



Begin the story of taking Hermeneutics and Homiletics from D.A. Carson and getting back a strong reprimand on how I submitted my initial paper

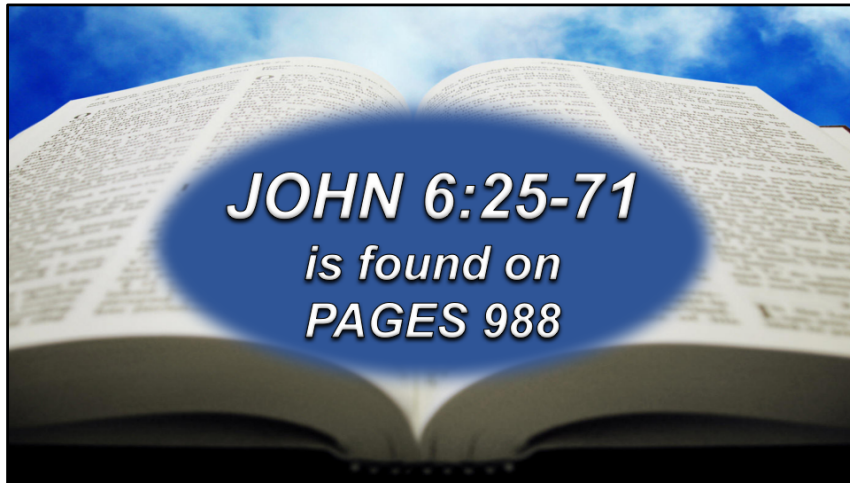
-- I had a choice to make about how I would respond . . .

-- . . . after all, at the time I had been out in the field of pastoring for twice as long as he had ever been.

TR: In a small way, Dr. Carson had drawn a line in the sand for me.



And that's exactly what Jesus does, again and again.
-- I am certain that the folks back then felt just as I did with my professor . . . their ire was raised!
-- But, instead of backing down, Jesus escalates the corrections, the confronting, the challenges.
TR: How would they respond? How will we, even today?



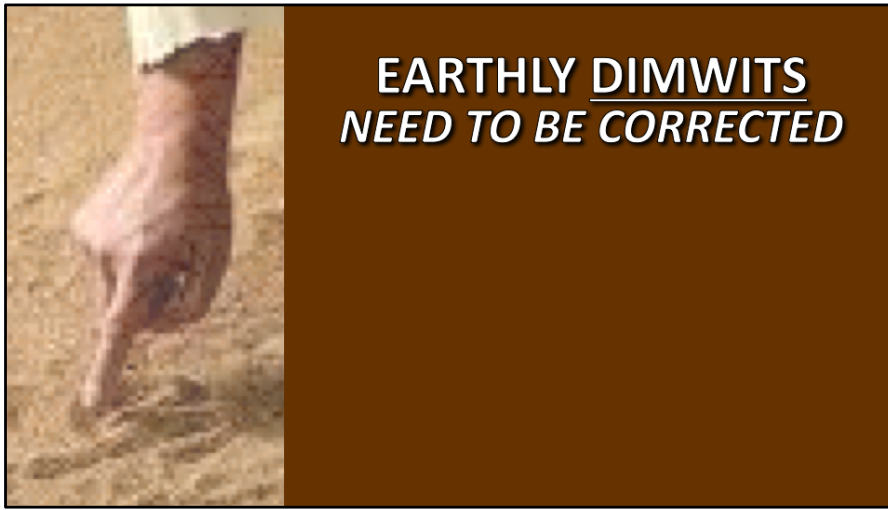
Our text covers a huge part of God's Word.

-- We will not have the time to go through it verse by verse, but hopefully you've already read it or will do so this afternoon.

-- Let's turn in our Bibles to John 6

-- And, let's use the sermon notes page to help us stay together in our processing of the message.

TR: Jesus escalates the conflict, drawing ever deeper lines in the sand because . . .



**EARTHLY DIMWITS
NEED TO BE CORRECTED**

READ SLIDE

- Are you offended that I used the word “dimwits?”
 - We don’t want our kids to walk around saying, “That guy is a few fries short of a happy meal” or “His elevator just doesn’t make it to the top floor.”
 - But, sometimes strong words . . . even like the bold red ink on my paper . . . is exactly what we need.
- TR: Why would I call them “earthly dimwits?”**

**EARTHLY DIMWITS
NEED TO BE CORRECTED**

5

*The context of the correction: Seeking only
the loaves of bread*

Because they were seeking on loaves of bread and NOT the bread of life.

