

SERMON NOTES Sunday 6 October

sunnysidechurch

Bible passages: Deuteronomy 26.1-11; John 6.25-35

Introduction

Harvest Festival is

- an opportunity to say thank you for all that we have and to remember those who grow and provide our food
- reminds us of some important truths:

1. Reminds us to be grateful for what we have

- Most of us take our food for granted
- Harvest refocuses us so we count our blessings and share what we have with others

2. Reminds us of who we are saying thank you to

- Ultimately everything we have comes from God who created all things
- Gratitude is an important spiritual discipline because it builds our faith and helps us grow in dependence on God

3. Reminds us that we need more than physical food for life in all its fullness

- Jesus sees that the crowd's needs go further than the next free lunch
- Jesus invites the crowd to lift their eyes to heaven and see that only relationship with God through him will satisfy their spiritual hunger

Conclusion

'All good gifts around us are sent from heaven above, then thank the Lord, O thank the Lord for all his love.'

Some questions for discussion

1. What are you thankful for today?
2. Read Deuteronomy 26.1-11. Why is it important to develop gratitude as a spiritual discipline?
3. How might you develop more of an attitude of gratitude?
4. Read John 6.25-35. (You might find it helpful to read John 6.1-35 so you can see the context). What strikes you about the conversation between Jesus and the crowd?
5. What do you understand by Jesus' statement that 'The work of God is this: to believe in the one he has sent.'? (verse 29)
6. Then Jesus declared, 'I am the bread of life.' (verse 35), This is the first of Jesus' seven 'I am' sayings. What does it mean to you?
7. What is God asking you to do as a result of what he has said to you through these passages? It might be something to pray about, something to think more about, something he wants you to talk to someone about or something he wants you to do. Make a note of it so you don't forget!

'But who am I, and who are my people, that we should be able to give as generously as this? Everything comes from you, and we have given you only what comes from your hand.'

1 Chronicles 29.14

Why not spend some time giving thanks to God for all that he gives us and ask him to deepen your sense of gratitude?

Revd Rebecca Fardell