Life with God Ray Stedman

I. Introduction.

A. Text: John 6:41-59.

B. It must have been startling for Jesus' audience to hear that Jesus was the bread from heaven.

II. The crowd had forgotten all of Jesus' miracles and His wisdom making Him out to be an ordinary man.

A. Many regard Jesus this way today.

B. Reasons for their doubt.

1. People have never really examined the evidence through.

2. The Father must first draw people to Jesus to awaken belief—the people had an inadequate enlightenment.

a. It is not enough to hear the facts about Jesus.

b. Our choices do not determine our destiny. Our choices are the result of God's drawing.

c. There is only one authorized representative for the Father—Jesus.

1) Consequently, Jesus urges us to believe in Him.

2) This is eternal life.

3) God draws us through painful experiences, joys or sudden conversion. Our responsibility is to believe and keep on believing.

3. The Jews were still hung up on ineffective symbols for their faith.

a. People still do this today—they rely on Baptism or something else. However, this does no good.

b. The proof of its ineffectiveness is death.

c. Only those who receive Jesus' life overcome the effects of death.

4. The Jews are disturbed that salvation requires Jesus' death.

a. Jews were offended at Jesus' metaphor because it was not kosher to eat any flesh consumed with blood.

b. People do not want to believe that their problems are coming from something bad within them.

c. Everywhere in the Scripture, there is an emphasis on the need for a death to deliver mankind.

d. God intends for us the real kind of life.

e. The sharing of life is one of the most basic principles of the Bible—I in you, and you in me.

1) True worship is a desire to merge with God.

2) We are dependent upon God.

Application questions:

1. Which one of the four reasons for doubt have you related to the most in the past? Explain.

2. How would you respond to someone who says that man is an automaton if God must draw him for salvation?

3. Many argue today that Jesus' death for us on the cross is offensive. Why is this a necessary element of our faith?