

JESUS IS GOD, HE IS MY FRIEND

The I AM Series #3

January 4th, 2026

TEXT: John 6:32-35, 66-69

REVIEW: When Jesus told the large crowd, “I AM the bread of life”, they thought in terms of their momentary day by day need for food. They hoped Jesus would permanently provide a miraculous feeding of daily bread (like the 40 years of manna in Exodus 16 and Deuteronomy 8:3). But Jesus had something far greater and infinitely more wonderful in mind. By receiving the “bread of life” (Jesus), a person can enter into an eternal personal relationship with the I AM. **Wow!** Yet how did the people respond? They were so consumed with the momentary things of this life which do not last, that they rejected the offer of eternal life that comes through believing in Him. Christian, beware of your vulnerability to get too attached to temporary concerns and consequently missing out on the fullness of a daily walk with the **I AM**.

I. PHYSICAL THINGS ILLUSTRATE SPIRITUAL TRUTHS

- A) John 6 has some verses easy to misunderstand (see 6:51-56)
- B) But simply recognize that Jesus used daily physical things to teach spiritual/eternal truths
 1. You must be born again (John 3:1-10)
 2. You will never thirst again (John 4:10-15)

NOTE: Water is the key to life. The human body is 60-70% water. Your lungs are 83% water. Wine is 85% water. Milk is 87% water. Orange juice is 90% water. Coffee is 98% water. One of the most intense forms of pain is extreme thirst. Stagnant water is deadly for it breeds disease. Jesus offers “living water” that eternally quenches thirst. Only the **I AM** could do such a thing.

3. I AM the bread of life (John 6:35)
4. I AM the true vine (John 15:1)

II. THE TYRANNY OF THE TEMPORARY

- A) In John 6:31-32 the Jews brought up manna and Moses as a way of challenging Jesus to demonstrate that He was Israel’s Messiah (as though He hadn’t already done that! John 6:14-15, 25-26).
- B) The Jews were standing in the presence of the **I AM**, yet they were preoccupied with temporal things. See also Matthew 6:25-33 and Luke 12:13-21.

Q: Are your most frequent prayer requests more connected with the **TEMPORARY** or the **ETERNAL**?

C) The double whammy:

1. Thoughts and priorities consumed by temporary things
2. Unbelief (John 6:41-43)

These two things usually operate together

D) They did not understand the spiritual meaning of Jesus's words about being the bread of life (John 6:52-58). Jesus was **NOT** talking about eating literal flesh and blood. He would never have commanded Jews to violate Leviticus 17:10-14. But people who are spiritually dead cannot receive spiritual truth (John 6:44, 60-63, 65).

III. THE BREAD OF LIFE FEEDS FOR ETERNITY

A) The Jews wanted manna, yet everyone who ate manna eventually died (John 6:58).

B) Peter and the disciples had come to understand that Jesus is everything, the One who truly gives eternal life (John 6:66-69). "We have no one else to turn to, and You are the only One we need. You are God."

C) Knowing the bread of life (Jesus) means you know what it is to be **ALIVE!**

Always
Living
In
View of
Eternity

"He is no fool who gives up what he cannot keep to gain that which he can never lose."

- Missionary Jim Elliot, martyred January 8, 1956

*"... I have called you friends, for all that I have heard from my Father
I have made known to you."*

John15:15B