

I am the Bread of Life

John 6:22-37

I AM Series

Today we are beginning a Brand new Series called
I AM –

A)The series is going to center around 7 incredible statements that Jesus made about himself that are recorded for us in John's gospel.

B)These 7 statements address the ANSWER to the deepest longest in the heart of man.

1)Longings for Purpose,... for Satisfaction,

2) Longing to belong, longings to know where I am going when I die.

C)Jesus addresses every single one of those longings in these seven statements

1)Jesus identifies himself as the Answer –

➤ We will Discuss how and why.

Now before we jump into our first statement

today – A)It is important for us to understand that- There is a back drop to these statements

B)that dates back over 2,000 years prior to the time of Christ – that is seen in the OT
Exodus 3:14

C)When the children of Israel were slaves in Egypt – 1)God appeared to a shepherd named Moses in a burning bush out in the Desert

D)There that God informed Moses that He was calling him to go to Pharaoh there in Egypt and Demand on behalf of God – to LET MY PEOPLE GO!

Moses – said I don't feel qualified for such a task and even if I did, on who's authority do I tell them that I have been sent.

A)I can't go into Egypt and tell them a burning bush sent me! They would think I was Crazy.

B)God said: Tell that **I AM HAS SENT YOU!**

1)You can just picture Moses scratching his head... Stroking his beard thinking- "I am what?"

2) "Fill in the blank please"

The point Was - "I am anything you have need of..... Fill in the blank"

A)**I AM THE BECOMING ONE!**

B)Exactly What Israel would discover is that God would be whatever they needed in the moment. –

C)The Names of God – these are things they discovered about God on their Journey

- **Jehovah Rapha = The Lord who heals**
- **Jehovah Jireh = The Lord who provides**
- **Jehovah Tsikenu = The Lord our righteousness**
- **Jehovah Nissi = The Lord our banner**

Well when we get to John's gospel here in the NT

A)and consider these 7 I am statements – that Jesus is making –

B)We need to understand that Jesus is building on the picture. **He is the becoming one**

C)And because He starts off each one of these phrases with the statement I AM –

1)**it was a definite declaration of His Deity**

D)because He was using the same Phrase that God did when He appeared to Moses

B)So with that as a Back Drop lets jump into our Story

John 6:22-37

²² On the following day, when the people who were standing on the other side of the sea saw that there was no other boat there, except that one which His disciples had entered, and that Jesus had not entered the boat with His disciples, but His disciples had gone away alone—²³ however, other boats came from Tiberias, near the place where they ate bread after the Lord had given thanks—²⁴ when the people therefore saw that Jesus was not there, nor His disciples, they also got into boats and came to Capernaum, seeking Jesus. ²⁵ And when they found Him on the other side of the sea, they said to Him, "Rabbi, when did You come here?"

²⁶ Jesus answered them and said, "Most assuredly, I say to you, you seek Me, not because

you saw the signs, but because you ate of the loaves and were filled. ²⁷ Do not labor for the food which perishes, but for the food which endures to everlasting life, which the Son of Man will give you, because God the Father has set His seal on Him.”

²⁸ Then they said to Him, “What shall we do, that we may work the works of God?”

²⁹ Jesus answered and said to them, “This is the work of God, that you believe in Him whom He sent.”

³⁰ Therefore they said to Him, “What sign will You perform then, that we may see it and believe You? What work will You do? ³¹ Our fathers ate the manna in the desert; as it is written, *‘He gave them bread from heaven to eat.’*”

³² Then Jesus said to them, “Most assuredly, I say to you, Moses did not give you the bread from heaven, but My Father 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 Then they said to Him, “Lord, give us this bread always.”

³⁵ And Jesus said to them, “I am the bread of life. He who comes to Me shall never hunger, and he who believes in Me shall never thirst. ³⁶ But I said to you that you have seen Me and yet do not believe. ³⁷ All that the Father gives Me will come to Me, and the one who comes to Me I will by no means cast out.

I want to hit on three things in our text today.

#1 Consider the background of this statement and how it relates to the story. CONTEXT

#2 Consider how this statement relates to the seeker and the world at large.

