

I AM: The Bread of Life

What is church all about? glorifying Jesus
What is being a Christian all about? knowing Jesus

We need to be a people that glorify the name of Jesus and we need to be a people that KNOW Jesus. Who is He?

We know many of the names: Lord, Savior, Messiah, Word of God, Healer, Deliverer, King, Lamb of God, Immanuel, Good Shepherd, I Am!

We know these names, but who is He? Who does He say He is?

As I was reading the Word a couple months back, God laid it on my heart to preach the “I AMs”

In the gospel of John, Jesus makes 7 different declarations that begin with “I AM”, they express Jesus’ saving relationship toward the world. They are declarations of who He is.

Jesus through these statements, reveals who He is. He gives a revelation. Isn't that your desire? To have a revelation from almighty God?

People are not always who you think they are. We try to base who we believe someone is out of judgement. We do! We use our best judgement and the details that we know and that is who that person becomes in our mind. But we don't need to know who we THINK Jesus is.....we need to know who He says He is!

Jesus’ followers had been with Him and saw many great miracles, signs, and wonders. So much that the miracles were what they sought, miracles are what they desire. Jesus then begins to reveal who He is with these “I AM” statements.

Today we will look at the first of seven “I AM” statements beginning in John chapter 6.

PRAY

Now the gospel according to John had a specific purpose, to prove that Jesus is God.

John 20:30-31 (NKJV)

30 And truly Jesus did many other signs in the presence of His disciples, which are not written in this book; 31 but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name.

This gospel is more about who Jesus is than it is about what Jesus did. As you may know, the

very first verse in chapter 1 states that

John 1:1-5 (NKJV)

1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He was in the beginning with God. 3 All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made. 4 In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. 5 And the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it.

John goes on to say a few verses later that the Word became flesh and dwelt among us. He's establishing that Jesus is who He said He was. He is the great I Am! Not only was He here in the beginning....He is the beginning! He told John this in Revelation

Revelation 1:8 (NKJV)

"I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End," says the Lord, "who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty."

He was God, He is God, and He always will be God! He is the Almighty.....the ruler of all! Amen!

That is the kind of mindset we should have, Jesus was God before my problems began, Jesus is God while my problems are here, and Jesus will be God after my problems are gone. He is who He says He is! Almighty.

Something I absolutely despise is when people try to fit Jesus into their mold, or who they want Him to be. Professing "Christians" say things like "My God would never do that" or "well, that's probably not what He meant" or "He would never punish us if He loves us so much".

Here is the truth....Jesus is who He said He is. He does not change His standard to fit your lifestyle. You need to change your lifestyle to fit His standard.

If you go to work and there are standards for how the job is to be done, they most likely do not care one iota if you like to do it that way, nor are they going to change the standard for you so you can do it the way you like it.

A standard is that which is established by a rule or model, by the authority! Jesus is the authority, you are free to tell Him that you don't like the standard he set but He's not going to change it for you!

You need to change your lifestyle to fit His standard.

The problem is that many only want what Jesus has, or what He can give. They want blessing, provision, healing, etc. But that's not what Jesus is about. Now He can certainly do those things and I believe that He loves to. But those things are all a byproduct who He IS!

John 6:26-40 (NKJV)

26 Jesus answered them and said, "Most assuredly, I say to you, you seek Me, not because you saw the signs, but because you ate of the loaves and were filled. 27 Do not labor for the food which perishes, but for the food which endures to everlasting life, which the Son of Man will give you, because God the Father has set His seal on Him."

28 Then they said to Him, "What shall we do, that we may work the works of God?"

29 Jesus answered and said to them, "This is the work of God, that you believe in Him whom He sent."

30 Therefore they said to Him, "What sign will You perform then, that we may see it and believe You? What work will You do? 31 Our fathers ate the manna in the desert; as it is written, 'He gave them bread from heaven to eat.'"

