

**Sermon Series:** Book of John  
**Sermon title:** I AM the Bread of Life  
**Scripture reading:** John 6:22-35

Clearwater Bay International Baptist Church

November 3, 2019

S.C. Brown, Pastor

We begin a study today in John on what's called the "I AM" sayings of Jesus. There are 7 of them.

- I am the bread of life.
- I am the light of the world.
- I am the gate.
- I am the good shepherd.
- I am the resurrection and the life.
- I am the way, the truth and the life.
- I am the vine.

We will go through Christmas looking at these and even though these aren't directly about Jesus's birth, I hope that you will see Jesus more clearly around Christmas time because of this study.

You should know that these 'I AM' statements by Jesus are a claim to deity.....because he is using the phrase from Exodus where God says that his name is, 'I AM'.

## **Let's pray as we begin.**

I surely need the help of the Lord.

Bread can be found in probably every culture in the world. I don't know about you, but I love bread! The best bread that I have ever had was in Central Asia in Uzbekistan and Tajikistan.

There they call it 'Non'. It's virtually the same bread as they have in Xinjiang and many other Turkic and Persian cultures, with different variations in South Asia as well.

It is so important in some of these areas of the world that it is almost worshipped. It is treated with respect and there are many rules concerning how to handle it and such. Well, with Jesus's discourse today about bread you might see how people *could* make an idol out of bread itself.

In fact, when we come to the end of John chapter 6, many of Jesus's disciples stop following him.

Why does this happen?

**Verse 60** tells us that what Jesus says in **John 6** is a **hard saying**'. I don't want it to be hard today!

John 6 is very deep and I wish that I had more time to dive into everything in the chapter.

What makes John 6 so hard?

Well, the language that Jesus uses is metaphorical in some places and some of the statements he makes are hard to accept for many, even today. Some have taken them to be literal and much confusion has come about because of John 6.

Let me give you the structure of this John 6 passage in the beginning to help us.

v.22-34- background discourse/ context

v.35-48- Jesus speaking plainly about bread.

v.49-58- Jesus speaking strangely (*Metaphorical*) about bread..

What is the context in John 6. We need to know it. Look at verse 25.

**25** When they found him on the other side of the sea, they said to him, "Rabbi, when did you come here?"

**26** Jesus answered them, "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."

The context in John 6 is that it is Passover time.

At Passover people eat bread.

Jesus has just miraculously fed the 5000 with bread and fish.

And Jesus (v.59 tells us) is in the synagogue in Capernaum.

Because the conversation turns to bread, it is thought that just maybe the passage read for the day was Exodus 16 about the manna coming down from heaven.

Jesus clearly sees why the people have come looking for him. They want more of that yummy bread!!

So, he proceeds to teach about bread.

## **I. A BREAD THAT IS IMPERISHABLE.**

These people see only material things. They want bread. But to focus on the material things of life is not enough. So he says this:

**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."

What a piercing statement for many.

Billions of people all over the world are working for the food that perishes. That's all life is about to them.

Get a good education. Get a good job. Go to work.

Eat. Sleep. Try to enjoy life in between.

Jesus says there is more.

There is a food...a bread that endures...to eternal life.

A bread that Jesus will give us. A bread that lasts.

Doesn't go stale. Doesn't get hard. Moths and rust don't cause it to decay. It's imperishable.

What is this bread? I gotta have some.

Secondly, Jesus describes this bread is.....

## **II. A BREAD THAT IS INCOMPARABLE/ ALL SATISFYING.**

**28** Then they said to him, "What must we do, to be doing the works of God?" **29** Jesus answered them, "This is the work of God, that you believe in him whom he has sent." **30** So they said to him, "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.'" **32** Jesus then said to them, "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." **34** They said to him, "Sir, give us this bread always."

**35** Jesus said to them, "**I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in me shall never thirst.**"

Notice how when Jesus talks about labor and working that they misunderstand him. They start talking about 'work' whereas he was talking about the goal toward which one is to spend their efforts. So, he tells them that the only 'work' (singular) required is faith. The only work is coming...the only work is believing.

