



John: The Great "I AM" Gospel
John 6:30-40
From Sermon 10.8.23

Read *John 6:30-40*

Overview from Sunday's sermon: Having concluded an amazing set of miracles (feeding 20,000, walking on water, stopping the storm), Jesus again testifies to His exclusive offer of spiritual provision. The crowd continues to want temporary conveniences and Jesus counters with deep, spiritual, and eternal truths. Since their fleshly desire is for bread, He'll use the historical example/illustration of bread from heaven. This is the only thing that will ever satisfy man's internal elusive hunger.

1. What other factor about physical hunger makes it an appropriate illustration of an unbeliever's continual search for anything to fill the void of life/spirit? It never ends. Once you eat, you'll only be hungry again in a few hours. This is why see people filling the void with relationships, money, title, influence, substances, recreation, and the-next-best-thing. See *2 Timothy 3:6-7*

2. What, then, is Jesus trying to get across to them (and us) about taking Him in and becoming one with Him? The search will be over. All the answers. The deep internal emptiness, hunger, longing, and fear will be relieved. In Christ, we no longer have to work in futility to be justified before God. See also *John 6:68*

3. The unbelieving false disciple is never satisfied. In this account and others like it—where God graciously provided, it was never enough. Read the Old Testament passage and discuss. *Numbers 11:4-6.* After God has miraculously and powerfully delivered them from Pharaoh and Egypt's slavery and provided for their physical needs in the desert, the crowd began to complain the food (grace) God had granted.

4. Believing true disciples, however, will see far beyond the here and now. In Christ, fullness, peace, and joy transcend life's circumstances by focusing on the nature and person of Christ. Read Paul's words, written in solitude and from prison. See *Philippians 4:11-13*

5. Biblical bread serves two purposes: physical nourishment and perpetual reminder. Discuss each below.

- Manna (Eaten & Placed into the Ark of the Covenant). God provided when they had no human answers or resources. As a reminder for future generations, some manna was placed in the ark. See also *Psalms 78:23-25 & Psalm 105:40-41*
- Unleavened Passover Bread: a reminder of God's deliverance and holiness
- Temple showbread: a reminder of God's purpose and His supplying the 12 Tribes
- Bethlehem: means "house of bread". Home of Boaz the redeemer, David, and Jesus' birth.
- Lord's Supper: a reminder of the New Covenant, in Christ, deliverance from sin/wrath.
- *Revelation 2:17:* a picture of the eternal life, freely given in Jesus Christ.

6. At this point in the Gospel, we are beginning to see opposition, desertion, & rejection: Discuss the reality that Jesus never changes His message, method, or motive. He doesn't chase down the deserters. He never rebrands Himself or goes in another direction. How should this admonish the Church today?
See *Acts 20:27 & 2 Timothy 4:2.* Various answers. Stop changing the message. Preach the whole Word.