TR: Look at John 6:26 . . .

Jesus answered them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, you are seeking me, not because you saw signs, but because you ate your fill of the loaves."

ESV

READ SLIDE

- The context was one of Jesus' feeding miracles.
 - His confrontation is strong because their focus is only on earthly things.
 - "Too many of us have allowed our earthly experiences and aspirations to define us and what we think would be best or good for us." (GdB)
- TR: Lots of verses cover Jesus' response to these "earthly dimwits" but . . .

**EARTHLY DIMWITS
NEED TO BE CORRECTED**

7

*The context of the correction: Seeking only
the loaves of bread*

Summary of the correction:

**. . . I think the summary of His argument could be found in
verses 47-51**

TR: They read . . .

John 6:47-51

“Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever believes has eternal life. ⁴⁸I am the bread of life. ⁴⁹Your fathers ate the manna in the wilderness, and they died. ⁵⁰This is the bread that comes down from heaven, so that one may eat of it and not die. ⁵¹I am the living bread that came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever. And the bread that I will give for the life of the world is my flesh.”

ESV

READ SLIDE

- Whoever believes → I am the Bread of Life → Better than manna because they still died, because not from heaven → I am the Living Bread, if eat flesh then live forever → the Bread is my flesh
- The focus is on “flesh” not “body” and the ties to Communion, Lord’s Supper, Eucharist is thematic but not direct.
- TR: But, some of these folks are dimwits . . . missing the point of what Jesus said . . .

**EARTHLY DIMWITS
NEED TO BE CORRECTED**

The context of the correction: Seeking only the loaves of bread

Summary of the correction:

Meaning of the Metaphors:

*[work of God] = **believe in Jesus***

[never hunger & never thirst] = "comes to me, believes in me" (v. 35)

. . . by not paying attention to how He Himself defined the metaphors (word pictures) that He was using.

-- They so had an earthly aspiration to win the bread for life program that they really didn't listen at all, they just said, "Give us this bread always" (v. 34).

TR: Look again at the text of Jesus' words and see that He clearly is speaking metaphorically . . . in word pictures.

John 6:28-29, 35

Then they said to him, "What must we do, to be doing the works of God?" ²⁹Jesus answered them, "This is the work of God, that you **believe in him** whom he has sent."

³⁵Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life; **whoever comes to me** shall not hunger, and **whoever believes in me** shall never thirst.

ESV

In verses 28-29 . . . READ SLIDE

-- Jesus told them not to work for the food that perishes but for the food that endures to eternal life.

-- "What must we do to be doing the works of God?"

-- But it is not WORKS but BELIEF in the One Whom God had sent.

-- And, in verse 35 . . . READ SLIDE . . . not literally eating the bread of His flesh, but COMING TO JESUS, not drinking His blood but BELIEVING IN HIM.

TR: I know "dimwit" is a harsh term but I ask myself . . .

ARE WE DIMWITS?

*Are we those who don't listen well because we are so focused on **earthly** priorities – only focused on felt needs and not forever needs?*

. . . Am I a dimwit?

-- Do I not listen well to Jesus . . . READ SLIDE

-- We don't listen well because we are so focused on earthly priorities . . . cf. child obsessed with the movie on the screen . . . "Uh-huh" but not really hear at all.

TR: We may think we're too smart to go after the "loaves" of bread, but I don't think so . . .

ARE WE DIMWITS?

Do we only seek the “loaves” of . . .



Many seek only the “loaves” of . . . having a boyfriend or girlfriend that goes to church, finding healing, enjoying a music style, avoiding loneliness through friendships, finding some volunteer work to help us feel fulfilled, etc.
-- cf. seeking the \$5K per week for life . . . “Jesus, tell me how to find . . . (You?)”

TR: Jesus escalates the conflict, drawing ever deeper lines in the sand because . . .



READ SLIDE

-- It was Carson who used the word “dullard” in the context of his commentary

-- Jesus said in Luke 21:34 – “But watch yourselves lest your hearts be weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and cares of this life, and that day come upon you suddenly like a trap.”

-- Could we be slipping into the category of being dullards?

