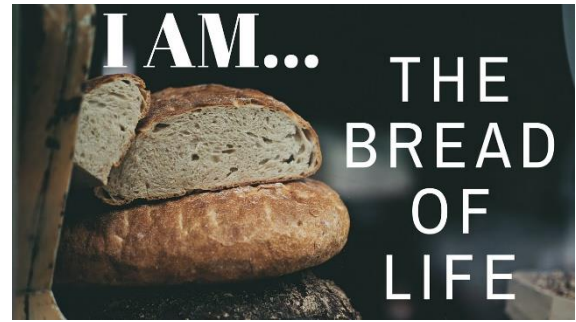


Encountering the Great "I AM"

I Am the Bread of Life



Background . . . Jesus has come from Jerusalem where He has stirred up the hornets' nest

JOHN 5

vv 1-16 –

vv 17-18 –

“ . . . a great crowd of people followed [Jesus] ” **JOHN 6:1-9**

According to John, what was the motivation of the crowd to follow Jesus?

What do you think they were seeking?

THE FEEDING OF THE FIVE THOUSAND is found in all four of the Gospels. John is the only one who gives us the detail of the timing . . .

We are given a reminder that WE often view things from a different perspective than Jesus. Philip has displayed some spiritual insight in the past (see John 1:45 ff) - How did he come up a little short in this instance?

I am impressed with John's inclusion of Andrew in the story. From WHERE did the manna of Exodus come? From WHERE did the food for the 5,000 come?

“*Jesus then took the loaves, gave thanks*” **JOHN 6:10-15**

Five thousand men translates into many more people when women and children are also added. Jesus is able to feed and satisfy ALL of the people with food left over. **Let's think outside the box:** What can be seen in the leftovers??

- Jesus provides _____ bread
- Jesus provides _____ bread

The Belly-Full People react positively to Jesus' feeding them so well. They intend to make Him king. Jesus withdrew because, though He is a King, He is NOT the kind of King the people want Him to be . . . John picks up the theme in chapters 18 and 19, culminating in John 19:19.

What kind of King **WAS** Jesus?

What kind of King **IS** Jesus?

What kind of King **WILL** Jesus be when He returns?

" . . . walking on the water " **JOHN 6:16-24**

Twelve men are frightened by the sight of Jesus walking on the Sea of Galilee. How did Jesus calm them?

"I Am!" is a powerful statement. The Greek here in v. 20 (and again in v. 35ff) is *"ego eimi"* and is unnecessarily redundant – in English it would be like saying "I I am." Perhaps it was used for emphasis, much as "I" vs. "I myself" in English. But seeing how such statements were received by those around Him, context shows us that Jesus is referring to Himself as the One Who spoke to Moses in the burning bush.

Two Reactions to "I Am"

- The Disciples in the boat – v.21
- The Jews and some of the Disciples (not of the 12) – vv. 41, 66

" . . . do not work for food that spoils " **JOHN 6:25-59**

The crowd followed Jesus across the lake. They had been watching for Him and were actually surprised that He was there (they probably watched the boats they weren't expecting a midnight water-walk).

Jesus *FIRST* rejected their earthly motivation (Law) . . .

THEN offered them eternal life (Gospel) . . .

It is evident that the crowd missed Jesus' Gospel point, as they struggle to discover what **THEY** must do to EARN God's favor.

How did Jesus then restate the Gospel?

With their challenge of Jesus, the crowd betrayed that they are still held by their earthly motivation for following Jesus. How did the crowd continue to NOT get what Jesus was saying until He hit them over the head with an **"I Am"**?

What did Jesus specifically promise/declare to them in verses 35-40?

- ____ the bread of life
- No more _____ or _____
- The Father brings Me _____ / I won't _____
- I have come _____
- I do the will of My Father – _____
- I do the will of My Father – _____
- I do the will of My Father – _____
- I do the will of My Father – _____

So what was their problem?

You gotta love Jesus and His persistence.

Why did He push these Jews SO hard?

In what ways did He escalate the situation even more . . . ?

- I Am the _____ of the Scriptures
- Moses was the _____ compared to Me
- You must _____ My flesh and _____ My blood in order to have eternal life
- This Life comes from the _____ to the _____ to the _____ . . .
- And I will declare all this while _____

Jesus was/is/will be black and white, e.g., Life vs. Death, Faith vs. Unbelief, Spirit vs. Flesh.

Who missed it?

Who made it?

A FEW TAKE-AWAYS

Jesus gives life – both physical and eternal.

The good and gracious will of the Father is to give us life through His Son.

Jesus has the words of eternal life. To whom else could we go?