

## Sermon Study Questions

“To Whom Shall We God?” John 6:52-71

15 August 2021

Read John 6: 52-71

1. When Jesus said “I am the bread of life” what was the significance of the use of the words “I am”? What was he hinting at?  
*This phrase “I am,” which Jesus uses 21 times in John’s Gospel, often is a conscious referral back to the holiest name of God in the Old Testament - particularly in the story of the calling of Moses at the burning bush in Exodus chapter 3. “I Am that I Am” was how God self-identified to Moses. And that is how Jesus self-identified to the crowds around him on more than one occasion, including this one.*
2. Many disciples turned back from following Jesus in response to Jesus’ claims to divinity. What kind of things in our own lives tempt us to turn back from following Jesus?  
*For James it was “no”, “not yet” or “none of your business.”*
3. What did James suggest Jesus was all about? And what was the important difference between the two Greek words for life: *bios* and *zoe*?  
*Jesus is all about life.  
Bios, from which we derive our word biology, is a purely physical description of all life on earth. Zoe bears an additional nuance of meaning in that it can refer to the divine life of God which is eternal and unchanging.*
4. How does one participate in the *zoe* life, the eternal life of God? Read John 3: 1-16.  
*Vs 5: “by water and the spirit.” By baptism & the indwelling presence of the Holy Spirit, which awakens or births our own spiritual self.*
5. What have we learned about life in community, especially the sacramental part of that life, during the pandemic lock-downs? James suggested one thing, but this is an open question: what have **you** learned?  
*God’s Grace is by no means limited to the sacraments. Apart from the barriers we put up in our own hearts, there are no real barriers to the outpouring of Divine Grace into our lives and world.*
6. What is the glorious reality that sustains our *zoe* life even when we can’t participate in communion?  
*The Sacramental Presence is all around us - and within us. We can fast for a year and a half from the bread and the wine that nourishes our *zoe* life because we, as followers of Jesus, regardless of how often or far we wander, are awash in the *zoe* life. It’s in the air we breathe, it’s in the blood that pumps in our veins, it’s*

*in our being at a molecular level. Because, by His Spirit, Jesus is within us, His life interwoven with our own. And That life - That life will NEVER die.*