TR: Jesus had confronted already, but not He escalates further .

..

**SPIRITUAL DULLARDS
NEED TO BE CONFRONTED**

14

*The context of the confronting: Grumbling
about Jesus saying He came down from heaven*

. . . in the context of the grumbling He heard . . .

TR: Look at verse 41 . . .

So the Jews **grumbled about him**, because he said, "I am the bread that came down from heaven."

ESV

READ SLIDE

-- Jesus starts with their felt needs of bread but moves on to their "FOREVER NEEDS" and they don't get it and they don't like it.

TR: His confrontation shows complete confidence in God's will whether there is so-called success or not . . .

**SPIRITUAL DULLARDS
NEED TO BE CONFRONTED**

*The context of the confronting: Grumbling
about Jesus saying He came down from heaven*

*Summary of the confronting: The **sovereignty**
of God's election . . .*

Jesus emphasizes the sovereignty of God's election

TR: Look at v. 37

John 6:37-39

17

“All that the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never cast out. ³⁸For I have come down from heaven, not to do my own will but the will of him who sent me. ³⁹And this is the will of him who sent me, that I should lose nothing of all that he has given me, but raise it up on the last day.”

ESV

READ SLIDE

TR: Also beginning in v. 43

John 6:43-46

Jesus answered them, “Do not grumble among yourselves. ⁴⁴No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him. And I will raise him up on the last day. ⁴⁵It is written in the Prophets, ‘And they will all be taught by God.’ Everyone who has heard and learned from the Father comes to me— ⁴⁶not that anyone has seen the Father except he who is from God; he has seen the Father.”

ESV

READ SLIDE

TR: Some might then say, God will save those whom He has chosen, so what difference does it make what I choose?

**SPIRITUAL DULLARDS
NEED TO BE CONFRONTED**

The context of the confronting: Grumbling about Jesus saying He came down from heaven

*Summary of the confronting: The **sovereignty** of God's election **AND** the responsibility of our choice.*

But, Jesus confrontation focuses on the sovereignty of God's election AND the responsibility of our choices.

TR: Two verses within our immediate context, could be banners for those who emphasize that we choose God . . .

John 6:40, 47

40 “For this is the will of my Father, that **everyone** who looks on the Son and believes in him should have eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day.”

47 “Truly, truly, I say to you, **whoever** believes has eternal life.”

ESV

Verses 40 and 47 read . . . READ SLIDE

-- EVERYONE and WHOEVER are words that point back to our choice to actively believe and look on the Son in faith.

-- We must, speaking in terms of word pictures, come to him and believe in him – that is, eat His flesh and drink His blood.

TR: Jesus escalates the conflict by moving to His most offensive teaching . . .

**SPIRITUAL DULLARDS
NEED TO BE CONFRONTED**

The context of the confronting: Grumbling about Jesus saying He came down from heaven

Summary of the confronting: The **sovereignty** of God's election **AND** the responsibility of our choice.

The Escalation of the Care-fronting:

. . . not simplifying or clarifying further but caring enough to confront because He knew the issue was not one of the head but of the heart, the will.

TR: Let's read verses 52-58 and see how Jesus digs even deeper with His finger into the line in the sand . . .

John 6:52-55

The Jews then disputed among themselves, saying, "How can this man give us his flesh to eat?" ⁵³So Jesus said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you. ⁵⁴Whoever feeds on my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day. ⁵⁵For my flesh is true food, and my blood is true drink."

ESV

READ SLIDE

TR: Verse 53 . . .

John 6:56-58

⁵⁶ “Whoever feeds on my flesh and drinks my blood abides in me, and I in him. ⁵⁷As the living Father sent me, and I live because of the Father, so whoever feeds on me, he also will live because of me. ⁵⁸This is the bread that came down from heaven, not like the bread the fathers ate, and died. Whoever feeds on this bread will live forever.”

ESV

READ SLIDE

TR: These are not easy passages but they are not intended as mere history lessons or spiritual sit-coms that let us make fun of others' dullness.

ARE WE DULLARDS?

