

I Am the Bread of Life

John 6:35

I AM Series

This morning I want to draw your attention to John 6:35

A)Which is the first I AM statement of Jesus found in the gospel of John

B)See John structures his Gospel around seven powerful statements that Jesus makes about himself

C)Each statement begins the same way: Jesus uses this Phrase I Am

D)Let me put them all on the screen for you

I Am the Bread of Life (John 6:35)

I Am the Light of the World (John 8:12)

I Am the Door of the Sheep (John 10:7)

I Am the Good Shepherd (John 10:11)

I Am the Resurrection and the Life (John 11:25)

I Am the Way, the Truth, and the Life (John 14:6)

I Am the True Vine (John 15:1)

What is interesting about these statements is all 7 of them address something that is broken in man.

A)See that is the problem: All the Violence hate that we are seeing in our World right now

B)Whether it is the Brutal Stabbing of a innocent Ukranian Refuge –
1)or a Shooting at a School – or any senseless murder

C)Or the Assassination of a leader like Charlie Kirk is this: It remind us that Man is broken –

At the Heart of man’s problem is a heart problem

A)This world is filled with people who are in rebellion against God

B)The root of all the Evil/ Angst going on in our world today is because People are not right with God

C)Mankind is Broken - Because they are in rebellion to God – Evil is prevalent in this World

1)Murder and Violence are prevalent in this World

D)We are more broken than I thought – People cheering that a man has been killed –

1)Wife is without her husband – kids father – parents son

E)That is a level of depravity in the common man - I didn’t know existed

And the Devil whose MO is to Kill Rob and Destroy – loves to feed into that rebellion

A)Bring more Division and Chaos to this world

B)We as Followers of Jesus – have to recognize the Source of that battle – don’t wrestle flesh / blood

C)Satanic Forces of wickedness in this World

D)It all stems from people not being right with God

It was Augustine who said: “Thou hast formed us for Thyself, and our hearts are restless till they find their rest in Thee.”

A)That is why these I AM statements of Jesus are so Important –

B)IN them Jesus is presenting himself as the answer To the greatest LONGINGS in the heart of man!

C)Jesus is saying – I am the Answer – It is found in Knowing me

So today Focus on the first I am Statement

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.- PRAY

How many of you have ever used Grub Hub to order a meal to be delivered to your house?

A) True story: This happened one night to a man named Kevin Stonehouse.

B) Grub Hub rang his doorbell and dropped off some Chicken tenders and cheese fries.

C) Kevin was like – I didn’t order this- the driver said: Someone did and gave this address

Now At first, Kevin was pleased, thinking “God loves me!- FREE FOOD”

A) But that was followed by 3 more orders within the next 10 minutes, all addressed to him. –

B) And they JUST kept coming. He couldn’t figure out WHAT was going on,

C) until he remembered that earlier he’d seen his 6-years-old, son Mason,

1) walking around the house with his phone.

D) See Apparently Mason had gotten onto the Grub Hub app and just started ordering whatever looked good to him.

After the 5th order showed up, Kevin went looking for Mason and found him hiding under the bed.

A) He said, “Son, what have you done?” To which Mason said, “I was hungry.”

B) Kevin started to explain why this was not OK when the doorbell rang again and his son said, “Oh, that must be my pizza!”

C) Mason put in a \$439 pizza order. True story.

D) All told, Mason his son had ordered \$1500 worth of food.

So, Kevin and his wife packed out their freezers

A) They made emergency calls to the neighbors to come and take food--

B) and then immediately put new passcodes on their phones

C) Hunger can drive you to all kinds of bad decisions.

Here is what is interesting – Like Mason was just ordering whatever looked good to him.

A) Most people have no idea what they are really LONGING FOR!

B) Have any of your kids ever said: Mom/ Dad can we order a pizza tonight there is nothing in the house to eat?

C) Nothing to eat? Frig is full of sandwich meat – Bread in the pantry

1) Soup, Top Ramen, Pasta – Nothing to eat -Really ?

D) There is plenty to eat – but nothing sounds good nothing sounds inviting

Or your Wife says: I need to go clothes shopping -I have nothing to wear

A) Now guys little marriage tip – Don’t respond when she says that –

B) Even though you know she has a closet full of clothes – Just smile and say Ok – have fun

C) See the point is it doesn’t matter what we have – we always want something else –

1) something more – something better/ Human nature

Bruce Springsteen was right when he sang yrs ago – Everybody has a Hungry heart!

In our text today Jesus is saying – I Am what you are hungering for

A) And I am the only one who can really satisfy the hunger in your heart

B) Answer 3 questions today:

#1 Why does Jesus start every one of these statements with the expressions I AM?

#2 Why does Jesus call himself the Bread of Life?

#3 How does Jesus satisfy the longing in our hearts?

#1 Why does Jesus start every one of these statements with the expressions I AM

A) A little background here:

Aa)“I AM” was the name God identified himself by when he first appeared to Moses in the burning bush.

B)Now In that encounter, God told Moses that he was to lead Israel out of captivity,
1)and Moses had responded by saying, “And who should I tell Israel is coming to deliver them?”

C)What is your name?”

Names in those days were a big deal—

A)Someone’s name identified where they came from, what kind of person they were,

B)And what kind of resources they brought with them.

C)So Moses was, in essence, asking, “How can we be sure you’ll be able to help us?”