32 Then Jesus said to them, "Most assuredly, I say to you, Moses did not give you the bread from heaven, but My Father gives you the true bread from heaven. 33 For the bread of God is He who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world."

34 Then they said to Him, "Lord, give us this bread always."

35 And Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life. He who comes to Me shall never hunger, and he who 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 the one who comes to Me I will by no means 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 This is the will of the Father who sent Me, that of all He has given Me I should lose nothing, but should raise it up at the last day. 40 And this is the will of Him who sent Me, that everyone who sees the Son and believes in Him may have everlasting life; and I will raise him up at the last day."

Now, just before this the masses had come to Jesus because of the signs He performed on the sick. They wanted what He had, they wanted miracles. Then as it was time to eat, they didn't have enough food or enough money to purchase food for everyone.

A young boy had five loaves and two fish. Jesus took the loaves and fish and gave thanks (notice, Jesus didn't complain to the Father about this small provision, He just thanked Him) Then they gave out the food and there were twelve baskets left over. Amazing miracle!

So here in John 6 the people have been trying to find Jesus and once they do, He says in v26:

John 6:26 (NKJV)

26 Jesus answered them and said, "Most assuredly, I say to you, you seek Me, not because you saw the signs, but because you ate of the loaves and were filled.

They WERE seeking Him because His miraculous signs pointed to His divine nature and His true identity as the Messiah

Now they are just thinking of their stomachs. Forget the healings of sickness and disease. We want FOOD! Now I can imagine that food that is multiplied (miraculously created) by God has to be pretty good.

But come on.....food over healing? I guess these people had already been healed? Jesus says they seek Him for the food. They went out of their way, looking for Him the next day because it's time to eat again!

Jesus says to them in v 27:

John 6:27 (NKJV)

27 Do not labor for the food which perishes, but for the food which endures to everlasting life, which the Son of Man will give you, because God the Father has set His seal on Him."

Jesus is saying, Hey guys....why are you working so hard for this food that doesn't last, it's a temporary satisfaction...until the next meal time. Your eyes are so fixed on something that doesn't matter.

Hello! Right in front of you is food that endures forever! if you get your eyes off the temporary things of this world, you could see I have something so much better that I can give you. And the Father has placed a seal on Me, verifying that I am the real deal, I am authentic!

You are chasing a temporal, fake. It's not what you need!

Sounds like the world we live in today....Jesus, I need a new car. Jesus, I need a new job, making more money. Jesus, I need, I need, I need.

What we need is Jesus!

Matthew 6:33 (NKJV)

33 But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.

You know what "all these things" are? Your NEEDS....not your WANTS, but your NEEDS. Don't worry about what you will eat or drink or what you will wear. Seek the Kingdom!

Now understand me, I am not saying it is wrong to ask God for things in prayer. Not at all. But first seek Him, desire Jesus! Because it doesn't matter if you have all the stuff you want if you don't have Him.

If you don't have Jesus, you can't take your new phone, or car or whatever with you to Hell, they would melt!

Jesus tells the people about this food that endures to everlasting life, which He will GIVE them, and look at what they say:

John 6:28-31 (NKJV)

28 Then they said to Him, "What shall we do, that we may work the works of God?"

29 Jesus answered and said to them, "This is the work of God, that you believe in Him whom He sent."

30 Therefore they said to Him, "What sign will You perform then, that we may see it and believe You? What work will You do? 31 Our fathers ate the manna in the desert; as it is written, 'He gave them bread from heaven to eat.'"

I can sense Jesus' frustration with these thick headed people! "Oh, this gift, what do we need to do to get that? How can we obtain it, what work is required of us?"

Now keep in mind what these people have seen. Healings, food multiplied (really good food it appears) and Jesus says they only "work" you can do is to believe in Him whom God sent.

Jesus uses this word "work", the same word that they used which means "that which any one is occupied"

He's saying OK, if you want to be occupied with something, be occupied with your belief in Him whom God sent. You have seen....now believe! Hello.....I'm Him, the one you have been waiting for!

