PLEASANT VIEW PROCLAIMER

July 3, 2022

I AM the Bread of Life (John 6:22-59)

This morning we begin a new sermon series focused on the seven great "I AM" statements of Jesus recorded in the gospel of John. In this first lesson we will be looking at "I AM the bread of life" from John 6:22-59, where Jesus is addressing a crowd that has gathered in the synagogue at Capernaum (59). Leading up to this discourse, two significant events have already occurred in John 6: Jesus feeds the 5000 on the "other side" of the Sea of Galilee (1-15) and Jesus walks on the water (16-21). In looking at this conversation with the crowd, let's consider three pertinent questions

(1) Why does Jesus use the metaphor of "bread"?

Because the people were seeking physical bread (1-15, 25). He took the physical thing they were seeking and used it to make a more significant spiritual point. Because of their focus on the physical need, they had missed what He truly represented, even though they recognized him as "the Prophet" (14). This is the same thing He did with the Samaritan woman in describing himself as "living water" in John 4:7-15.

(2) In the phrase "I AM the bread of life," what is Jesus saying about Himself and His character?

First, in each of these seven instances, Jesus is identifying himself as the "I AM" (ἐγώ εἰμί / egō eimi) in human form, which ties back directly to "I AM" (אֶהְיֶה / ehyeh) in Exodus 3:14. This is significant!

Also, in this instance, He is saying that they've missed who He truly is and what He truly can give…

- I AM the higher purpose in life
- I AM the only source of eternal nourishment
- I AM the only answer to your biggest need
  (a need you don't realize that you have)

- I AM life / eternal life
- I AM the Messiah
  (six times he says that He is from heaven - 33, 38, 41, 50, 51, 58)

(3) What is Jesus trying to get across to the crowd and to us?

C_____ - Throughout this discourse Jesus is telling us repeatedly about two different paths we can pick from in determining the primary purpose of their lives.

C_____ - The path we choose will have eternal repercussions.

C_____ - What are signs we've chosen the wrong path…that we are consuming the wrong bread?

C_____ - How do we choose the right path? How do we fill our lives with the bread of life?

- T_____ - Fill our lives with the Word of God (Acts 2:42; II Tim 3:14-17)

- T_____ - Fill our lives with Prayer (Matt 6:5-15; Philippians 4:6-7; I Tim 2:1-4)

- T_____ - Fill our lives with Worship (Psalm 100; Hebrews 12:28-29)

- T_____ - Fill our lives with focus on the Needs of Others (Acts 2:45, 4:34-35)

- T_____ - Fill our lives with focus on Spreading the Gospel (Matt 28:19-20; 1 Peter 3:15)

SERVING TODAY (July 3, 2022)

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Read:	M. Reed
Prayer:	J. Walker

WORSHIP

Read:	D. Billingsley
Wait On Table:	R. Mayo
Serve:	J. Demonbreun, J. Buchanan
Prayer:	E. Walker