

The Bread Of Life

So, Jordan and I have been back to working out and watching what we eat. We had the opportunity to eat at the Axe's house this earlier in the week. Now, we've cut down on carbs and portions, etc. Typical stuff that probably won't have a long-term effect, but any who. You can imagine what it was like when the Axe's presented these delicious smoked burgers and hotdogs (along with bread that probably tasted as good as manna), blueberries, strawberries with whip cream, chips, and let's not forget chocolate chip and peanut butter cookies. Brethren, we were hungry. You know how good food like that taste's when you've deprived yourself of it (and anyone who says it doesn't taste good anymore is either lying to you, they have brain damage from emotional stress of being away from it, or their taste buds are broken). We had a GREAT appetite and the food was delicious. Although, I'll say one thing . . . we were hungry the next morning. Now hold on to that for a moment. Today we begin our series, "He Is . . . So I Am." It centers around the seven "I am" statements of Jesus. My prayer is that as we see who Jesus truly is, it will impact our lives so that we become more like Him. It's only by appreciating and understanding the statements will we be like Him and make the necessary changes to our lives. If He is the Bread of Life, I am Satisfied. "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied." Let's hold onto this in our study.

Miracles

- Water to wine; Healing nobleman's son; Healing an impotent man; Feeding the 5,000; Walking on water; Healing the man born blind; Raising the dead

"I Am" Statements

- The Bread of Life (6:35); The Light of the World (8:12; 9:5); The Door (10:7,9); The Good Shepherd (10:11;14); The Resurrection and the Life (11:25); The Way, the truth, and the Life (14:6); The True Vine (15:1)

John 6:1-21

- Jesus feeds the 5,000 men plus women and children. He planned on feeding them, but tests His disciples by asking them, "Where are we to buy bread, so that these people may eat?" Our Lord provides the bread and fish - it doesn't run out (as you know). There was more than enough. The leftovers were collected and not lost. *"When the people saw the sign that He had done, they said, 'This is indeed the Prophet who is to come into the world!'" Vs. 14.* They attempt to take Jesus by force to make Him king, but He withdraws to the mountain by Himself.

- Jesus stayed on the mountain to pray during the night. His disciples cross the sea on boat without Him. He eventually leaves and walk on water to reach the other side. Peter will walk on water as well before beginning to sink as you remember. The following text picks up the next day.

So here we are. The text sets the scene. We are to pay attention to the thread. What's the point behind the discussion. Don't miss it - don't let anything distract you from the main thread. It reveals the nature of man and God. It reveals how Jesus stays focused and on point whereas man tends to get distracted, justify himself and look to his own interests.

The Bread of Life

- Vs.22-24. So far, so good. Sounds good, too! They're going to Capernaum, seeking Jesus. Seeking has become an important principle for me. What about you? I have great expectation when I hear that word in regards to Jesus. They're seeking Jesus.
- Vs. 25. You can see it in your head. Everyone's happy. They're excited to find Him! He snuck away the day before when they wanted to make Him king. It's pleasant conversation. "Rabbi, when did you come here?"
- Vs. 26-27. There's Jesus for you. If He's trying to keep a crowd, He's doing it wrong. Clearly, He's not interested in quantity, but quality. Right out the gate - "Yeah, I know why you're here. Not because you witnessed a miracle confirming me as the Son of God (that would make sense). No, because you received a free meal yesterday and you're looking for another one. Don't do that. Don't labor for what doesn't last or satisfy. Labor for food that doesn't stop. I'll give it to you, for God has approved of Me and what I do." **Proverbs 27:5-6**, *"Better is open rebuke than hidden love. Faithful are the wounds of a friend; profuse are the kisses of an enemy."*
 - Jesus isn't a dummy. He doesn't deny that many people seek Him. It's just that He knows what they're seeking *from* Him. What you seek *from* Him explains how you look at Him. Some see a gracious God. Others see a genie in a bottle. The latter seek to take advantage of Him.
 - Now, what bread is He talking about? He just fed them the day before (granted, in a miraculous way), but they were ready to eat again. Jesus will answer this question.
- Vs. 28-34. They're ready to work. They've already rushed to the other side of the sea for it, so what else do they need to do? The "work" required is belief in Jesus. Why this is so offensive is interesting. They didn't have a problem with Him the day before when He was multiplying bread. They wanted to make Him king!
 - This is where the rubber meets the road. **Pride**. Many times, in its own way, pride is more powerful than the Prince of Peace. It's why Satan, who had a home with God, has hell to look forward to. It's not joke. Jesus' hasn't made His "I am the bread of life" statement yet, but there's something we need to swallow - we have to empty our pride before we enjoy the life

He's offering. Many times, the answer to "why can't I find fulfillment in Jesus" is "because you try to find fulfillment in yourself and your own ways." Some people never escape this reality. It's that simple.

