

Where Else Can We Go?

Peter and the other disciples were stuck between a rock and a hard place. They didn't completely understand what Jesus was explaining to them, but they knew that even without understanding it they were better off with Jesus than with the beliefs they had left behind.

When we read these words today we understand that Jesus was talking about spiritual things. We have the sacrament of Holy Communion to remind us of how important it is to take in the body and blood of Jesus. We don't think it sounds all that strange—although even today over 2,000 years later and after the most gifted theological minds have pondered what Jesus meant, --we still don't completely understand it. What we do know is what Peter said when Jesus asked him if he and the other disciples were going to leave too. Peter said, "Lord to whom can we go? You have the words of life." They understood the basics and they trusted that Jesus would help them with the rest.

What about you? Are you at a place where you trust the words of Jesus even if you don't completely understand them? Jesus said, "Just as the living Father sent me and I live because of the Father so those who eat me will live because of me." Can you grasp that you are alive because of Jesus? I tried to think of an analogy that we could all relate to, and I thought about stopping a car. When we are riding in a car and we want to stop the car we do two things, we take our foot off the gas pedal and we use that foot to press on the brake pedal. Do we stop because we press on the brake or because we take our foot off the gas pedal? Or is it a little of both? It doesn't

rally matter as long as we get the car stopped when we want it to stop.

Are we alive because we take Jesus in and he sustains us like food? Or are we alive because Jesus gave us life? Or is it a little of both. It doesn't really matter as long as we are alive because of Jesus. What is truly important is that we like Peter believe that Jesus has the words of life.

Where else can you go to find life? If you believe that Jesus is the bread of life, then there is no place else to go. What other religion can give you eternal life? And make this earthly physical life more palatable? It might be interesting sometime to do a study comparing the different religions because I believe that what we will find is that each one has some merit but none of them offer what Jesus can offer—and that is a more rewarding and fulfilling life now with the promise of an even better life for all eternity.

Next month we conclude our two year training with Proactive Ministries called the Barnabas Covenant. I hope you will plan to come and see what we have accomplished and what is in store for us as we press on together to spread the good news!