

God Cares About Food
Romans 14
Sermon Discussion Questions
2/26/17

1. Pastor Jim pointed out that last week's message had 2 examples that deserved an entire message of their own- what we eat and how we spend our time. Take a moment and share a couple of thoughts on why you think these might be so important to our spiritual walk.
2. To better understand what God is saying about food in Romans 14, Pastor Jim took us to John 6 in order to gain a "basic theology of food" from scripture. Have someone read the story from John 6 and review your notes together, what was the "overall idea of food in the Bible"?
3. The overall idea of food in scripture is that "it is a means of blessing and an invitation from God to fellowship with Him and others". How have you found this to be true in your own life? Share some examples and try to recall examples from scripture where we see this being true.
4. God's blessings always have dangers that can be associated with them. Pastor Jim highlighted 2 of them: Approaching food from a "scarcity model" and approaching food as a "substitute for God" instead of a means of fellowship with Him. We saw this in Philips concern about paying for food and in the Devil's temptations of Christ. What are some examples of these dangers from our own experiences? How have they presented themselves to us?
5. Pastor Jim stated the Theology of Food as: *It is a blessing from God, an invitation into fellowship with Him and others, but it exerts a powerful enslaving pull on all our lives. And for many of us, if not all, it can become an idol.* How does this help us as we read Romans 14?
6. So this matter is a disputable matter because *"Each individual has their own struggles with faith and each individual is going to have to interact with food differently; food is something that is a personal ethic between each one of us and the Lord."* How does this truth connect to our 5 principles from last week? Is this an easy truth to accept, why-why not?
7. Pastor Jim closed his message with 4 things we can do in light of the teaching:
 1. Recognize we are accepted by Him and invite Him into your process/ask for help with food.
 2. Some of us might need to confess our sin in this area and ask for forgiveness.
 3. We need to commit to helping others and asking for help.
 4. Ask the Lord how this message might tie into the upcoming season of Lent.

As you close and prepare to pray for each other, share which of these points God may be highlighting to you? Are these hard to process and if so, why? How can you encourage each other in this?

Take some time to pray for each other.