

Sermon Title: “Full or Satisfied?”

Scripture: John 6:26-35

Sermon Series: The God We Can Know

In the United States really like to eat. It’s rare for us to celebrate without food.

In the United States, eating is not just something we do to meet a basic need of life and fill our stomachs, its something we enjoy...

We celebrate Christmas with ham, Thanksgiving with turkey, and Veteran’s Day, Independence Day, and Memorial with hamburgers, hotdogs, and all other varieties of grilled foods...

We celebrate birthdays with cake, and get together with family and friends by going out to eat...

So, let’s say someone brought you a menu with these two items on it...

(Show Steak Dinner Slide)

First, this wonderfully seasoned T-bone steak, mashed potatoes, and a salad...

(Show Oatmeal Slide)

Next, this large bowl of unflavored oatmeal?

(Show Side by Side Slide)

So, which one would you choose?

For most of us, it didn’t take us too long to choose...

But let me ask...

Why did you choose the steak?

Both meals will fill your stomach, and both are nutritious.

So why choose the steak when either meal will end our hunger?

Well, a steak dinner tastes better than non-flavored oatmeal...
Simply put, steak is more satisfying...

Would you believe me if I told you that the majority of people, and the majority of Christians are settling for an unflavored oatmeal type of faith rather than a truly satisfying steak dinner type of faith?

This doesn't have to be the case...

Jesus offers us something so much better than a boring, unflavored, and distant kind of faith...

Jesus offers us a truly satisfying faith, but the question is, how do we find it?

In the beginning of today's scripture, the crowds were searching for Jesus, and when they couldn't find him, they hopped into boats, crossed the Sea of Galilee, and found him in a town called Capernaum.

You see, the reason the crowd was looking for him because of what he did the day before.

In the beginning of the John 6, in verses 1-15, is the feeding of the 5000 miracle, where Jesus takes a small amount of food, 5 loaves of bread and 2 fish, multiplies it, and feeds 5000 people...

The people ate until they were full...

The crowds searched for Jesus so they could get their fill of food again.

For the crowd, the day before, seeing the miracle, and filling up on fish and bread was not enough to satisfy, or convince them to believe that Jesus was the messiah.

They desired another miracle and another meal to end their hunger, but Jesus was trying to satisfy an even greater hunger and need...

The crowds didn't understand what Jesus was offering...

When Cheryl and I moved into the parsonage, many of you came out to help us unload our completely full 26' long U-haul. We're grateful for all the help we received, but what many of you may not know is that was our second load of stuff. Two days before I brought up a 20' x 8' enclosed trailer completely packed with more stuff...

Cheryl and I realized something... we have way too much stuff... stuff we don't need, stuff we had bought, hoping it would meet some perceived need and satisfy us...

I'm going to make an educated guess here and say, I bet Cheryl and I are not the only ones in this boat...

Trying to fill our lives with stuff, hoping that it will satisfy our desires, cravings, and wants...

Hoping that it will satisfy our desire to full important and worth something...

(Show Storage Unit Slide)

Do you know what this is?

Yes, it's a storage unit, at one of those self-storage facilities. We have a few of them in Borger.

Do you know when storage units like this started popping up across the United States?

They started coming onto the American landscape in the late 1960's, and ever since we've been filling them up in an attempt of being satisfied by being full of stuff.

We're tempted to believe that in order to be satisfied, we have to be full, yet fullness doesn't guarantee satisfaction...

As a matter of fact, it's usually a great distraction to finding satisfaction.

Being "full" is about more than how many u-hauls it takes to move, how many storage units we have, or whether or not we can actually park in our garage...

We often seek to become full in other ways too. Maybe it's by being a part of the right groups and social circles, or moving up the job ladder so we can get that next raise, so we can go on that better vacation and drive that nicer car or truck.

We have the tendency to seek after what we think will fill us up, but at the end of the day, none of this will truly satisfy us, none of this will provide a lasting satisfaction...

Here's the thing... this isn't new to us modern Americans, the crowds that followed Jesus across the Sea of Galilee sought the same thing.

Our constant attempts to fill our lives with stuff points us to a deeper need and deeper desire...

It's to these deeper needs and desires that Jesus says, I am the Bread of Life.

He told the crowds then and continues to tell us today, you seek to be full, but I want to give you something that will satisfy.

You see, we really don't know what we really need and what will really satisfy until we meet Jesus...

So, let's let the hunger in our bellies and emptiness in our life lead us to notice how much our souls are starving...

The satisfaction we really need, the flavorful steak type of faith is right here, the bread that leads to no more spiritual thirst or hunger is available for the taking.

Move into Communion Liturgy.