in Gospel. John 6, chapter with feeding of 5000 – doesn't count women, children – talking huge crowd, like at state fair. All following Jesus, all listening Jesus preach; priority; left home to listen; important to them. And Jesus gives famous "Bread of Life Discourse" (last sermon) – **"I am the bread of life... I am the living bread that came down from heaven. Whoever eats this bread will live forever. This bread is my flesh... Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life."** What Jesus taught people. Last Sunday, PDW: this eating is believing; to eat Jesus is to take him into us by faith, so dwells within as believe.
- Want to know people's reaction when heard this? Today's lesson: **vs. 60, 66**. Jesus had been priority; but priorities changed. Jesus said something hard; didn't understand; offended by it. So Jesus ceased to be most important to them. What about you? What's most important in life right now to you? This far into sermon: Jesus. Challenge you: ask self, ask heart, is Jesus still most important when says something hard, don't understand, offends you? Here Jesus said something hard, people left him. Still says hard things today. What you going do? Will Jesus still be most important to you? 3 scenarios:
  - What if Jesus in Word teaches doctrine don't like, some teaching of Bible rubs wrong way. I've seen people leave Jesus over doctrine, teaching didn't like: not politically correct enough, not inclusive enough, not scientific enough. Hard; offended; leave.
  - What if Jesus says something to you by actions, decisions; you don't like what does/decides. What if takes loved one from you by death: child, parent, spouse. In sense, Jesus saying, "I've decided to bring this person to me." But you don't like that; hard; offends. Or health fails (or best friend), or job goes south, have heartache over some trouble very personal to you. Say, "Jesus, why allowing? Hard!" I've seen people leave Jesus over decisions that offend.
  - What if Jesus insists that he must be most important in your life, your top priority. (By way, does.) But you take inventory of life, realize right now you'd rather have Jesus at #2. Maybe right now, what's most important is: kids' travelling sports teams that keep from feeding faith in church for months at time; or vacation schedule (up north); or some hobby, interest that consumes attention. None bad in/of themselves. But end up saying, Jesus is important, but this most important. Jesus is one priority; but this is top.
- Cannot be! Inconsistent with Christianity! Yet all of us misplace priorities when anything becomes more imp than Jesus. But exactly what people did in Gospel. Jesus was priority until said something hard. Then priorities changed, no longer most important. **Vs. 66**. Then Jesus asks haunting question; directs at every single one of us: **vs. 67**.
- What's most important to you in life right now? If look at life, find yourself guilty of misplacing priorities, putting Jesus at #2, then listen to Peter's response: **vs. 68-69**. Peter's answer is perfect answer, because there is nothing more imp than Jesus. Only Jesus has words of eternal life; found

exclusively in him. Only Jesus can say, **“I am the bread of life... Whoever eats...life.”** Only Jesus can say, “light of world; gate for sheep; good shepherd; res & life; way, truth, life.” We understand these words correctly when in minds insert word “only:” only way, only good shepherd, only gate for sheep. Reason Jesus is what’s most imp to us: only Jesus has the words of eternal life. Jesus is only one who lived without sin to take our sin away; only one willing to be crucified to rescue us from hell; only one who could rise from dead to free us from death; only one could claim us as member of family in baptism; only one who gives us his very body, blood in Holy Communion; only one who promises, **“Surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age” (Mt 28:20);** only one who truly loves us, only Savior; only reason for living here on earth, only way to heaven; only hope in death, only source of eternal life. Peter captures that: **vs. 68** (nothing more imp than you; you alone!).

- Dear Christian friends (you are!), I urge you: make Peter’s words your own, in attitude & actions. Dethrone whatever has become #1 in your heart, put Savior back at highest place. So many things that can rip him down. Not bad things! Keep them in proper place! Today rededicate yourself to what’s most imp in life: Savior JC, who made saving you his top priority. When you keep Christ as #1 in life, that changes your priorities, for better: in way schedule your time; in attitude about worship; in way raise kids to love Jesus (can’t help: tomorrow school; Tim Sonntag today; Christian Ed huge priority that flows from keeping Christ #1).
- Sometimes Jesus does/says things hard, to understand (why let’s things happen). Remember: everything Jesus says/does is meant to give us eternal life. So whatever stage of life you’re in right now (young, middle, old), whatever life demands of you now, whatever priorities you’ve set for yourself for present, future: always remember what’s most important. **Vs. 67-68.** That’s what’s most important.

### **John 6:60-69**

<sup>60</sup> On hearing it, many of his disciples said, “This is a hard teaching. Who can accept it?”

<sup>61</sup> Aware that his disciples were grumbling about this, Jesus said to them, “Does this offend you? <sup>62</sup> Then what if you see the Son of Man ascend to where he was before! <sup>63</sup> The Spirit gives life; the flesh counts for nothing. The words I have spoken to you—they are full of the Spirit and life. <sup>64</sup> Yet there are some of you who do not believe.” For Jesus had known from the beginning which of them did not believe and who would betray him. <sup>65</sup> He went on to say, “This is why I told you that no one can come to me unless the Father has enabled them.”

<sup>66</sup> From this time many of his disciples turned back and no longer followed him.

<sup>67</sup> “You do not want to leave too, do you?” Jesus asked the Twelve.

<sup>68</sup> Simon Peter answered him, “Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. <sup>69</sup> We have come to believe and to know that you are the Holy One of God.”