



## **THE BREAD OF LIFE**



*Jesus replied, “I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry again. Whoever believes in me will never be thirsty.” John 6:35 NLT*

This is the first of the seven I Am statements Jesus declared about his divine nature. In the Gospel of John, we may find these seven Jesus’ statements which is what I’m going to preach this time with my Sermon’ Series entitled, “The 7 I AM of Jesus” as the Good News message’s main purpose. So, this morning I’m going to start sharing with you Jesus’ amazing statement “I am the Bread of Life” and what is he claiming about himself through these words.

In John 8:58 Jesus made a very emphatic declaration in response to the Jews’ discussion about the greatness of Abraham. This is what Jesus said: “Very truly I tell you, before Abraham was, I am.” Powerful words indeed. Jesus pre-existed even before Abraham was born. At this point the Jews picked up stones to throw at him, but Jesus hid himself and went out of the temple. They knew that he was claiming to be God and that was a blasphemy to them. Yet, Jesus’s statement “I AM” tells us about his divinity.

We may remember how God revealed his name to Moses through the vision of the burning bush in Exodus 3:13-15, after Moses said to the Lord, “If I go to the people of Israel and tell them, ‘The God of your ancestors has sent me to you,’ they will ask me, ‘What is his name?’ Then what should I tell them?” God replied to Moses, “I AM WHO I AM.”

Say this to the people of Israel: I AM has sent me to you.” God also said to Moses, “Say this to the people of Israel: YAHWEH, the God of your ancestors—the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob—has sent me to you. This is my eternal name, my name to remember for all generations”

Though out the Gospel of John, Jesus claims about himself these seven I AM statements that we will be looking at the coming weeks: I AM the Bread of Life; I AM the light of the world; I AM the Door; I AM the Good Shepherd; I AM the Resurrection and the Life; I AM the Way, the Truth, and the Life; I AM the True Vine.

Let me ask you this morning, what are you hungry for brothers and sisters? Are you hungry for the fish and the bread like the crowd were looking for when Jesus fed them? Do you want the material provision only? Are you hungry for a miracle? Or are you hungry for Jesus as the Bread of Life? This message comes right to the point about Jesus’ miracle feeding the 5000 men and their families. He met their physical need in a supernatural way. He took the five barley loaves and the two fish that young boy brought to Him, and after giving thanks to God, he distributed to the people and they were full, Jesus told his disciples, “Now gather the leftovers, so that nothing is wasted.” His disciples did exactly what he told them, and they picked up the pieces and filled 12 baskets with scraps left by the people who had eaten from the 5 barley loaves. Wow! That was so powerful isn’t?

Now, what we read already on verses 22-40, is the context for Jesus’ statement, “I Am the Bread of Life.” Jesus identified himself with material items or common symbols such as bread, water, light, life, truth.

Through these well-known symbols, Jesus declares that people's spiritual needs and human longings are met in Him. So, when he says, "I AM the bread of life," he depicts in metaphorical language the results of believing in Him.

In this account, John tells us when the crowd followed Jesus across the lake, to Capernaum, because they were seeking for more food. Jesus told them, "I tell you the truth, you want to be with me because I fed you, not because you understood the miraculous signs. Do not be so concerned about perishable things like food. Spend your energy seeking the eternal life that the Son of Man can give you. For God the Father has given me the seal of his approval." Jesus told them that they should hunger and work for the food that lasts forever not for the food that perishes. He is the food they really needed.

Thus, people were looking for him because Jesus fed them and because they wanted to see another miracle. Likewise, a lot of people today just want the material provision and the physical satisfaction they may find through miracles. How many are hungry for Jesus in our world today? Are you hungry for the temporary benefit or for eternal life? This is an important question because we see people today chasing for the temporary blessings, such as fame, popularity, fortune, hobbies, or entertainment. The problem is that people never get satisfied. The more they can get, the more they want. Some people want more romantic love; new experiences with other people, even though they already have their loved ones and family. They want more leisure and more time for themselves. We want to be happy by getting more for ourselves, but we are not happy at all. Our hearts won't be satisfied with the temporary achievements this world keeps offering us. Yet, Jesus is the bread of life who can fill our souls with real joy, love, and hope.

Jesus declares today, I AM the Bread of Life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry again. Whoever believes in me will never be thirsty.” John 6:35. He is inviting you to receive not the temporary, but the eternal. Jesus is the true heavenly bread. God sent manna to feed his people in the wilderness. That was food from heaven but not eternal. The manna was limited to the people of Israel. God sent his Only Son, Jesus, the bread of life for all those who are hungry for Him. Jesus is inviting you to eat from his eternal life and salvation which he alone can give you. He assures you today, if you believe and receive Jesus as your personal savior, you will never be hungry again. “I tell you the truth,” Jesus said, anyone who believes has eternal life. Yes, I am the bread of life. I am the living bread that came down from heaven. Anyone who eats this bread will live forever; and this bread, which I will offer so the world may live, is my flesh.”

Are you hungry for God and for His Living Word? Come today before him and receive Jesus as your Lord and Savior. He alone will satisfy your soul. He is telling you today, “Those the Father has given me will come to me, and I will never reject them.” He offers you eternal life today.

- *Pastor Jaime Farias*