

I Am the Bread of Life

2-18-18

#1 - I AM Series, Jesus in the Present Tense

I. Slide1 Announce:

- A. Slide2-8 Tony: Office. Marriage. Tanzania. Sub teachers. BBQ. Intro Shane. Intro FPU.
- B. Slide9 REAL Tues - next Tues 27th. 7-9pm. *Popcorn, Pride & Prejudice* (hang out, watch a classic movie while eating popcorn/goodies)
- C. Slide10 Children at Risk - today 3-5pm. If you attended JM7 & want to get involved, 1 way is to come hear from *Marjorie* from *The Well Path* (lots of opportunities).
- D. Prayer: *Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good; Blessed is the man who trusts in Him.* (msg) *Open your mouth and taste, open your eyes and see - how good God is. Blessed are you who run to him.*

II. Slide11,12 Intro: I Am the Bread of Life

- A. Why the I AM Statements? [actually 23 in John, but we're taking the one's *linked to a metaphor*]
 1. Remember when Jesus was talking to Peter, known as *the great confession*, *Who do they say that I am? Who do you say that I am?*
 2. In the 7 weeks we are going to look at who **HE** said He is. *Self revelation.*
 3. In these I Am statements, Jesus used *a very unusual structure* to identify characteristics of his person.
 4. Slide13 In the **Gk** you can use either: Ἐγώ **ego** (I am) *or* εἰμι **emie** also means (I am).
 - a) But in these *I am statements* Jesus uses *both together*. Ἐγώ εἰμι
 - b) The structure: *I Am, I Am the Bread of Life*. Very rare.
 - c) Slide14a **But** this directly point back to the name by which *Yahweh* revealed Himself in Ex.3:13,14. When they translated it into Gk (LXX) they used the *double I Am* statement Ἐγώ εἰμι. *Then Moses said to God, "Indeed, when I come to the children of Israel and say to them, 'The God of your fathers has sent me to you,' and they say to me, 'What is His name?' what shall I say to them?" 14 And God said to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM." And He said, "Thus you shall say to the children of Israel, 'I AM has sent me to you.'* "

(1) Slide14b Ex.3:14 καὶ εἶπεν ὁ θεὸς πρὸς Μωυσῆν **Ἐγὼ εἰμι** ὁ ὢν, καὶ εἶπεν Οὕτως ἐρεῖς τοῖς υἱοῖς Ἰσραὴλ Ὁ ὢν ἀπέσταλκέν με πρὸς ὑμᾶς.¹

(2) Slide14c Ex.3:15 *This is My name forever, and this is My memorial to all generations.*

5. One more thing in **grammar** when this structure occurs...

- a) **I am the bread of life**...normally the subject is **I (am)**, & *the bread of life* is the predicate (states something about the subject).
- b) **But** when this occurs in *the 7 I AM statements*, it is *reversed*. *The bread of life* (pause) **is I** (or *it is I*). So **HE** is the focal point of the affirmation, **rather than the concept of bread**. [did they pick up on this claim to deity?...oh yah, Jn.6:41,42]

B. Slide15 The 7: Bread. Light. Door. Good Shepherd. Way/truth/life. True Vine. Res & Life.

1. Each of these statements then will reveal a different *characteristic/attribute/perspective/trait* about **Jesus**. *To know Jesus is to know the Father*.

a) Other prophets brought us *words from God*, but Jesus *is the word of God*. Which makes Him not just the *messenger* but **The Message** as well!

2. Slide16 Note: all other founders of *the world's philosophies & religions systems* could only say...**I was!** They're dead & cannot help you.

3. This is **Jesus in the Present Tense**. This is **Jesus**, not as a distant deity but as the **living God**, *the great I AM*.