["I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in me shall never thirst."](#)

Jesus tells us plainly. He is the BREAD that he has been talking about. There is a bread that is imperishable.....it lasts for all eternity and never gets old. Now he tells us that this bread is incomparable. Once tasted, or we should say once you believe in Jesus...you will never hunger or thirst in your soul again.

Oh yeah, we must keep depending on him and keep coming to him or our souls get sick but that 'core emptiness' is gone.

This bread Jesus gives, which he says is actually himself....is imperishable and it's incomparable. There's nothing like it.

Thirdly, Jesus says that this is.....

### **III. A BREAD THAT IS IRRESISTIBLE.**

And this long discourse is why in John 6 many left him and did not walk with him anymore.

You know after hearing what I am about to read you should have two responses. Christian, you should be overjoyed at the fact that Jesus offered you bread. Non-Christian, you should beg Jesus to offer you his bread.

**37** All that the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never cast out. **38** 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."

**41** So the Jews grumbled about him, because he said, "I am the bread that came down from heaven."

**42** They said, "Is not this Jesus, the son of Joseph, whose father and mother we know? How does he now say, 'I have come down from heaven'?" **43** Jesus answered them, "Do not grumble among yourselves.

**44** No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him. And I will raise him up on the last day.

**45** It is written in the Prophets, 'And they will all be taught by God.' Everyone who has heard and learned

from the Father comes to me— **46** not that anyone has seen the Father except he who is from God; he has seen the Father. **47** Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever believes has eternal life. **48** I am the bread of life.

God the Father has a gift for the God the Son. Jesus is saying here that he most certainly will save everyone whom his Father draws to him. There will not be a single one lost. If you believe in Jesus, if you have come to Jesus, If you have eaten the bread that Jesus offers....., it's because the Father drew you, spoke to you, and taught you (v.44 & 45) to the degree that Jesus was *irresistible* to you and so you came and you believed.

John 6 is about who Jesus really is and what he has come to do.

He is the bread that is imperishable. You will enjoy him forever.

He is the bread that is incomparable. Nothing will satisfy your soul but him.

He is the bread that is irresistible. When once drawn to taste and see, you most certainly will not refuse him.

And lastly, Jesus is not just one of many options but he **MUST** be eaten; you must come to him.

#### **IV. A BREAD THAT IS IMPERATIVE.**



**49** 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. And the bread that I will give for the life of the world is my flesh."

**52** The Jews then disputed among themselves, saying, "How can this man give us his flesh to eat?" **53** So Jesus said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, **unless** you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you. **54** Whoever feeds on my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day. **55** For my flesh is true food, and my blood is true drink. **56** Whoever feeds on my flesh and drinks my blood abides in me, and I in him. **57** 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."

It's not just that this bread is satisfying....it's not just that Jesus is more satisfying than everything else in the world. This bread is necessary. Jesus must be believed in. You **MUST** come to Christ!

**“Truly, truly, I say to you, UNLESS you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you.”**

UNLESS! You will not go to heaven if you don't come to Jesus...if you don't believe in Jesus.

**Jesus is the bread of life!**

**As bread satisfies our hunger– giving life to our physical bodies.....Jesus satisfies our soul's hunger and gives us eternal life– through his death for us on the cross.**

**Application:**

So, are you hungry? Are you hungry in your soul?

**35** Jesus said to them, “I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in me shall never thirst.

He has said things *similar* to this several times in the book of John. Listen.

**John 4:13-14**

“Whoever drinks of the water that I will give him will never be thirsty forever. The water that I will give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life.”

## **John 7:37**

"If anyone thirsts, let him come to me and drink. Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, 'Out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.'"

Jesus is calling you to come to him and be satisfied.

What are you working for? Take a look at your life! What are you investing in? What are you spending your days and nights doing? Is it something that will last?

**27** Do not work for the food that perishes, but for the food that endures to eternal life.

## **Isaiah 55**

Come, everyone who thirsts,  
come to the waters;  
and he who has no money,  
come, buy and eat!

Come, buy wine and milk  
without money and without price.

Why do you spend your money for that which is not  
bread, and your labor for that which does not satisfy?

Listen diligently to me, and eat what is good,  
and delight yourselves in rich food.

Incline your ear, and come to me;  
hear, that your soul may live;