

The Great I Am

I Am The Bread Of Life

(Jn 6:35)

INTRODUCTION

1. Good Morning,
 - a. Greeting...
2. Series of lessons on "The Great I Am."
 - a. Last week we examined how Jesus was "The Great I Am."
 - i. **Jn 8:58** "...Truly, truly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I am."¹
 1. **Jn 1:1** "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God."
 - b. Today we are going to look at the statement Jesus makes when He tells everyone He is "the bread of life."
3. Bread is an essential or staple food in most countries of the world.
 - a. Secular importance.
 - i. Here in America we eat a lot of yeast breads that are usually light, fluffy, mostly hot.
 - ii. People in Russia eat a dark brown bread that is course and served cold usually.
 - iii. People in Brazil eat several types of bread that are hot and cold.
 1. Needless to say bread is common the world over.
 - d. Biblical importance.
 - i. The term bread is used early and often as a general term for food.
 1. **Gn 3:19; Pr 6:8**
 - ii. Bread was used in sacred meals and were included in some offerings.
 1. **Gn 14:18; Lv 21:6**
 - iii. Bread even had a special place in the temple of God, the bread of the Presence.
 1. **Ex 25:30**
4. Thus we find the reason Jesus uses such a statement.
 - a. Jesus usually uses common and local applications to get His point across.
5. So what is the application Jesus wants the Jews and us to know?
 - a. Let us look and see...

I. The Background

- A. Jesus in a place outside of Tiberias feeds over 5000 (**Jn 6:1-15**)
 1. This crowd had been fed by Jesus with a boys 5 loaves and 2 fish.
 2. After 5000 men and countless others such as women and children had eaten their fill they picked up 12 baskets of leftovers.
 3. The crowd was so enamored by this they sought to make Jesus king right then.
 - i. **Jn 6:15** "Perceiving then that they were about to come and take him by force to make him king, Jesus withdrew again to the mountain by himself."

¹ All Scriptures are taken from the ESV unless otherwise noted. If other translations are used this is not necessarily an endorsement of the translation.

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- B. Jesus and His disciples go to Capernaum where the crowd finds them (**Jn 6:16-24**)
 - 1. The crowd the next day looks for Jesus and does not find Him.
 - 2. They get in some boats near Tiberias and head north across the sea of Galilee to Capernaum.
 - i. Here they find Jesus.
- C. Jesus is questioned by the crowd and He responds to their questions (**Jn 6:25-33**)
 - 1. The crowd's first question.
 - i. **Jn 6:25** "...Rabbi, when did you come here?"
 - 2. Jesus' answer
 - i. **Jn 6:26-27** "...Truly, truly, I say to you, you are seeking me, not because you saw signs, but because you ate your fill of the loaves. 27 Do not work for the food that perishes, but for the food that endures to eternal life, which the Son of Man will give to you. For on him God the Father has set his seal.'"
 - 3. The crowd's second question.
 - i. **Jn 6:28** "...What must we do, to be doing the works of God?"
 - 4. Jesus' answer
 - i. **Jn 6:29** "This is the work of God, that you believe in him whom he has sent."
 - 5. The crowd's third & fourth question.
 - i. **Jn 6:30-31** "...Then what sign do you do, that we may see and believe you? What work do you perform? 31 Our fathers ate the manna in the wilderness; as it is written, 'He gave them bread from heaven to eat.'"
 - 6. Jesus' response.
 - i. **Jn 6:32-33** "...Truly, truly, I say to you, it was not Moses who gave you the bread from heaven, but my Father gives you the true bread from heaven. 33 For the bread of God is he who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world."
- D. It is here we find the statement that leads to our discussion today
 - 1. The crowd responded to Jesus.
 - i. **Jn 6:34** "...Sir, give us this bread always."
- E. Thus...
 - 1. We find a crowd that is thinking of their stomach over everything else.
 - 2. We have Jesus that is trying to use their "desire for food" to make a spiritual application.

II. The Spiritual Application

- A. I am the bread of life
 - 1. The people brought up the manna that God sent their forefathers in the wilderness.
 - i. Concerned with their stomachs and fresh off of just eating an unending meal they use the illustration of the unending supply of manna "bread" that their forefathers received as a sign that Moses was a prophet from God and therefore Jesus must also be a prophet from God.

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2. Jesus corrects their illustration and uses it for a spiritual application.
 - i. It was not Moses that was proven by the manna it was God.
 - ii. And the manna/bread that sustained their forefather's life was now found in the antitype before them...Jesus the bread of life.
- B. The bread of life is...
 1. ...that which, if partaken of, will make one filled or satisfied forever.
 - i. **Jn 6:35** "...whoever comes to me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in me shall never thirst."
 - a. **Ph 4:11** "Not that I am speaking of being in need, for I have learned in whatever situation I am to be content."
 2. ...that which, if partaken of, will make one a disciple of Jesus.
 - i. **Jn 6:38-40** "For I have come down from heaven, not to do my own will but the will of him who sent me. 39 And this is the will of him who sent me, that I should lose nothing of all that he has given me, but raise it up on the last day. 40 For this is the will of my Father, that everyone who looks on the Son and believes in him should have eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day."
 - a. **Mt 28:19** "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit"
 3. ...that which, if partaken of, will make one live forever.
 - i. **Jn 6:49-51** "Your fathers ate the manna in the wilderness, and they died. 50 This is the bread that comes down from heaven, so that one may eat of it and not die. 51 I am the living bread that came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever."
 - ii. **Jn 6:57-58** "As the living Father sent me, and I live because of the Father, so whoever feeds on me, he also will live because of me. 58 This is the bread that came down from heaven, not like the bread the fathers ate, and died. Whoever feeds on this bread will live forever."
 - a. **Ro 6:22** "But now that you have been set free from sin and have become slaves of God, the fruit you get leads to sanctification and its end, eternal life."

CONCLUSION

1. Forest Gump once said, "Life is like a box of chocolates – you never know what you're going to get." (Movie: Forest Gump)
 - a. Though life in general is like this, life in Christ is not.
 - i. We don't have to "hope we get the good chocolate/life."
 - ii. We don't have to "hope we don't get the bad chocolate/life."
 - b. In Christ, the bread of life, we can know what our life here will be like and our life to come.
 - i. As partakers in the bread of life our life will be filled with joy and peace though turmoil surrounds us.
 - ii. As partakers in the bread of life our after life will be filled with perfection as we reside in that great home that has been prepared by the Bread of Life.
2. Question: Are you a partaker of the Bread of Life?

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3. Invitation

- a. For those that are Christians but are not living for Christ repent by confessing your sins to God that He may forgive you and dedicate your life/time back to Him.
 - i. **I Jn 1:7, 9** "But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin...9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."
- b. For those that are not Christians or for those that think they are Christians and want to know for sure notice what is required to become a child of God or Christian according to God and God only.
 - i. Hear/Study **Rom 10:17; II Tim 2:15**
 - ii. Believe Jesus Is The Christ **Jn 3:16; 8:24**
 - iii. Repent/Turn To God **Ac 17:30; Lk 24:47**
 - iv. Confess Jesus As Lord **Mt 10:32; Rom 10:9**
 - v. Immersed For The Forgiveness of Sins **Ac 2:38; 22:16; I Pt 3:21**
 - vi. Live A Faithful Life **I Jn 1:7; Eph 5:8**