4. My goal is that we will **know** Him **deeply**, **experience** Him **genuinely**, & **love** Him **passionately**. [because...to **know God** is the only way for sinners to be **saved**. And to be saved is to **worship & glorify** Him. And to have **eternal life & worship Him** we can experience the blessing of **a transformed life**]

C. Like many people today, they had a **commercial attitude** toward Jesus and wanted Him to meet their personal needs (a consumer relationship. Reducing him to a vending machine god). They didn't want Him to deal with their *sins* and *change their hearts*.

1. Jesus says I AM, **and not I will be whatever you want Me to be**.

2. Some want Jesus only as **a religious teacher** but not as Lord and Savior.

3. Others want Him to give them **business success so they can become wealthy**.²

¹ Septuaginta: With morphology. (1996). (Ex 3:14). Stuttgart: Deutsche Bibelgesellschaft.

² Jesus in the Present Tense: The I AM Statements of Christ, by Warren W. Wiersbe

- D. You receive **bread** into your body and it **sustains life**, **but** receiving **Jesus** into your heart by faith gives you *eternal life*.
1. To **eat** something means to assimilate it and make it a part of your physical being. Language uses *metaphors* like, “*Well, I’ll have to digest what you just said*” or “*I can’t swallow that*” or “*That’s food for thought.*” “*Now, here’s something you can sink your teeth into.*” “*I really devoured that book.*” Nobody takes this literally.
- E. Outline: *The Bread of Life offers...Life Spiritual. Life Sustained. Life Satisfied.*

III. Slide17 **LIFE SPIRITUAL (John 6:22-33)**

- A. (27) Often people want the Lord to meet their **physical** needs **but not** their **spiritual** needs.
1. They were like **stray dogs**, that if you **feed them** they’ll stick around, **not** because they love you, **but** because you have food. *Stop feeding them & they’re gone.*
 - a) Don’t seek God for **what** He can do for you, **but** for **who He is**.
 2. *Why do you seek Him? For a healing? To pay the bills? In hopes to find a nice spouse? to bless your business? for A’s in school?*
- B. Slide18a Jesus directs their thinking to a **deeper hunger**.
- C. (27) Jesus encourages them **not** to devote themselves to such pursuits, **but rather** to seek **food that endures** to **eternal life**.
1. Therefore do not worry, saying, *What shall we eat? or What shall we drink? or What shall we wear?* For after all these things the Gentiles seek. For your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. **But seek first the kingdom of God & His righteousness, & all these things shall be added to you.**
 2. Slide18b Jesus came to **not give** bread **but be** bread.
- D. Slide19 Manna Comparison... (30,31)
1. **Manna** came for only 1 nation. **Jesus** came for the whole world.
 2. **Manna** came for only 38 years. **Jesus** came, for Adam to the end of time.
 3. **Manna** came at no cost to the Lord. **Jesus** came at great cost: Jesus’ death.

4. **Manna** came only to the Jews & sustained physical life. **Jesus** came for the whole world & gives eternal life.
5. **Manna** only delayed physical death. **Jesus** conquered spiritual death.
6. **Manna**, a gift from God. **Jesus**, God's gift to the world.
7. **Manna** came at night. **Jesus** came when men were in darkness.
8. **Manna** met physical needs. **Jesus** meets spiritual needs.
9. **Manna**, a gift from God. **Jesus**, God's gift to the world.
10. **Manna** had to be picked up & eaten. **Jesus** must be received & appropriated.
 - a) The *bread of God* was a gift from the Father, whether it was shaped into **Manna** or the **Messiah**.

E. So when God's people traveled through the wilderness, they had to depend on **God to provide** their food **supernaturally**. *I am the Bread which come down from heaven.*

1. God provided the food in a way that would also teach the people something about *their relationship with Him*.
2. Every day *God gave enough food for that day*. No one could gather more than *a day's supply*. There had to be a continual, constant dependence on God; He was the **only source** of sustenance. *Give us today our daily bread...*

