



Today we start our series on the 7 “I AM’s” This will tell us who Jesus is and what He does. The first one is “I AM the Bread of Life.” Our text is John 6:35-40 “Jesus said to them, “I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in me shall never thirst. ³⁶ But I said to you that you have seen me and yet do not believe. ³⁷ All that the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never cast out. ³⁸ For I have come down from heaven, not to do my own will but the will of him who sent me. ³⁹ And this is the will of him who sent me, that I should lose nothing of all that he has given me, but raise it up on the last day. ⁴⁰ For this is the will of my Father, that everyone who looks on the Son and believes in him should have eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day.”

So, to give this a little context, the day before Jesus had feed the 5000, that night he walked on water and now the crowd had followed and asked how he got there because they had seen the boat leave with only the disciples. Jesus tells them they aren’t following him because of the miracle they had seen but rather because their had ate and were full. He warns them to not to work for foods that spoil but for food that endures to eternal life. They want to know what work that ‘God requires, and Jesus tells them to believe in the one that God has sent. You won’t believe what they do... they ask for a miraculous sign so they might see it and believe. Have you doubted who Jesus is and what he can do? Have you needed a miraculous sign to believe?

So, Jesus said to them, **“I am the bread of life.** Remember the Jews would recognize the I AM as an echo of God tell Moses who to say He is in Exodus 3:14. Bread **in the Greek is ἄρτος -properly, bread (figuratively) divine provision; all the sustenance God supplies to yielded believers scene-by-scene to live in His preferred-will.** Of Life is, ζωῆς – of life, life, both of physical (present) and of spiritual (particularly future) existence.

whoever comes to me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in me shall never thirst. What do you hunger and thirst for for? Food, gambling, sex/porn, co-dependency, drugs and alcohol, money, the internet? My grandchildren just signed me up for Facebook a month ago and I can see how it would be easy to get addicted to that. To hunger to see what everyone is doing and saying. How about TV? Billy Graham knew it

could be a problem. He once had a tv removed from his hotel room so he wouldn't be distracted from writing a sermon.

Or perhaps your hunger and thirsts are a little more subtle like approval, achievement, IQ, honor, respect, family, beauty, argumentative (the need to be right) appreciation, or anything else you need to hunger and thirst for to make you full, content, and happy.

These are all counterfeits! From the Father of Lies. Satan the Deceiver who wants you to believe they will make you happy. But true happiness, fullness, wholeness, comes from the Bread of Life, Jesus. He's the only one that fill the God size hole we keep trying to fill with things outside of us.

The next verse goes on to say, **But I said to you that you have seen me and yet do not believe.** Let's look at what they've seen up to this point. Jesus' 1st miracle, he turned the water into wine at the wedding in Cana. Then he turns the tables in the temple, meets the Samaritan woman at the well and she tells everyone he's the Savior of the world. Jesus heals the royal official's son, and the invalid at the pool of Bethesda. But don't be too quick to judge, haven't we all forgotten at times what the Lord has done in our lives? Haven't we all worried instead of trusted at times? Haven't we all tried to control or manage something, without consulting or waiting on the Lord because you didn't believe He had it covered and then want Him to fix it or bless it?

Next verse 37, **All that the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never cast out. (ESV, KJV, ASV)** Let's start with the Father gives me. Pastor John pointed this out at the meeting with the Elders. He reminded us that we could pray to our Heavenly Father for families and friends to come to Jesus. I knew in vs 44 it stated no can come to Jesus unless the Father draws them, but I had missed this vs and I just learned while studying for this sermon that vs 65 says it too. So, when it's mentioned 3 times in 1 chapter, it means I better pay attention.

William Barclay, in my first set of commentaries from my mentor Pr. Bob Nordval, on John 6:35-40 states "God moves in the human heart to awaken our desire for Him; and God works in the human heart to take away the rebellion & pride which hinder us from making the great submission. We could have never sought Him unless He had already found us."

Then we have the GOOD NEWS that Jesus will never cast us out. **I will never drive away (NIV)**

I will never never reject (AMP, TLB,) I hold on and don't let go (MESS) and the original text is ἐκβάλλω – to cast out, namely, out of the world, i. e. be deprived of the power

and influence he exercises in the world. Again, this is such good news!!! I bet there some of you out there that have believed the lies of the enemy, Satan. You've messed up really bad and thought you're probably not saved any more. I see it over and over at the Mission. Guys coming up to be "saved" over and over! You're saved! You just **need to feed on the Bread of Life** more than all those other things that cause you pain and shame.

Let's wrap our reading up with vs 38-40. Telling us the will of the Father. **For I have come down from heaven, not to do my own will but the will of him who sent me.** ³⁹ **And this is the will of him who sent me, that I should lose nothing of all that he has given me but raise it up on the last day.** ⁴⁰ **For this is the will of my Father, that everyone who looks on the Son and believes in him should have eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day.**"

God is not sending anyone to hell. People will make their own choice to go. His will is for all to be saved. *So it is not the will of my Father who is in heaven that one of these little ones should perish.* MATTHEW 18:14

So how do we **feed on the Bread of Life**???

- 1) COMMUNION - ⁵⁶ **Whoever feeds on my flesh and drinks my blood abides in me, and I in him. JOHN 6:56** Martin Luther called the presence of Jesus in Communion IN-UNDER-and WITH. Do you believe that? Really? Because I'm thinking if we really and truly believed we were receiving Jesus each time went to Communion we would have it a lot more often. Something to think about 😊
- 2) READING THE WORD - **For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart. HEBREWS 4:12** Are you feeding and really chewing on it or are we what Cheryl Rich called "Nibblers." just reading as a novel, not digging in, not studying, not sharing what we have learned or experienced from it. Are you a Nibbler? Thanks for the illustration, Cheryl. One of the perks I have living with her 😊
- 3) PRAYER – Jesus tells us, ⁷ **"Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. MATTHEW 7:7** Paul says in 1Thes 5:17 to "pray without ceasing." When we pray, we are talking to God, the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Like the song "He walks with me, and He talks with me, and He tells me I am His own." We are saying, I need you, help me, guide me, heal me etc. There are prayers of thanksgiving and praise, supplication (asking, begging for something earnestly and humbly) warfare, healing, intercession (prayers for

others.) Again, just talking with the Lord telling Him you love, need, and want to be fed by Him.

- 4) So, my question for you??? Who or what are you going to choose to feed your hunger and thirst??? I would encourage you to respond as one of my favorite

songs ..." ***You can have all this world, just give me Jesus!!!***



Amen