

I Am the Bread of Life

John 6:25-40 || Pastor Paul Hahn || 28 June 2020

*To CARE for one another in truth and in love,
To GROW together as followers of Jesus,
To SERVE those God has placed in our path.
– CG Mission Statement*

Icebreaker: What is your favorite bread and what makes it so good? OR What was your longest fast from food?

Worship: John 6:47-51 (*Read aloud three times, spend time in reflection listening for God's invitation to you.*)

Sermon Summary for John 6:25-40

John wrote about Jesus so that we might know He is the Son of God – that we might believe in Him and have life in His name. Over the next several weeks, we will focus on the “I Am” statements found in John, which offer seven ways of seeing the wonder of our Creator as found in Christ. The first of these statements occurs just after Jesus feeds thousands of people using only five loaves of bread and two fish. He declares, ***“I Am the Bread of Life. Whoever comes to Me will never go hungry, and whoever believes in Me will never be thirsty.”*** The miracle itself echoes the manna God provided the Israelites during their years in the desert. But while the bread and fish provide sustenance for their day, Christ declares Himself to be nourishment and provision for our souls.

These past few months have been very difficult: stress, pain, fear and the feeling that so much has been taken from us. But what cannot be taken from us – what will actually be strengthened during times of crisis – is that Jesus sustains us. When God “prunes” us (whether personally or collectively), it is always to give us more of Himself. These seasons are therefore an opportunity to turn to our Father with fresh eyes – to ask Him to give us more of Himself, that we might be satisfied in Him. This is a call to feast on Jesus, His word, His promises. Because He not only nourishes us; Christ strengthens and shapes our souls to be more and more like His.

What does it look like to nourish our lives in Christ – to feast upon the bread of life as we are called to do? All of this comes by faith; the only work necessary is to let our lives be rooted in His. To believe this. But eating bread is not a one-time thing. And so we are called to keep coming back to Christ, to continually root our lives in Him. Returning to Jesus again and again reminds us that any good we do, any justice we seek, any hope we have is truly rooted-in and comes-from Him. And so we ask ourselves: Will we trust Jesus enough to find our lives in Him?

Discussion Questions (*It's better to wrestle deeply with a few good questions than to gloss over many.*)

- Jesus claimed “I am the Bread of Life.” Why would he use the analogy of bread?
 - What is Jesus communicating about Himself? What does it tell us about ourselves?
 - How do we eat this Bread? How do we know when we are not getting enough of this Bread?
 - What does it look like to feast on Jesus to stay more satisfied, strengthened and nourished by Him?
 - What are some practical ways to accomplish this?
 - What are some things people rely on to be satisfied other than Jesus?
 - If we are what we eat, what are you eating?
 - What is God's invitation to you in this passage and sermon?
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Prayer: Pray for the sick, suffering, grieving, medical workers, economy, government leaders, church leaders etc.

Engage & Experience: Who do you know that is seeking to satisfy their hunger with things of this world?

This week ask the Holy spirit to speak to them and to open opportunities for you to show them where they can find the true Bread of Life and never be hungry again.