IV. Slide20 **LIFE SUSTAINED** (John 6:34-40) [*sustenance/fr. sustain. a source of strength, nourishment*]

- A. He not only brings *eternal life* but also the *continued benefits* of the life He brings.
- B. (35) Jesus picks a *common staple* all can relate to, & relate to **daily**. & throughout the **day** (i.e. each meal)
 1. Slide21a **Bread** is found on the **rich & poor** man's table; **king & peasant**.
- C. If we take the 1st commandment from the neg to the positive, from *Thou shall have no Slide21b other gods before me* to **Thou shall have me!** - That's what Jesus is saying here.
 1. It is no coincidence that Jesus was born in the into *the city of bread*. Bethlehem
- D. Slide21c (37) There is a giant *welcome mat* in front of Jesus' house. Wipe your **sins** on the mat & come on in :)
 1. The original reads, *I will not, not cast out*, or *I will never, never cast out*.

E. **Slide21d** (44) **Draw** - we spiritually lay dead as a **paperclip** & don't move toward Him until we feel *His magnetic love drawing us* to *rise up & come to Him*.

V. **Slide22 LIFE SATISFIED (John 6:60-69)**

A. **A satisfied life** is a life *never hungry, never thirsty, & living forever*.

1. It's not about *having more*...not the that *more is wrong*...just that *more doesn't satisfy*.³
2. **Slide23a** The women at the well in **Jn.4**, was all about Jesus *lovingly steering the conversation through territory* that showed the many ways this woman tried to **satisfy** her own emptiness (*i.e.* failed relationships, illicit pleasure, and empty religiosity) - **Then Jesus made this staggering offer**: if anyone comes to **Him** for **satisfaction**, they will find their *deepest needs and longings met!*

B. **But Some choked on this Bread from Heaven** (60-66)

C. (60) **Hard saying** - Yes, very difficult.

1. Not hard to *understand*, **but hard to accept** – *skleros* (dried, rough, harsh), from *skello* (to dry).
2. **This fresh bread from heaven** just became stale & crunchy in their mouth fast.
3. Did you know...**many sharks** have the ability to turn their stomachs inside out and **evert** (turn inside out) it out of their mouths in order to get rid of *any unwanted contents*. [That's what this group did]

D. (67-69) **This is the 2nd group**. Thinning crowds did nothing to thin the disciples determination

E. **Slide23b** (67) The choice is always to *follow the crowd* or *follow Jesus*.

1. This was their Gideon moment...*let him who is fearful & afraid turn & depart at once*. Judges 7:3 [military cut backs, from 32,000 to 10,000 to 300]
2. This was their chance to leave. **But** Peter comes up with **3 reasons** they can't.
 - a) **Slide23c** There is **no One** else. There is **no other words/truths**. There is **nothing else that satisfies**.
 - (1) These are the *continued benefits* of the life Jesus brings.
 - b) **Slide23d** Ps.107:8,9 *Oh, that men would give thanks to the Lord for His goodness, And for His wonderful works to the children of men! For He satisfies the longing*

³ Joe Stowell, getmorestrength.org

soul, And fills the hungry soul with goodness.

- F. Slide 24 3 Questions for families & friends to discuss: [take photo of] (also FB Light of world week)
1. **Life Spiritual:** let each person discuss *if and when* they personally **believed on and came to** Jesus. Or, what holds them back.
 2. **Life Sustained:** daily, how might we see the continued benefits of the life He brought us? (**think:** spiritual strength & nourishment)
 3. **Life Satisfied:** give some examples of how we find our deepest needs and longings met in Jesus.
- G. **End:** Manna in the wilderness. *You either collected it and ate it and found sustenance, or you walked over it. Same with Jesus today.*
1. **Come and believe** (6:35,40,29) - This is an **invitation** for those listening, to place their **faith** in Jesus.
 - a) **Coming** to Jesus involves **making a choice** to forsake the world *and* follow **Him**.
 - b) **Believing** in Jesus means placing our **faith** in Him **that He is** who He says He is, **that** He will **do** what He says He will do, **and that** He is the **only one** who can **save, sustain, & satisfy**.