*Are we those who do not have
spiritual **perception** because
we wrangle about words
and twist the truth?*

We must ask ourselves . . . READ SLIDE

**-- The Apostle Paul warned us about wrangling about words.
The Apostle Peter about twisting the truth.**

**-- We can get so lost in our questions about points of curiosity
that we miss the central and eternal-critical core.**

**-- EX: John Woodbridge mocking our note-taking but not paying
attention in class.**

**TR: And, Jesus reminds us in v. 63, that this spiritual perception
is only possible through the work of the Holy Spirit . . .**

John 6:63

It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh is no help at all. The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life.

ESV

READ SLIDE

--

TR: Jesus escalates the conflict, drawing ever deeper lines in the sand because . . .



READ SLIDE

TR: It is interesting how John uses the title “disciples” within our passage today.

**WAVERING “DISCIPLES”
NEED TO BE CHALLENGED**

27

The context of the challenge: The offensive teaching of Jesus and His self-claims

Jesus challenges so-called disciples because they are offended by His teaching, especially about Who He claims to be.

TR: Look at v. 66

After this many of his **disciples turned back and no longer walked with him.** ⁶⁷So Jesus said to the twelve, “Do you want to go away as well?”

ESV

READ SLIDE

- Last week we saw that Jesus addresses, in John 8, Jews who believed but then deserted.
 - Here is an earlier passage that also has the theme of fickle faith woven into it.
 - “Do you want to go away as well?”
- TR: Back a few verses we read in v. 60 . . .

When many of his disciples heard it, they said, "This is a hard saying; who can listen to it?" ⁶¹But Jesus, knowing in himself that his disciples **were grumbling** about this, said to them, "Do you take offense at this?"

ESV

READ SLIDE

- Not **HARD** to understand but **HARSH**
 - Do you see the escalating corrections, confrontations, challenges?
 - They grumbled because they had allowed their earthly experiences and aspirations to define them and what they thought was best and good.
 - Wavering disciples who leave Jesus often become "anti" Christian, perhaps because it helps them to justify their lack of doing the work of God, that is, to believe on Him Who He sent.
- TR: It really was . . . and is . . . a matter of priorities.

**WAVERING “DISCIPLES”
NEED TO BE CHALLENGED**

30

The context of the challenge: The offensive teaching of Jesus and His self-claims

*The question of priorities: Peter’s response –
Eternal Life? Work of God?*

It is easy to say a prayer or to bow the knee or, even, to be baptized. But, whether we are truly disciples will show up over time, in our priorities.

TR: What were Peter’s priorities? Look at verse 68-69

Simon Peter answered him, "Lord, to whom shall we go? **You have the words of eternal life,** ⁶⁹and we have believed, and have come to know, that **you are the Holy One of God.**"

ESV

READ SLIDE

-- Peter wanted eternal life, Peter wanted to come to and believe in the One sent by God, the Holy One of God Himself, Jesus.

TR: What do we want? What are our priorities?

ARE WE *DESERTERS*?

Are we those who are disappointed with Jesus because He doesn't always meet our expectations and He's not always easy to understand?

Are we deserters? Will we walk away from Jesus at some point?

-- READ SLIDE

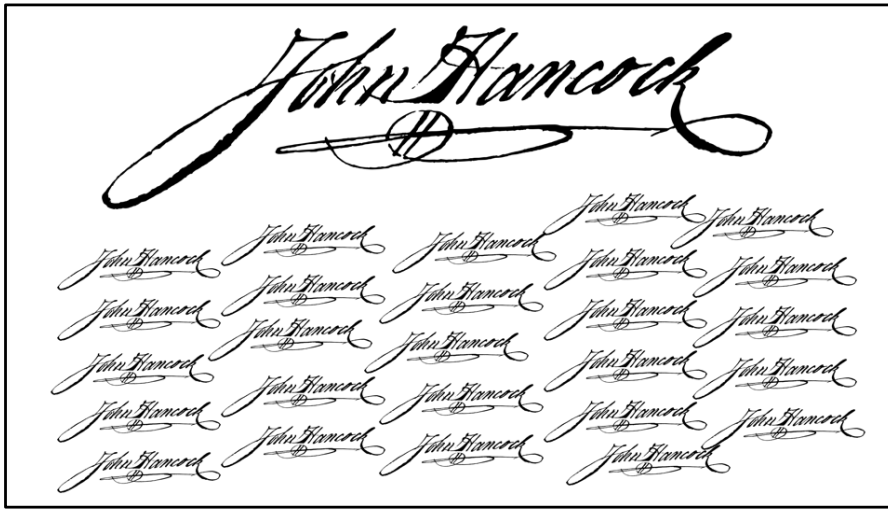
-- Those whose priorities are only "loaves" of bread, will at some point be disappointed with Jesus.

