

The Bread that Saves

John 6:22—35

Sermon Series: The Bread of Life

Introduction

The next three Gospel lessons are all from **John 6**. The theme throughout that chapter is that Jesus is the Bread of Life. So, for the next three weeks, we will be unpacking what that means. The Adult Bible Study class will explore these readings further.

The Basis for This Discourse

The book of **John** contains several long discourses by Jesus, times when He was teaching individuals, like Nicodemus at night, or groups of people, like the disciples in the upper room the night He was betrayed. Many times, they were precipitated by a miracle. This time, Jesus had just fed the 5,000 with five loaves of bread and two fish. Overnight, He had gotten away to the other side of the lake, but now, the crowd had caught up with Him.

Food That Endures

Jesus chastises them for their motives. He knows they were only looking for another free meal. They had missed the sign. Like the rest of Jesus' miracles, what they pointed to, revealing Him to be the Son of God, is what really mattered. So, referring to Himself, Jesus tells them *to work for the food that endures to eternal life that the Son of Man will give to you (John 6:27)*.

The Works of God

"What are the works of God? How do we get this food?" It's simple, just believe in Jesus. Proving themselves that they missed the sign of the miraculous feeding, they asked for a sign so they could believe in Him. *"Our fathers ate the manna in the wilderness. What can You give us?" (v. 30—31)*.

The Sign of Manna

Jesus corrects their thinking about the manna. *Moses didn't give them the manna, God did (v. 32)*. But that manna was a shadow of the Bread from Heaven that God was going to give them through Jesus. Then Jesus says something that really gets their attention.

Ἐγώ εἰμι

"I AM the Bread of Life" (v. 35). What would have caught their attention was the "I am," in Greek, Ἐγώ εἰμι (Egō eimi). The whole phrase is not necessary, since "eimi" is

first person singular and means “I am” by itself. To say Ἐγώ εἰμι stresses the I AM, showing that He is identifying with the I AM of the Old Testament, YAHWEH.

YAHWEH

In the context of the manna, YAHWEH was the Deliverer who brought Israel out of bondage of slavery in Egypt and saved their lives in the wilderness with manna.

JESUS

The name *Yeshua*, from which we get *Jesus*, means “YAHWEH is salvation” or “YAHWEH saves.” Jesus is our Deliverer who brings us out of the bondage of slavery to sin and saves our lives with His body and blood.

Jesus, the Bread of Life

Yes, Jesus is the Bread that Saves. He saves by forgiving our sins. There is forgiveness of sins when the Word is added to the bread and wine. When we eat His body and drink His blood, we have forgiveness of sins and life in Him. This is the food that endures to eternal life, the **BREAD THAT SAVES**.

The Universality of Bread

Bread is the staff of life. It is common across cultures. It's not a luxury, like caviar. Jesus uses bread to show that the salvation He gives is for everyone.

Bread of Life

This Bread is the bread of *life* because it gives a life that cannot be taken away.

Bread From Heaven

This Bread is from heaven because it is given by God. Death is caused by sin. Only God can forgive sin. So, only God can give life. Anything else that makes that claim is a cheap knock-off and must be avoided at all costs. Come to the table today and receive the Bread from God that gives eternal life to all who will eat it.

*And the peace of God,
Which surpasses all understanding,
Will guard your hearts and minds in Jesus Christ.*