In v30-31 they ask Jesus well what will you show us that we might believe. You know Moses gave our fathers manna...maybe you could do something like that, something big to prove You are who you say You are?

They had unbelief! They had already seen miracles. Seeing miracles won't "make you" believe.

2 Corinthians 5:7 (NLT)

For we live by believing and not by seeing.

But they wanted something bigger, like their fathers had seen....

How often are we like this today. God show me something like you showed this person or that person. If I could see something like that, if you could do something like that, then I'll believe!

John 6:32-33 (NKJV)

32 Then Jesus said to them, "Most assuredly, I say to you, Moses did not give you the bread from heaven, but My Father gives you the true bread from heaven. 33 For the bread of God is He who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world."

Jesus says you guys have NO idea, you are clueless. You want me to produce manna, a temporary provision that will spoil, it's only good for one day? What I offer you is so much greater, this is the true bread from heaven, given by the Father!

This bread is true! It is the opposite of that which is imperfect, defective, frail, or uncertain. It's not a counterfeit, it's genuine. This bread gives spiritual and eternal life to the world, the inhabitants of the earth, the ungodly, all men which are alienated from God or even hostile toward Him. They just have to believe!

Yet in v 34 they say "Lord, give us this bread always." or give us this bread every day.

They just don't get it. They still think He's referring to physical bread. They don't understand that Jesus Himself is the bread!

John 6:35 (NKJV)

35 And Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life. He who comes to Me shall never hunger, and he who believes in Me shall never thirst."

The blindness, the darkness of the crowd prompted Jesus to make this first "I AM" statement.

Jesus is the bread of life! If you come to Him you will be satisfied! Your desires will be fulfilled. Your needs will be met. He says "I AM the bread of life"

God takes care of our needs and gives us strength. Look beyond the physical to spiritual principles.

For our physical body to live....we gotta eat! You can only get by for so long without food and water.

Think about fasting. You can fast many things but often times it's food, it is abstinence from food for spiritual purposes. You put down the flesh and focus on the spirit. Fasting can bring you closer to God. You are more sensitive to Him. You may be physically weak but gain spiritual strength.

Now think about the kind of fasting that is a little more frequent in our world today. Fasting the Bread of Life....when we have abstinence from God it's for fleshly purposes. You can push aside the spirit and focus on the flesh. Now I can do what I want to do. Just as your body gets weak when you fast physical food, so does your spirit get weak when you fast the Bread of Life!

When you fast food you grow closer to God. When you fast God you grow closer to the devil!

But we do this so often in life. I would venture to say everyone in this room has more days with no Jesus than have no food since they began their walk with Him.

We are missing what He said. He said I am the bread of life! This means that there is nothing else that we need to survive! We go through days where we don't know how we are going to make it....we need Jesus.

Jesus, the Bread of Life, satisfies our hunger, our longing for God!

Matthew 5:6 (ESV)

6 "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.

We are constantly trying to fill areas of our lives with the stuff of this earth. People are always trying to obtain something that will finally make them happy, only to find out it won't, then set their eyes on something else.

I bet the way that Jesus felt here with this crowd, He also feels that way with us sometimes. I am the bread of life, I am all you need, you'll never be hungry again!

Do any of you know someone that loves the Lord and just always seems content with what they have? Those are the happiest people I've ever met...ever! They live on the bread of life!

It's not about them, it's about Him.

This is what God wants you to leave with today. He is all you need. Period. It's about Him!

Don't be one of these from this crowd that see but don't believe. Believe in Jesus and He says that He will by NO MEANS cast you out. He will not turn you away.

If you were in chains, in prison, what would you want? Hope? Freedom? Life? Or would you be content to stay there if they would just give you "stuff" maybe a blanket or a hoodie or some other material items, temporary satisfaction.....