-- Those whose priorities are to fit Jesus into our comfortable theological boxes, will at some point be frustrated with Jesus.

-- But, Jesus escalates the issue because He is seeking to shepherd our hearts . . . to turn us to Him in faith that we might have eternal life.

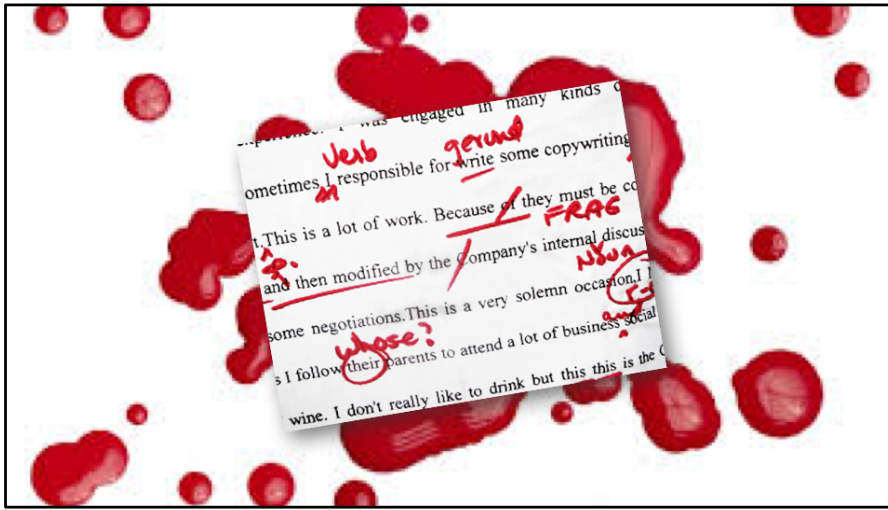
TR: Jesus will ask us to sign on again and again as His disciple .

. .

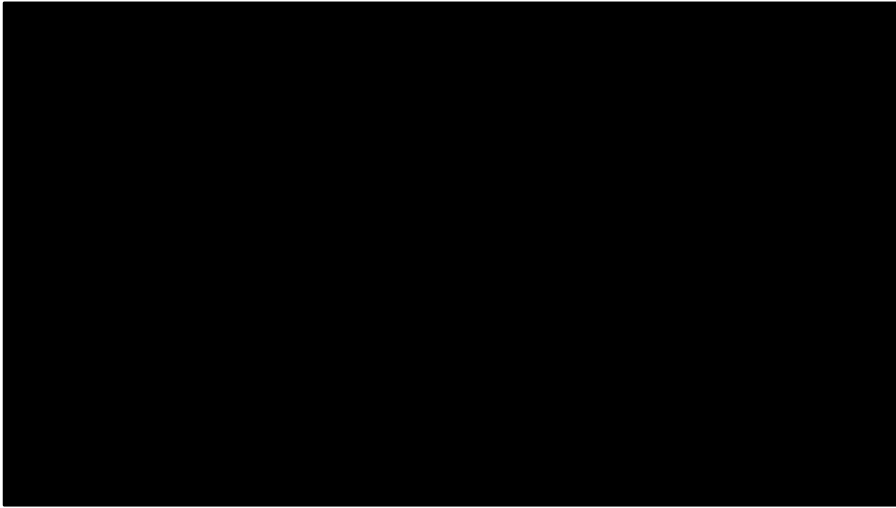


I've always pictured it this way . . . (cf. signing by Hancock of Declaration of Independence with large signature . . . but then having to sign again and again).

TR: Will we have the humility to accept Jesus' correction, confrontation, challenge to us . . .



- . . . even when we don't want to see any red ink that makes us feel like dimwits and dullards?
- D.A. Carson's rebuke set the tone for the rest of my doctoral studies . . . more than addressing my flawed thinking, he addressed my flawed heart.
 - Are our priorities focused on mere earthly "loaves."
 - Is our spiritual perception dulled because we lost Jesus as the central and only real hero and have started wrangling about words?
 - Will we be deserters when Jesus doesn't allow us to stay shallow "disciples"?



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