

Subject: *Jesus is the Bread of Life*

Scripture: *John 6:22-40*

Our text includes the first of seven “I AM” statements of Jesus:

- *I am the bread of life (6:35)*
- *I am the light of the world (8:12)*
- *I am the door of the sheep (10:7)*
- *I am the good shepherd (10:11)*
- *I am the resurrection and the life (11:25)*
- *I am the way, the truth, and the life (14:6)*
- *I am the true vine (15:1)*

All people everywhere in the world eat some form of bread. Bread has been called “the staff of life” because it supports and sustains physical life. Just as bread sustains physical life, Jesus sustains spiritual life. He is the source of eternal life. In this chapter we learn that Jesus is the supernatural bread that came down from God in heaven. He is the satisfying bread to give us life and strength now and forever. He is the sufficient bread to satisfy every lost and hungry soul that comes to Him in humble faith.

SEEKING JESUS (vs. 24-26)

Let’s put this in the context of what has taken place in John 6. Jesus fed the multitude with a few loaves and fishes. He walked on the water during a storm in the middle of the night, calmed the storm, and then caused the boat to be immediately at the shore. After this the people sought Him and He taught them a lesson they would never forget that He is the bread of life. From John 6:59 we know Jesus taught this lesson in the synagogue at Capernaum.

The crowd sought Jesus for the wrong reason. At first they sought Him out of curiosity, but once He fed them with the miraculous meal and satisfied their physical needs they wanted to stay close to Him.

People seek Jesus for many reasons, but we must seek Him for the right reason and that is to believe in Him as Lord and Savior and follow Him in obedience. Many seek Him only for the physical and material blessings He can give, but we need Him to give us the greater, spiritual blessings. Many seek Him to have a better life on earth, but we must seek Him for eternal life now and in heaven.

Some of you know what the Bible says about man seeking God. **Romans 3:10-11**¹⁰ *As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one: ¹¹ There is none that understandeth, there is none that seeketh after God.* No one seeks God on his own without the drawing influence of God upon his heart, as we will see later in John 6. One of the tragic proofs of human depravity is that men seek everything else but God, and even when they seek God it is for the wrong reason.

TRUSTING JESUS (vs. 27-29)

Jesus rebuked the crowd for their ideas of God’s kingdom that were purely physical and materialistic. He told them that only He offers eternal life and He gives eternal life only to those who believe in Him. He said the same thing in **John 5:24** *Verily, verily, I say unto you,*

He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life. The crowd asked what works they must do to earn everlasting life. They misunderstood what so many still misunderstand. Eternal life is not a reward for the righteous but a gift for the guilty.

TESTING JESUS (vs. 30-31)

They asked Jesus to prove Himself and only then would they believe in Him. Here's what they thought: God provided the manna in the days of Moses, now Jesus, show us what you can do. Their logic seemed to be that what Jesus did in feeding the multitude was small in comparison to what Moses did. Jesus provided a single meal only one time, but Moses gave the people manna every day for forty years. They were demanding that Jesus outdo Moses if they were to believe in Him. Their request revealed the spiritual blindness and hardness of their hearts.

The crowd had a consumer mentality. They were only interested in Jesus for what He could do for them. They felt a sense of entitlement. The same thing is true of people today. They put God to the test and say if you will only heal me, if you will only take care of my financial problems, if you will only save my marriage, if you will only restore my wayward child, then I will believe in you. Show me what you can do, Lord.

UNDERSTANDING AND COMING TO JESUS (vs. 32-40)

Jesus taught them the manna was only temporary physical bread, but He is the true bread from heaven. He is the life-giving, satisfying bread. Compare John 6:34 to the Samaritan woman's request in **John 4:15** *The woman saith unto him, Sir, give me this water, that I thirst not, neither come hither to draw.*

At the very heart of His teaching Jesus explained that He came to do the Father's will and fulfill His redemptive plan. Jesus understood that His mission on earth was to complete the Father's plan of salvation. In that eternal and divine plan four things take place: 1) the Father gives believers to Christ as a love gift; 2) believers come to Jesus by faith; 3) all who come to Jesus by faith will never be rejected or lost; and 4) all who are saved will be raised up to everlasting life. In salvation we see God's sovereignty and the believer's security.

Verse 39 reveals the Father's will in salvation from the divine point of view. Believers are given from the Father to the Son. Verse 40 reveals the Father's plan of salvation from the human point of view. Believers see (understand) and believe in the Son and are saved.

APPLYING GOD'S MESSAGE TO YOUR LIFE:

1. Jesus knows your real motive for seeking Him.
2. Only Jesus can satisfy your hungry soul.
3. Come to Jesus in humble faith and He will accept you.

Salvation is not a reward for the righteous, but a gift for the guilty.

Psalms 34:8 O taste and see that the LORD is good: blessed is the man that trusteth in him.