

What Can You Expect?

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Good morning, Lighthouse! Are you ready for the Word of God this morning?

John 6:51-69

- 51 I am the living bread which came down from heaven: if any man eat of this bread, he shall live forever: and the bread that I will give is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world.
- 52 The Jews therefore strove among themselves, saying, How can this man give us *his* flesh to eat?
- 53 Then Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except ye eat the flesh of the Son of man, and drink his blood, ye have no life in you.
- 54 Whoso eateth my flesh, and drinketh my blood, hath eternal life; and I will raise him up at the last day.
- 55 For my flesh is meat indeed, and my blood is drink indeed.
- 56 He that eateth my flesh, and drinketh my blood, dwelleth in me, and I in him.
- 57 As the living Father hath sent me, and I live by the Father: so he that eateth me, even he shall live by me.
- 58 This is that bread which came down from heaven: not as your fathers did eat manna, and are dead: he that eateth of this bread shall live forever.

- 59 These things said he in the synagogue, as he taught in Capernaum.
- 60 Many therefore of his disciples, when they had heard *this*, said, This is a hard saying; who can hear it?
- 61 When Jesus knew in himself that his disciples murmured at it, he said unto them, **Doth this offend you?**
- 62 **What** and if ye shall see the Son of man ascend up where he was before?
- 63 It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing: the words that I speak unto you, *they* are spirit, and *they* are life.
- 64 **But there are some of you that believe not.** For Jesus knew from the beginning who they were that believed not, and who should betray him.
- 65 And he said, **Therefore said I unto you, that no man can come unto me, except it were given unto him of my Father.**
- 66 From that *time* many of his disciples went back, and walked no more with him.
- 67 Then said Jesus unto the twelve, **Will ye also go away?**
- 68 Then Simon Peter answered him, Lord, to whom shall we go? thou hast the words of eternal life.
- 69 And we believe and are sure that thou art that Christ, the Son of the living God.

What a wonderful fellowship we enjoyed last week on round-up Sunday! Not only did we have an excellent attendance, nearly everyone stayed for dinner with one of the sweetest

times of fellowship we have seen in a long time.

We haven't done an old fashioned pot-luck style dinner on such a scale as this in many years; ladies, I've got to tell you; the food was fabulous! I heard somebody say they were wearing pants with a stretch waistband next time we do this.

Last Sunday, the Lord challenged us to be "of those who stay" instead of "those who walk away"; to be of those who are here for Jesus and not for ourselves.

Those of you who are back this Sunday are stating by your presence that your desire is to be one of those who are here for Jesus and not just for yourselves.

So, if we're here for Jesus and we're not just here for us, what can we expect things to be like in a Church filled with people who are here for Jesus?

Being here for Jesus is not just a cliché nor does it simply consist of the feelings you have for your Church or those in it.

Our being here for Jesus will leave His mark on everything we are and everything we do.

To be sure, you will be tested in this. You will learn whether you love what Jesus loves and

whether you stand for what Jesus stands and whether you will go where Jesus calls.

As we address the question of what can you expect in a Church filled with people who are truly here for Jesus, the first one we will address this morning is:

I. There will be diversity.

A. If we are here for Jesus, if He is the Lord, the King, the Boss of this Church; then what He commands is always going to take priority over everything else.

1. Our most primary command as a Church has never changed.

2. **Mark 16:15** And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.

3. Matthew 28:19-20

19 Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:

20 Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, *even* unto the end of the world. Amen.

4. Winning souls has always been and will always be the main thing where Jesus runs the program.

5. It is also the number one thing the Devil fights against.

B. As we do this; as we take the gospel to everyone we can we will create a cultural diversity in our Church.

1. Whatever diversity is in our culture will be in our Church.
2. There will be people of every color.
3. There will be people from every background.
4. There will be many differences and many preferences.
5. Those differences and preferences; like music for example, are to be understood and tolerated as long as those differences do not violate the standards we are commanded to uphold in the Church.

C. There will also be a spiritual diversity in our Church.

1. New Christians, as well as some older ones who - for whatever reason - have not matured, will not truly be here for Jesus.
2. Some of them will grow up in the Lord and embrace real Christian life; one day they will truly be here for Jesus.

3. Some of them will refuse to grow up and never let go of the world.
4. Eventually, the world will devour those who will not let go and they will be gone by the wayside; we cannot save them all.
5. Yet, in a healthy Church, this process of some growing and some going never stops.
6. Our best consolation is that if we are thorough in our efforts to get them saved, at least we will see them in heaven!

In a Church filled with people here for Jesus:

II. There will be doctrine.

A. Jesus is the Word of God made flesh.

1. A few paragraphs earlier in the beginning of this book, John told us who Jesus really is.
2. **John 1:1** In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.
3. He went on to tell us:
John 1:14 And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.
4. Because of this doctrine that John explained to us in Chapter One, we understand the

metaphor of Jesus as the bread that came down from Heaven which we must eat in order to live forever.

5. It is Jesus as the Word of God that we must consume that springs up into life eternal.

B. Those that are here for Jesus will both understand and come to love doctrine.

1. **John 7:16-17**

16 Jesus answered them, and said, My doctrine is not mine, but his that sent me.

17 If any man will do his will, he shall know of the doctrine, whether it be of God, or *whether I speak of myself.*

2. Bible doctrine is always what makes the difference because the Word of God is Who Jesus IS!

3. **James 1:22** But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves.

4. Not be doers of what you think is ok; not doers of what you feel in your heart; not doers of your opinion; doers of the WORD!

5. Those here for Jesus not only love the Word of God; they are willing to let it rule!

6. They will desire glory for Him, not for themselves. **John 7:18** He that speaketh of himself seeketh his own glory: but he that

seeketh his glory that sent him, the same is true, and no unrighteousness is in him.

