

The 7 “I AM” Statements of Jesus
“I AM” the Bread of Life
John 6:22-40, 44

v. 22-25

The Crowd Seeks Jesus

- Normally when we see a statement like “the crowd seeks Jesus” we would rejoice over that. The crowd has impure motivations.
- Jesus had been teaching in chapter 6 and while He was there he fed 5,000 known individuals with bread and fish.
- After this the people were going to make Jesus king.
- We see later on in the passage that their reasoning was not because they believed He was the Messiah but because He could feed them basically out of thin air.
- They wanted something from Jesus that He did not come to give.
- He sends His disciples to Capernaum and then walks on the water to meet them.
- When the crowds realized Jesus was gone they got into boats to follow Him to Capernaum.
- Again, this sounds great until we realize what the motivation of the crowd is.

v. 26-29

A Rebuke and the Will of God

- Jesus tells the crowd that He knows why they seek Him.
- It isn't because of the signs that He had done to show that He is indeed the Messiah but rather the food that He was providing Him.
- They had missed the point of the miracles entirely.
- They were still blind spiritually. (Romans 11:8-10)

Do Not Labor for Earthly Things

- During His rebuke of the people, Jesus tells them not to search after bread that will perish and not satisfy them for long.
- We see a shift in the rebuke. Jesus starts out with earthly things and then ends with spiritual things.
- He grabs their attention with a physical item and funnels it to the spiritual.
- Jesus often did this.

The Work and Will of God

- We often get the work and will of God wrong because we think it's some mysterious thing.
- Scripture paints a picture that is quite the opposite.
- Jesus tells us that the work of God is to believe in the One whom He has sent...Jesus.
- The people had God in flesh there and this is what He told them to their own ears.
- Believing in Christ is the work of God.
- What is the will of God?
- 1 Thessalonians 4:3
- Our sanctification is the will of God.
- Jesus tells these people, and us, that the work of God is not some perceived lofty work that we must be diligently doing but rather to believe in and trust the Lord Jesus.

v. 30-36

The People Seek A Sign

- The people ask Jesus for proof of His identity.
- They hearken back to the Old Testament to God giving the Israelite bread in the wilderness.
- Moses led them out of Egypt and then God showed them miraculous signs to prove His identity as well as legitimize Moses' leadership.
- Jesus explains to them that, yes, they did eat manna in the wilderness but it was not Moses that gave it to them; it was God.
- The bread that God gave them in the wilderness was perishable. It would not satisfy their hunger for long.
- Jesus takes it from physical to spiritual in the next point He makes.
- God gave them bread but not the TRUE Bread.
- The true Bread would come down from Heaven and be eternal.
- The true Bread would come down from Heaven and give life to the world.

I AM the Bread of Life

- Jesus tells them that He is indeed the bread that came down from Heaven to give life to the world.
- This is something that would have been perplexing as well as shocking to the people to hear.
- Part of what Jesus says here is what got Him into trouble with the Jewish leaders.

Ego Eimi

- There are two ways to say the phrase “I am” in the Greek language.
- The first is the word *Ego*.
- This is where we get the English word *ego* which is our personality or personal identity.
- The other way to say I am in Greek is the word *Eimi*.
- To us this seems redundant that Jesus would say “I AM, I AM”.
- This is not a translation error or Jesus misspeaking. It is direct and intentional.
- The only other time that this phrasing is seen is in the Greek Septuagint, which is the Greek Old Testament.
- Exodus 3:14
- Jesus is declaring His divinity with this statement.
- Jesus is declaring His Heavenly origin with this statement.
- Jesus is declaring His authority with this statement.

v. 37-40, 44

God’s Sovereignty Over Salvation

- Jesus tells us that those who come to Him were given to Him by the Father.
- He tells us that He will not reject any that come to Him and this is because it is the Father who gives them to Him.
- This is the gift of the Father to the Son and the Son will not reject this gift from His Father.
- In this next set of verses we see that Jesus points to the future.
- He will not lose a single one that the Father gives to Him and He will in fact raise them from the dead on the last day.

- The will of God through Christ is that all who look to Jesus for salvation will be saved.
- The question is often asked, “Then why don’t more people believe?”.
- The simple yet difficult answer is found in verse 44.
- Jesus tells us that no one *can* come unless God draws him.
- Notice that it doesn’t say the word *may* come. It says “*can* come”.
- One speaks to ability and the other doesn’t.
- Jesus tells us that unless the Father draws someone that they do not have the ability to come to Him.
- The Greek word used for draw is the word *Helkuo*.
- The word is sometimes better used in the phrase “to drag off”.
- Now, the Scriptures do not paint a picture that God is dragging people kicking and screaming to salvation nor does it paint the picture that He is trying to woo or convince someone to come to Christ.
- God doesn’t try to do anything. He always succeeds.
- The Biblical picture is that God changes the hearts of those whom He is drawing to Christ.
- Christ becomes beautiful to them. He becomes desirable to them. They then come willingly.
- Ezekiel 36:26
- Everyone is born with a heart of stone. God mercifully removes the heart of stone from those who He is drawing to His Son and replaces it with a heart of flesh. They will in turn trust Christ and be saved.