

Jesus - The Bread of Life

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John 6:22-35

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An Important Sign

- Feeding^{6:1-15} of 5000 'sign' is included in all 4 gospels
- People wanted to set Jesus up as a Political Messiah (King) - He withdrew
- Jesus instructed disciples to take the boat to other side of lake into a storm
- Jesus walked to his disciples in the storm and now on other side
- Crowd was confused - how Jesus got there?

Some Foundational Concepts of Culture and Food

- Where does food come from? Modern: store. Ancient: something must die - animal or plant to provide food.
- What is our Staple Diet? Americans – don't have a true staple. At that time it was Bread which provided all nutrients to sustain life.
- Why we work? American: to buy things. But for most of history: to buy food. Jesus providing food would free them their most demanding need: food
- Snack Food. Foreign concept to most people except our prosperous culture
- For original audience: Bread was what you worked for to sustain you. Most expected the Messiah to again provide Manna^{Dt18:15}

Jesus Challenges the Crowd

- Jesus rebukes crowd²⁵⁻²⁷ in that they missed the significance of the sign
- Looking for more physical food will just make you hungry again... so work for food that endures to eternal life (spiritual) - get *Who I am and what I am!*
- Father set His seal on Jesus²⁷ - Jesus is entrusted with providing eternal life

The Work that God Requires

- Crowd picks up on 'work' and asks, *what must we do?*
- They were looking for Religious 'work' to satisfy God
- Jesus shows God does the 'work' through Jesus, all we do is believe²⁹
- Basically: believe in Jesus to get credit for the 'work' of God
- Crowd not willing to accept God's grace in Jesus - ask for another sign^{30,31}
- They were religious unbelievers who thought they knew their bibles...
- They wanted another physical Moses^{Dt18:15} but God sent Jesus from heaven
- Jesus is the Bread of God sent from heaven³³ that gives life!
- They wanted this bread but they were thinking physically³⁴

Jesus Declares "I Am the Bread of Life"

- First of the great "I Am" sayings ^{6:35;8:12;10:7;10:11;11:25;14:6;15:1}
- Jesus declares He is Bread of Life³⁵ the Father has sent³² who gives life³³
- Jesus again uses Spiritual language – how the OT pointed to Jesus
- Manna^{Ex16:4-36} was real - but pointed to Jesus as the true fulfillment...
- Tabernacle/Temple were physical but pointed to Jesus as true fulfillment... the place where God meets with man
- Jesus is the fulfillment of all the OT signs!

Jesus The Bread of Life

- Jesus was born in Bethlehem which means "house of bread"
- God sent Jesus to be the "Bread of Life" which gives life to the world
- Snack food - doesn't sustain. Jesus is eternal food that sustains³⁵
- People worked hard for food to sustain life - Jesus is Bread of Life!
- Bread was a staple - Jesus as Bread of Life... never hungry, never thirsty!
- How to respond? *Believe in the One He has sent²⁹ - Jesus!*