

Jesus' "I Am" Sayings in John's Gospel

"I Am" the Bread of Life

Sunday, March 13, 2011

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Message Truth:

The first instance of the "I Am" saying used by John, to reassure his reader of Christ's divinity, is the assertion that Jesus is the Bread of Life. Jesus gives the crowd six keys to understanding Jesus' reason for coming down to earth. Just as bread is essential to maintain our physical life, Jesus is necessary to sustain our spiritual life, here and now, and also to secure our eternal life at the last day.

Message Text:

²⁶ Jesus answered, "I tell you the truth, you are looking for me, not because you saw miraculous signs but because you ate the loaves and had your fill. ²⁷ Do not work for food that spoils, but for food that endures to eternal life, which the Son of Man will give you. On him God the Father has placed his seal of approval." ²⁸ Then they asked him, "What must we do to do the works God requires?" ²⁹ Jesus answered, "The work of God is this: to believe in the one he has sent." ³⁰ So they asked him, "What miraculous sign then will you give that we may see it and believe you? What will you do?" ³¹ Our forefathers ate the manna in the desert; as it is written: 'He gave them bread from heaven to eat.' "

³² Jesus said to them, "I tell you the truth, it is not Moses who has given you the bread from heaven, but it is my Father who 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 "Sir," they said, "from now on give us this bread." ³⁵ Then Jesus declared, "**I am the bread of life.** He who comes to me will never go hungry, and he who believes in me will never be thirsty. ³⁶ But as I told you, you have seen me and still you do not believe. ³⁷ All that the

Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never drive away. ³⁸ For I have come down from heaven not to do my will but to do the will of him who sent me. ³⁹ And this is the will of him who sent me, that I shall lose none of all that he has given me, but raise them up at the last day. ⁴⁰ For my Father's will is that everyone who looks to the Son and believes in him shall have eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day." John 6:26-40

1. The spiritual is m_____ i_____ than the material.

²⁶ Jesus answered, "I tell you the truth, you are looking for me, not because you saw miraculous signs but because you ate the loaves and had your fill. ²⁷ Do not work for food that spoils, but for food that endures to eternal life, which the Son of Man will give you. On him God the Father has placed his seal of approval." John 6:26-27

Signs are used in this gospel to point beyond the p_____, concrete reality to the spiritual reality of r_____.

2. Jesus says the w_____ God expects is for us to b_____ in the one God has sent!

²⁸ Then they asked him, "What must we do to do the works God requires?" ²⁹ Jesus answered, "The work of God is this: to believe in the one he has sent." John 6:28-29

Too many people are like the crowd, looking for salvation as the result of their own efforts. They spend their lives asking what are the "works God requires us to do?"

³⁰ So they asked him, "What miraculous sign then will you give that we may see it and believe you? What will you do?" ³¹ Our forefathers ate the manna in the desert; as it is written: 'He gave them bread from heaven to eat.'

John 6:30-31

3. Their failure to give God the credit undermined their ability to believe.

³² Jesus said to them, "I tell you the truth, it is not Moses who has given you the bread from heaven, but it is my Father who 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."

John 6:32-33

Jesus' answer is two-fold. First, he says that the gift of manna came from God and not Moses. Second, the manna was not the true "bread from heaven" but an earthly type of that bread.

4. God's will is to fill man's spiritual hunger through Jesus.

³⁴ "Sir," they said, "from now on give us this bread." ³⁵ Then Jesus declared, "I am the bread of life. He who comes to me will never go hungry, and he who believes in me will never be thirsty. ³⁶ But as I told you, you have seen me and still you do not believe.

John 6:34-36

Becoming a Christian is described in various ways. Here Jesus speaks of coming to Him. The thought recurs in vv. 37, 44, 45, 65.

No room is left for spiritual hunger and thirst after receiving Christ. This does not exclude a further desire for spiritual things, but it rules out forever the possibility of that unsatisfied hunger.

5. God gave us to Jesus to bring from the Father.

6. God expects that Jesus will receive all who come to Him and not let anyone go.

Jesus explains that the process of salvation involves both divine sovereignty and human responsibility. The Father gives people to the Son (John 6:37,39; 17:2,6,9; 11:12,24), but these persons must come to Him, that is, believe on Him.

³⁷ All that the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never drive away. ³⁸ For I have come down from heaven not to do my will but to do the will of him who sent me. ³⁹ And this is the will of him who sent me, that I shall lose none of all that he has given me, but raise them up at the last day. ⁴⁰ For my Father's will is that everyone who looks to the Son and believes in him shall have eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day."

John 6:37-40

**Jesus warmly welcomes all!
He rejects no one!
He loses none!**

No one can come to Jesus unless the Father draws him (v. 44). Our salvation is something that God brings about.