➤ Seekers here today - those we know.

#3 Consider how this statement relates to Christ followers.

➤ Those who already know Christ & follow Him.

Answer a very important question: Struggle

A) If Jesus is the one who satisfies the longing and the hunger in our hearts – why is it that after coming to Christ we can still feel spiritually Hungry.

#1 Background: The day before this conversation –

A) Jesus did the miracle of feeding the 5,000 with 5 loaves and 2 fish.

B) This is the next day – the crowd has followed Jesus to the other side of the lake –

C) So Jesus is once again talking to this same group OF people

1) and v.26,27 He seeks to direct their aim away from the food that perishes and to the **food that endures to eternal life.**

D) Then in verse 29, He says that the way to “**RECEIVE**” this eternal food is to believe in the one God has sent — Jesus the Messiah.

Notice how the crowd responds: ³⁰ Therefore they said to Him, “What sign will You perform then, that we may see it and believe You? What work will You do? ³¹ Our fathers ate the manna in the desert; as it is written, *‘He gave them bread from heaven to eat.’*”

Now Here’s my sense of why they said this.

A) Even though they had seen him feed five thousand, this was another day, and their stomachs were not full any more.

B) They remembered that in the wilderness Moses gave **THEIR FATHERS** manna every day.

1) They didn’t just **have miracle bread one day.** But every day, for forty years.

C) **DO THE MATH** (6 days a week x 52 weeks x 40 years = 12,480 meals.

D) Now, you did **ONE LUNCH** yesterday? And Oh, it was good but...**but what else do you got**

E) **BUT** it doesn’t match 4 decades of free food does it?

See, the world they lived in was not that much different from our own.

A) We live in the world – people approach Church – God – and so many other things –

➤ **with the WHAT HAVE YOU DONE FOR ME LATELY ATTITUDE. - People are fickle**

The Problem with these people and so many people today is they were looking for the Wrong Bread.

A) Jesus wants them to see beyond the Manna – see past the bread He fed them w/ the day before.

B) To the bread that endures for eternal life!

C) The Bread that is going to satisfy the REAL HUNGER that is inside their hearts!

Jesus responded with an important Revelation and an Amazing Offer

A) The Revelation? He says in verse 32, “Most assuredly, I say to you, Moses did not give you the bread from heaven, but My Father gives you the true bread from heaven.

B) Understand Moses was not the key player in giving the manna; God was. “MY Father”

1) “It was not Moses who gave you the bread from heaven, but my Father.”

C) And the bread God gave through Moses was not the main point of the miracle.

1) It pointed to something bigger.

D) The point was that there is a “true bread from heaven,”

1) Then here is the Big Revelation: The true bread is not an It but a HE V.33

V.33 “**For the bread of God is He who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world.**”

A) This was another part of the Revelation:

B) The true bread is meant not just to give life to the Jewish people but life to the whole World

#2 What this means to the Seeker:

A) There is a Universal Hunger in the heart of Man – Man is Hungry –

- Bruce Springsteen was right when he sang years ago – **Everybody has a Hungry heart!** –

B) There is a Hungering in the heart – Man is longing to be filled / to be satisfied

C) PROBLEM There are plenty of things that people pursue hoping it will fill the Void –

1) good things like loving relationship -

D) Quickly discover as great as that can be – not the answer

E) Kids – wonderful as they can be that is not it either

The right Career -

A) Doing what really makes me happy – There is fulfillment in that – but still that longing

B) Hedonism: The pursuit of pleasure. – Hit on all the senses -

1) Problem is nothing truly Satisfies.