In a Church filled with people here for Jesus:

III. There will be duty.

A. Where did we ever get the idea that because we are to serve with a motive of love, we no longer have a duty to our Lord or our Church or our Leaders.

1. Romans 13:7-10

7 Render therefore to all their dues: tribute to whom tribute *is due*; custom to whom custom; fear to whom fear; honor to whom honor.

8 Owe no man any thing, but to love one another: for he that loveth another hath fulfilled the law.

9 For this, Thou shalt not commit adultery, Thou shalt not kill, Thou shalt not steal, Thou shalt not bear false witness, Thou shalt not covet; and if *there be* any other commandment, it is briefly comprehended in this saying, namely, Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself.

10 Love worketh no ill to his neighbor: therefore love *is* the fulfilling of the law.

2. To render therefore to all their dues means to do what is your duty toward them.

3. If your loving someone fulfills the law toward that person, then your keeping of these commanded laws toward them IS loving them!

B. In every aspect of life you have a duty to those around you; especially to those you love.

1. You have a duty to those you work for; they will usually let you know this in no uncertain terms.
2. You have a duty to your family.
2. You don't get up every morning and decide if you are going to love and care for your wife or your husband or your kids that day.
3. No, you get up and you do your duty!
4. You go to work, you pay the bills, you maintain the car, you cook or you clean and you take care of the laundry; you do the books, you keep the records, you meet your tax responsibilities under the law, you do everything your family needs and more; you encourage them and teach them and protect them.
5. That's what love is; and in every relationship where those things are missing, they soon figure out that love is missing as well!

C. It's the same way with your Church!

1. It's your duty to be here when we worship every time you possibly can.

2. It's your duty to support your Church financially.

3. It's your duty to provoke other members to love and to good works.

4. **Hebrews 10:21-26**

21 And *having* a high priest over the house of God;

22 Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, and our bodies washed with pure water.

23 Let us hold fast the profession of *our* faith without wavering; (for he *is* faithful that promised;)

24 And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works:

25 Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some *is*; but exhorting *one another*. and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.

5. This is our duty and it is sin when we don't do it.

Hebrews 10:26 For if we sin willfully after that we have received the knowledge of the truth, there remaineth no more sacrifice for sins,

6. Stand up like a man or a woman of God and do your duty and quit blaming someone else for what is missing in your life!

IV. There will also be drama.

A. Every single day a drama of eternal life and death is played out in the lives of those connected with this Church.

1. We are working constantly to get the gospel across to those the Lord is drawing to this Church.

2. We pray for them, we teach them classes, we encourage them - sometimes for years - before they finally come around to a readiness to trust Jesus to save them.

3. My sister Phyllis is going into surgery Monday, so we drove a little whirlwind trip up to Gainesville to see her.

4. We had a great visit, but the best part was some quality time I got to spend with her daughter, my (over 50) niece, Pam.

5. I've been talking to Pam about the Lord for a very long time and this time the Lord had her ready; we got to see Pam put her trust in Jesus!

6. This kind of drama I love!

B. Then there is that kind of drama most of us hate.

1. The drama of betrayal.

2. **John 6:70-71**

70 Jesus answered them, Have not I chosen you twelve, and one of you is a devil?

71 He spake of Judas Iscariot *the son of Simon*: for he it was that should betray him, being one of the twelve.

3. If Jesus was betrayed, how should we expect to avoid it ourselves?

Matthew 10:24-25

24 The disciple is not above *his* master, nor the servant above his lord.

25 It is enough for the disciple that he be as his master, and the servant as his lord. If they have called the master of the house Beelzebub, how much more *shall they call them of his household?*

4. If you are here for Jesus, sooner or later you will not only be offended, you will be betrayed.

5. Betrayal in God's house comes two ways:

a. Sometimes it comes from a false Christian that is planted by the Devil himself; like Judas was.

b. Sometimes; and probably more often, it comes from a fellow Christian who gets caught up in some drama or offense or gets caught in some lie and says things they will later wish they could take back.

c. Peter, of all people, got caught up in this very sin. In [John 18](#), Peter denied the Lord three times.

6. Later Peter repented and the Lord forgave and restored Peter; we've got to do the same if at all we have opportunity.

In Conclusion:

John 7:1 After these things Jesus walked in Galilee: for he would not walk in Jewry,...

Jesus does not walk where He is no longer welcome.

Our job, our purpose as we once again rebuild Lighthouse Baptist Church is to make this a place where Jesus is welcome.

Oh, I know that the theme of the day is for a Church to welcome everyone; and we do welcome everyone to come.

I hope that none of you will take this wrong but I must say it anyway; yes, everyone is welcome to come, but not everyone is welcome to stay and be a part.

If you are living in open sin, at some point you are going to have to choose whether to repent and make your life a place where Jesus is welcome as well, or hold on to that sin and face the consequences.

If you are going to be here for Jesus, if you will be a leader, a teacher, a lead worshipper, a leader of children - whatever

the role - you are going to have to make some choices.

You can be a part of that world out there where the alcohol flows and the reveling is intense and the flesh is indulged and you pretend you have a normal loving family life...or you can be a part of this world where Jesus is welcome...BUT YOU CANNOT HAVE BOTH!

2 Corinthians 6:14-18

- 14 Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness?
- 15 And what concord hath Christ with Belial? or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel?
- 16 And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in *them*; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people.
- 17 Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean *thing*; and I will receive you.
- 18 And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty.

I know the drama will sometimes get intense; I know how stressful that kind of thing is; God knows what it's done to me.

However, a Church filled with people who are truly here for Jesus; who are committed to Him; who joyfully embrace their duty; who love the Word of God; it's the best place there is to be this side of Heaven!