

I Am the Bread of Life

I AM

John 6:25-40

EXPLORING THE SERMON

- * What did you hear?
- * What did you think or feel about what you heard?
- * What is one thing you can take away from the sermon this week?

KEY VERSES

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, "Very truly, I tell you, you are looking for 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 for eternal life, which the Son of Man will give you. For it is on him that God the Father has set his seal."* ³³ *For the bread of God is that which^[a] comes down from heaven and gives life to the world."* ³⁴ *They said to him, "Sir,^[b] give us this bread always."*

³⁵ *Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty.* ³⁶ *But I said to you that you have seen me and yet do not believe.* ³⁷ *Everything that the Father gives me will come to me, and anyone who comes to me I will never drive away,* ⁴⁰ *This is indeed the will of my Father, that all who see the Son and believe in him may have eternal life, and I will raise them up on the last day."*

This third week of our I AM series, we examine Jesus' words as He describes Himself as the Bread of Life. In this passage from John 6, Jesus has just miraculously fed the 5,000 with 2 loaves and 5 fishes, and He and his disciples have just retreated across the Sea of Galilee. The crowds have caught up with Him, and He questions their motives: *you are looking for me not because you saw signs but because you ate your fill of the loaves* (v. 26). They want to remain satiated with the actual bread he has provided: *Sir, give us this bread always* (v. 34), not understanding the concept of spiritual sustenance. **How do you relate to the crowd? When have you experienced material satisfaction disguised as spiritual sustenance? How did it disappoint you?**

Unlike these eager followers of Jesus 2,000 years ago who were having a hard time understanding who He was, we live with actual validation of who Jesus is. For Jesus' past followers, John's gospel provided two ways to discover who Jesus actually was: 1) **Miracles** - the things He does that separate Him from the others, done FOR people; and 2) **I AM statements** - Jesus' way of highlighting who He is, not just what He provides materially. Our tendency is to flock toward the material, the things that we think are going to get us "home." But in spite of success and worldly possessions we often find emptiness. By realizing there is more to life than material "bread," we can pursue and find this abundant life that Jesus offers. The bread and cup are a gateway to move us toward a God much larger than a meal who is the actual bread of life. **How do you sense God redirecting you in where to "place your ladder," so that you may live a life of abundance and joy? Consider the spiritual practices that you might need to add or activities you need to prioritize to make this happen.**