C) Look to the Entertainment world – easy to see that. –

D) People who seemingly have everything that many people are searching for Fame, Money, Pleasure galore

1) still there is a Void. still so Unhappy

Leonardo DiCaprio {ONE 6 YR relationship

A) Every one since – **lasted less than 10 months** – all the girls bare a striking resemblance to the first girl

B) After one breaks up he goes away to an island with a whole slew of Victoria Secret models

1) Looking for something

C) Said this about his acting Career–

The best thing about acting is that I get to lose myself in another character and actually get paid for it. It's a great outlet. **As for myself, I'm not sure who I am. It seems that I change every day.**

Harrison Ford: Hans Solo –

In ABC Special Report interview with Barbara Walters - Ford was asked "you have been in five of the ten highest grossing movies of all time, what is left for you to accomplish? **He responded "I just want to be happy."**

Amy Schumer- Career success as an Actress –

Vulture Magazine – You know that I'm just now learning that my dreams have been a sham, and that it's actually not great and it just only comes with pain."

Some think: Just need more money –

A)J.D Rockefeller asked – How many millions does it take to make happy – “Just a little more.”

B)MORE MONEY: Ever heard of Markus Persson?

1)How about Mine Craft? – Video game

C)Markus Persson is a Swedish programmer who invented the game.

In 2014, software giant Microsoft paid \$2.5 billion to acquire Persson’s company so they could have the rights to that game.

A)The deal made Markus Persson a billionaire, with a personal net worth of about \$1.3 billion, according to Forbes.

B)How did Persson spend his money?: He went house shopping – not just any house

1)He outbid Beyoncé and Jay-Z for a Beverly Hills mega mansion—a \$70 million

C)The home that's been described as an "overwhelming sensory experience," outfitted with insane amenities Such as: M&M towers, vodka and tequila bars,

- **A movie theater**
- **and 15 bathrooms, each equipped, with toilets that cost \$5,600 each.**

But on August 29, 2015 Persson posted a series of tweets that captured his gnawing sense of unhappiness and dissatisfaction:

- 4:48am: The problem with getting everything is you run out of reasons to keep trying, and human interaction becomes impossible due to imbalance.
- 4:50am: Hanging out in Ibiza with a bunch of friends and partying with famous people, able to do whatever I want, **and I've never felt more isolated.**

NOTHING SATISFIES – GREAT DECEPTION

A)Insight from Paul David Tripp- New morning mercies

Sin does two very significant things to us all.

First, it causes us all to insert ourselves into the center of our worlds, making life all about us.

In our self-focus, we are all too motivated by our wants, our needs, and our feelings, and because we are, we tend to be more aware of what we don't have than of the many wonderful blessings that we have been given.

But there is more; because we are self-focused, we tend to be scorekeepers, constantly comparing our piles of stuff to the piles of others. It's a life of discontentment and envy. **Envy is always selfish.**

There is a second thing of equal significance that sin does to us.

It causes us to **look horizontally** for what can only ever be **found vertically**. So we look to creation for life, hope, peace, rest, contentment, identity, meaning and purpose, inner peace, and motivation to continue.

The problem is that nothing in creation can give you these things. **Creation was never designed to satisfy your heart.**

Creation was made to be one big finger pointing you to the One who alone has the ability to satisfy your heart.

Many people will get up today and in some way will ask creation to be their savior, that is, to give them what only God is able to give.

People are thirsting: Nothing is going to fill that void but Christ

A)DESIGNED to live in relationship with Jesus!

B) We were brought into this relationship to be satisfied by God –

C)Jesus wants us to Understand: He is the Bread of life!

1)He is the one who Satisfies the longing heart.

D)Among the most famous sayings of the early church fathers is this one by Saint Augustine:

“Thou hast formed us for Thyself, and our hearts are restless till they find their rest in Thee.”

– Augustine

Jesus is the Bread of life - Final thought from PT

When you are satisfied with the Giver, because you have found in him the life you were looking for, you are freed from **the ravenous quest for**

satisfaction that is the discouraging existence of so many people.

Yes, it is true that your heart will rest only when it has found its rest in Him.

True fulfillment happens when you finally realize that your life was made to have Jesus as the center of it

A) That everything in your life is to revolve around your relationship with Him

B) You are not going to be truly satisfied until you come to that reality.

1) Allow Him to infiltrate every area of our lives

C) Opportunity today!

