

# Love Letter From Lisa

9-19-17

Have I mentioned how much I love studying with such an amazing and HUNGRY group of women. Now for those of you who do not attend one of our Women's Ministry sessions, let me clarify... we did not just have a potluck. But stay tuned; there is always a potluck in the near future. We spent the week unpacking John 6:35

"Then Jesus declared "I am the Bread of Life whoever comes to me will never go hungry and whoever believes me will never be thirsty"

.... and it was AMAZING! So amazing I can't help but share.

This verse struck me like never before... thanks to Pastor Mike. He teaches that, when studying scripture, we need to ask ourselves "WHY?". I found myself really captivated by HOW God clearly referenced both with different qualifiers "come to me, will not hunger" and "believe in me, will not thirst". So I asked "WHY" the distinction between HUNGER and THIRST I know we will address the specifics of water next week but honestly, when it comes to the Word of God, I am not that patient. I am insatiable.

So I did some traveling and found myself in Isaiah 30:20

"Although the Lord give you the bread of adversity and the waters of affliction, your teachers will be hidden no more, with your own eyes you will see them"

Bread of adversity? Water of affliction? Adversity comes from what the world throws at us and affliction tends to be the aftermath of said adversity. Whoa! Is the answer to this conundrum Jesus? Why yes it is!!! I can turn from my adversity and go to Jesus for sustenance and then He will flush my system of spiritual affliction.

Color me extremely EXCITED .... like REALLY FIRED UP! But then I had a "huh?" moment. What exactly is the sustenance? What is the bread of Life? What is it that satisfies a starving spirit? I know it is Jesus but I couldn't help but feel something was still missing something.

One of the group questions asked us to understand the difference between ingesting the Word and digesting the Word, the Word being Jesus (John1: 1-5). Lysa TerKuerst had us rooting around John 1-4. I read it several times or ingested it but I clearly was not breaking it down so I could gain its "nutrients". So I tried one more time and BAM! Something jumped out at me. After Jesus had encountered the woman at the well and shared with her who He really was, His disciples had asked if had been given food. His response in John 4:34....

"'My food' said Jesus 'is to do the will of Him who sent me and to finish His work'".

The bread of life is doing the will of God? That explains so much. Have you ever had a bad day and decided that instead of wallowing in self-pity, you would do something nice for someone else? I have and I loved how dramatically my heart would shift but it wasn't clear to me why that happened until now. God commands or wills us to above all love one another. Jesus teaches us what that is supposed

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to look like. It is how they will know we are His disciples; that we believe in Him enough to follow HIS teachings. It is, also, what nourishes our souls, rights our spirits, and adds a spring to our step.

Alright, so all of the above came from my week of directed quiet with the "Finding I Am" study but the best stuff came once I was gathering with others. As we sat and shared our personal experiences with the material, I AM statement #1 became even more vibrant and convicting. To share all of it would take pages so I will try to wrap it up in a tidy gift for you.

When we are willing to let Jesus in our boat (John 6:21), we arrive at our destination, an eternal life with God. The word for this life is called zoe which contrasts the bios life which is what most of us focus on, satisfying our flesh. (Check out this blog via Sharon Moore for a better understanding <http://blog.biblesforamerica.org/greek-words-for-life/>). From there our spiritual hunger can only be satisfied by living like Jesus. Easy to say, but to really know Him we must take in the Scripture and really process it. One of my favorite suggestions (credit Rochelle Lyke), if we wash down the word with condemnation, we will not taste it as we should. It must be taken with the BELIEF that Jesus came to save us and free us— to REFRESH US. Then the Word is a delectable treat.

Now my favorite illustration of this came from Joan Williams who spoke of a dear friend that, from her wheelchair, answered a prompting inside her "zoe" self to pray then call and check on Joan who was in the midst of a challenging moment. Our "bios" or physical self inevitably weakens as we age but our 'zoe" life can remain growing in power and light if we keep feeding on the Bread of Zoe (Life).

The result... our spirit will be vibrant and refreshed. Our broken beloved will see its luster and radiance and long for it to be inside them as well. Without speaking a word, we will attract people to jump in the boat headed to destination eternity.

I love all of you and pray that these communications land on your heart with hope and promise. You are beloved to me and to our Savior.

Love ,  
Lisa