

I AM THE BREAD OF LIFE

John 6:25-59

INTRODUCTION

- A. The First twelve chapters of John, the “Book of Signs.”
 - 1. John records seven signs performed by Jesus.
 - 2. The feeding of the five thousand, chapter 6.
 - a. The only sign recorded in all four gospel accounts.
 - b. This is performed about one year from the Lord’s crucifixion.
 - c. John is the only one who gives an account of the lad with the five loaves and two fish.
- B. The Seven “I Am” Sayings of Christ.
 - 1. These sayings reveal the Lord’s identity and mission.
 - 2. Similar to God’s revelation to Moses in the burning bush, “I Am...” Ex. 3:14.
 - 3. The first saying is recorded after the feeding of five thousand.
- C. Isaiah 55:1-2.
 - 1. Isaiah is referencing to spiritual water of life (John 4).
 - 2. “You who have no money...” this water is paid for by someone else.
 - a. The precious blood of Jesus, Rom. 5:9.
 - 3. Verse two is speaking of “bread from heaven.”

I. BRIEF SYNOPSIS OF EVENTS.

- A. Feeding the Five Thousand, vss. 1-15.
 - 1. Jesus used 5 loaves and two fish to feed the 5000.
 - 2. After eating, they gathered 12 baskets of leftovers.
 - 3. The people identify Him as the great Prophet and desire to make Him king, vs. 14 (Deut. 18:15, 18).
- B. Jesus Walks on Water, vs. 16-24.
 - 1. Jesus withdraws alone to the mountain.
 - 2. At evening, the disciples set out across the lake.
 - 3. The winds and waves were difficult to row against.
 - 4. Jesus walked to them on the water.
 - 5. The next day the crowds catch up to them in Capernaum.

II. JESUS, THE BREAD OF LIFE.

- A. Question One, vss. 25-27.
 - 1. “Rabbi (teacher), when did you get here?”
 - 2. Jesus tells them they are not after Him because they saw miraculous signs, but because they had been fed, vs. 26.
 - 3. Don’t work for food that spoils, but for food that endures to eternal life.
- B. Question Two, vss. 28-29.
 - 1. “What must we do to do the works God requires?”
 - 2. Believe in the one God has sent, vs. 29.
- C. Question Three, vss. 30-40.
 - 1. “What sign will you give so that we may believe you?”
 - a. Their fathers received manna from heaven.
 - 2. Moses did not give you that bread from heaven, vs. 32.
 - 3. God gave the manna then and now gives the true bread from heaven, vs. 33.
 - 4. Jesus said, “I am the bread of life.”

- a. "He who comes to me will never hungry," vs. 35.
- b. "He who believes in Me will never be thirsty," vs. 35.
- c. "You have seen me and still you do not believe," vs. 36.

III. LESSONS FOR OUR LEARNING.

- A. Desire the Spiritual, 6:27.
 - 1. Their concern was for the physical.
 - a. The miraculous feeding.
 - b. Their desire for a king, Jn. 6:14-15.
 - 2. God's ways are not our ways, Isa. 55:8-9.
 - a. They cried for a sign.
 - b. Signs had already been done before them, 6:1-15.
 - c. Rich man and Lazarus, Luke 16:27-31.
 - i. Send Lazarus to my Father's house.
 - ii. If they won't listen to Moses and the Prophets,...., 31.
 - d. The power of God had been shown to the Israelites, but they did not believe.
 - e. Isaiah 55:1-2.
 - i. Reference to the spiritual water of life.
 - ii. Had been paid for by someone else, Rom. 5:9.
 - iii. Bread from heaven – Jesus, the bread of life.
 - 3. In our lives today, what is most important? 1 Tim. 4:8
 - a. One church, one Lord, baptism, a cappella singing, women's roles, etc.
 - b. Our prayer lives and expectations.
 - c. Trying to fit God into our mold.
- B. The Bread of Life.
 - 1. Eating the bread and drinking the blood.
 - a. This is beyond the emblems of the Lord's Supper.
 - b. Compare Jn. 6:40 and 6:54 – synonymous.
 - c. Jn. 6:3-58.
 - i. To eat Christ, as the Bread of Life, means to accept, take possession, and conform to Him.
 - ii. Col. 3:9-10 – a true knowledge...
 - d. Mt. 5:6, "...hunger and thirst..."
 - 2. Christ, the Word, John 1:1.

CLOSING

- A. Christ's invitation that day:
 - 1. Do the work of God: believe in the one God has sent (Jesus), 6:29.
 - 2. He who comes to Me will never go hungry, he who believes in Me will never be thirsty, 6:35.
- B. Christ's invitation today:
 - 1. Matthew 10:38; 11:28-29
 - 2. Jn. 1:12, "To all who receive Him and believe in His name..."
- C. What response? John 6:66 or 6:68-69?