D) The Problem some of you are having who have trusted Christ as your savior is this:

1) Jesus is just a part of your life – not the center

So how does this happen? Notice the invitation:

A) Jesus says “I am the bread of life; **whoever comes to me shall not hunger.**”

B) That’s the first statement. We come to Jesus to have our hunger satisfied

1) **COME – NOT DO THIS OR THAT - COME**
You recognize that Jesus is the only one who can fill that void and you come to Him

A) He satisfies the Longing in your heart – He forgives, He cleanses – He removes the guilt –

B) You Simply Come that is the 1ST PART

➤ **2ND PART IS YOU BELIEVE.**

#3 Here I want to address the final point – What does this mean for the Christ follower.

- Believe = to cling to, to trust in and to rely upon!
- In other words it is Constant and Ongoing!

Problem: Challenge – What people who have followed Christ wrestle with.

A) I have come – I have believed –

B) Why is it that one day I can experience and have incredible time with Christ / so blessed - so fulfilling

1) I lay my head down on that pillow that night completely satisfied

C) **And I wake up the next day restless – irritated – there seems to be this longing in my heart again for something –**

1) Why is that – I thought Jesus said if I came to him and believed in him – never hunger and never thirst – but it seems like I still do

D) **Why is that ? (EVER WRESTLE WITH THAT DILEMA ?)**

1) **I HAVE – WHAT IS WRONG WITH ME?**

There is something that is wrong: You are still in this body of flesh.

A) Still battling – the unholy trinity – the World our flesh and the Devil

B) The Devil uses things in the world to tempt our flesh – stir up this sense of longing –

C) So that is part of it – Battle between the flesh and Spirit will rage until we leave this world

But there is another reason that I think is deeper still – It has nothing to do with our flesh and everything to do with our Spirit

A) It is a constant and on going work of the Holy Spirit.

Galatians 4:6 **And because you are sons,** (and daughters), **God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into your hearts, crying out, “Abba, Father!”**

B) God has put the Spirit of Jesus in your heart - Crying Abba - Means Daddy – tender **term –**

1) **Dada – first words** - You love it – Dada -

C) **Daddy’s home – Running out – MY DOG! WHEN kids are Sick – Loved it, they cried out – Daddy -** A) I would go comfort them pick them up hold them – let me get Mommy

B) The Holy Spirit is in your heart – crying out Daddy -

1) You Wake up Daddy – Problem – Daddy -

C) In other words - The Holy Spirit everyday – draws you into this place of intimacy

1) Wake up with a sense to read your Bible – pray – not because Pastor said so – read it in book

D)No there is something happening in your heart that is so powerful

1)The very spirit of Christ is seeking to draw you into intimacy

E)To Draw you into closer fellowship with the **ONLY** one who can truly satisfy **YOUR HEART**

See when Jesus says to them – He who eats of the Bread of life never hungers again

A)The main idea is – Continual and constant supply of nourishment

B)There is a continual supply of what your heart is really longing for.

1)**THE HOLY SPIRIT in your heart is constantly pulling you in that DIRECTION**

C)AND this is what you begin to discover – THE MORE YOU RESPOND TO that PULL

1)is that your Hunger for Him grows -

D)But every day – I can come to him – every new year – grow closer and deeper in relationship.

Peter put it this way: **He has given us everything that relates to life and godliness through the Knowledge of Him.**

This is what we were made for.

A)All other treasures, all other pleasures point to this. Jesus is the all-satisfying end of every longing.

B)This is a huge discovery when you make it.

1)You never read your Bible the same again. {How relates to Jesus

C)You never think about the obedience that flows from faith the same again.

D)Each step of faith in obedience to the scriptures becomes **this eye opening revelation** of how Jesus fulfills me

You never fight for purity and holiness the same again.

A)Instead of being simply the turning away from something my flesh really wants to indulge in

B)It becomes the turning to Jesus and discovering that what I really want is found in him.

C)He fills my heart with something of himself that surpasses anything that I could ever experience in this life.

D)And it continues to grow!

Close V.36 – Sad reality – these people didn't take Jesus up on his offer.

A)Sad reality today is many people don't – some of you here won't

B)But Jesus gives this promise to those who do

³⁷ All that the Father gives Me will come to Me, and the one who comes to Me I will by no means cast out.