- You can see their pettiness with Him. What a silly question - what work do you perform? You mean the multiplying of bread the day before? And here's the funny thing - they point to Moses' feeding them manna. They're challenging Jesus to do something He basically already did.
 - Here's another funny thing - they seem to remember the account with rose tinted glasses. We first learn about the manna in [Exodus 16](#). It's the bread from above. The "bread of the angels" as stated in [Psalm 78:25](#). A dew would come at night and the manna with it. In the morning they would find it, collect their days portion (as much as they could eat - an omer which was about 2 quarts or 2 liters worth per person), and as the sun warmed the ground, the remainder would melt. They weren't supposed to keep any of it till the next morning (they didn't listen and it bred worms and stank). They also were instructed to collect double the amount on the sixth day and make it into cakes or whatever. That way they could rest on the Sabbath. Some also tried to collect on the Sabbath, but no manna was available. This also angered the Lord. At one point they complained about the manna ([Numbers 11:7-9](#)) and wanted meat. The Israelites were hard to please. God fed them manna in the wilderness for 40 years. But, don't forget this - the bread given to Israel would only last for so long. It would still leave you hungry. Now, it's miraculous and God provided, but it wasn't perfect. It still had an earthly aspect to it. Even though it was from heaven and "spiritual food" as mentioned in [1 Corinthians 10:3](#), it still had an earthly aspect to it.
- Now Jesus reminds them that Moses didn't provide the bread, but the Father. The Bread of God is He who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world.
 - "Now we're talking!" Yes, the crowd is offended, but they can get past their pride as long as they get what they're looking for at the end of the day. Again, they want the bread, but not Jesus.
- Vs. 35-40. Here it is: "I am the bread of life." No more hunger. No more thirst. There are other times we speak of being hungry for the Lord. In this context it leaves you satisfied and cared for.
 - This is the same principle seen in John 4. There's water from Jacob's well and then there's living water. The water she was drinking would only satisfy for a short while, but the water Jesus gives would satisfy their thirst forever. One little detail found in [John 4:28-29](#), "So the

woman left her water jar and went away into town and said to the people, 'Come, see a man who told me all that I ever did. Can this be the Christ?'"

- We get so excited about promises that people make in our lives. Whether it be products that are supposed to make our lives easier or our bodies healthier. We find hope in certain activities because we think they'll bring legit happiness to our lives. We'll get involved in earthly programs or movements because we think it will give purpose to our lives. We have a hard time getting as excited and committed to Jesus, the Son of God, and He's trying to give us eternal life. It never ends. It's with God. We're completely cared for with a spiritual body that doesn't perish. There will be no greater joy. On top of that - we have joy and satisfaction NOW before the rest comes to fruition. This is why the woman left her jug - because time with Jesus was so much more impressive and fulfilling. And the Jews response?
- Vs 41-42. They attack Jesus. They're okay with Him being their king who gives them unending physical bread, but claiming to be from heaven has crossed the line. He's just some carpenter's son.
- Vs. 43-51. Grumblers. Like the Israelites who grumbled when they didn't have anything to eat. They were given bread back in the day, but they all died. So again, He's trying to give them life. No more hunger. No more death. To what extent will Jesus go so they may have this bread? Well, He'll give them His life.
- Vs. 52-59. He's not getting into a discussion of the Lord's Supper, though there may be an indirect reference to a principle there. What's He's really talking about is feasting on Him. Consuming Him. They know this, but it's still an offensive thing.
 - Yes, there is some shock value to Jesus' statement, but He's trying to wake them up and weed them out.
 - It's a powerful illustration - Jesus Christ is to be completely consumed like food. Food and drink becomes a part of you and helps sustain your life. Jesus is to be completely taken in so that He may give the world life everlasting. They are to abide in Him and He in them.
 - Do you consume Jesus daily? What does that look like? Some people wake the dawn with filthy music and some hymns. Some people wake up wondering what the world will offer them. Some wake up excited about what they can offer the world, because of what Jesus offered them. Some people wake up hungry. Some do not. Which are you?
- Vs. 60-65. Too tough to swallow. However, if they reject Him and depend on their own way, it will result in death. That's the bottom line. It's coming to Jesus and doing it His way or nothing at all.
- Vs. 66-69. So, Jesus doesn't make us continue with Him. Again, He's not lookin for quantity, but quality. He'll offer you life or the door to death if you want to take it.

- Have you found what Peter did long ago?

What are we saying? We're saying that Jesus is totally satisfying to the soul. We're saying He's good, like a satisfying meal or a cold water after a hard days work. We're saying that majority of people are searching to be satisfied and they give all this effort - all this labor - and they keep wanting for more. Still let down. Still anxious. Still depressed. Still angry. Still selfish. Yet, we keep doing the same thing because of our pride. We get in our own way. Many times the answer is as obvious as Jesus multiplying bread right in front of us, but we keep looking for something else. We wait for something around the corner to come, some new answer and continue our same habits that keep us hungry and unsatisfied. WHY DO WE DO THAT??? Listen, it's hard to swallow, but nothing is going to change until you make a change. Everyone is hungry, but we're not all hungry for the same thing. Why? Because we haven't yet come to believe in Jesus. You can say you have Jesus, but someone who believes in Jesus feasts on Him. They can't go back to the way things used to be. They can't eat anything else. You've got to eat, drink and breathe Jesus. When you've done that, not only has Jesus become all you do, but He's ultimately what you want to talk about. It's like my dinner with the Axe family - the greatest part of that meal was being with the Axe's. The greatest part of feasting on the Bread of life is coming to know and believe in Him.