God’s answer to Moses was simply, - Tell them I AM sent you.”

A)But that was an odd thing to say.

B)You see, in Hebrew, just like in English, you’d normally follow “I AM” with some kind of adjective-

C)”I am ___ fill in the blank - I am strong – I am Victorious – I am your Redeemer

But God just left it with I AM – meaning I am not like you Moses

A)I don’t come from anywhere; I don’t have a beginning or an ending;

B)I depend on no one; I am fully self-sufficient.

C)So what God was declaring was this: Whatever you need in this journey,

1)Whatever you lack in yourself— I AM

I AM THE BECOMING ONE!

A)And so, from that point onward, whenever Israel had a need, God would invoke the name “I AM”

B)And then attach to it WHATEVER attribute met Israel’s need in that moment.

C)When Israel was hungry God said I am Jehovah Jireh = The Lord who provides

D)Whenever they were sick God said I am Jehovah Rapha = The Lord who heals

E)Whenever they were afraid – God said I am Jehovah Shammah,
1)the God who is ever-present with you.

So that was their experience with God in the days they spent in the Wilderness w/ Moses

A)Now here in the Gospel of John they are a couple thousand years removed from that experience

B)And Jesus is building on that picture –

**C)Make no mistake about it--in using the phrase I AM- Jesus is claiming to be God,
1)it was a definite declaration of his Deity**

D)And even further, he’s claiming to be the God that we crave;

Now this First I am Statement takes place after the miracle of the feeding of the Five thousand.

A)Jesus was with a large group of people in a barren place -in the region of Galilee

B)Jesus says to his Disciple Philip where can we buy bread to feed all these people –

1)Philip answer – we don’t have enough money

C)But then Andrew says: There is a boy here with a lunch – 5 loaves and 2 fish – 1st century Happy meal

D)So there is a boy here with a Happy meal – willing to share – but what is that for so many.

Jesus has the people sit down – takes the 5 loaves and 2 fish and prays over it –

A)Hands it to the Disciples – start passing this out –

B)Imagine the first pass – what are we going to do with this – ok feed 12 people.

C)They come back and there is more – imagine the excitement – running back –

1)how long is this going to last ?

The Disciples were probably cracking up – this is amazingly hysterical

A)They are watching people eat until full –

B) Like Thanksgiving Day – you would never say it but we have all thought it
1) You are having another helping going back for 3rds

C) Notice V.12
12 So when they were filled, He said to His disciples, “Gather up the fragments that remain, so that nothing is lost.” 13 Therefore they gathered them up, and filled twelve baskets with the fragments of the five barley loaves which were left over by those who had eaten. WOW!!!

14 Then those men, when they had seen the sign that Jesus did, said, “This is truly the Prophet Note Not A Prophet – but THE Prophet who is to come into the world.”

Now back in Deut. 18:15 Moses declared that a day would come when God would raise up another prophet like me

A) One would come who would also be a Deliverer – who would be greater than Moses

B) After seeing this miracle and remembering how the Lord – through Moses also brought food 1) Brought provision in the Wilderness

C) Called Manna wafer thing the best I can describe it would be little Ritz Crackers glazed in honey

Manna = What is it?

A) For 40 yrs – 6 days a week the Manna would appear on the ground in the AM

B) “That sounds like a pretty boring diet.” Well, like I’m sure they got creative with it—

C) They made manna wafers, manna pudding, manna-cotti Bamanna Bread You name it.....

The Point being they knew it was miraculous provision

A) And when they saw this miracle that Jesus did they were thinking – this reminds us of Moses

B) Maybe this is THE PROPHET – the DELIVERER – Moses spoke of

C) They were living under the Oppression of Rome – Scared – Angry frustrated

1) similar to how their ancestors were under the oppression of Egypt

D) They were longing to be delivered –
1) and now they are thinking maybe Jesus is the Deliverer we are looking for.

E) The Crowd is getting worked up – frenzy of excitement

15 Therefore when Jesus perceived that they were about to come and take Him by force to make Him king, He departed again to the mountain by Himself alone.

Well the next day the Crowd finds Jesus again.

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.”

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

A) Everything in this life brings only temporal satisfaction

B) Eat and hrs later we are Hungry again – We get a new version of something –

1) excited until the next version comes out

C) We get the person we think we want in the white house four years later – new candidate

D) Nothing in this life brings lasting continual satisfaction

Jesus says: Stop laboring for the food or things that only bring temporal satisfaction

A) Focus on the Food that endures to everlasting life

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!

D) Now They are starting to get it – he is speaking about spiritual food not physical food

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."

Jesus is saying – it is not about works – can't work your way to Heaven or to God –

A)It is to Believe in the one God sent

B)Now It seems clear the people realize that Jesus is talking about himself by their reaction

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.' "

Here is what they are saying:

A)They saw him feed five thousand, the day before-

B)But this was another day, and their stomachs were not full any more.

C)They remembered that in the wilderness Moses gave THEIR FATHERS manna EVERY DAY

They didn't just have miracle bread one day. But every day, for forty years. –

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

B)So in essence they are saying you did ONE LUNCH yesterday? And Oh, that was good

1)but...but what else do you got?

C)But it doesn't match 4 decades of free food does it

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. Understand Moses was not the key player in giving the manna; God was. "MY Father did that"

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

B)It pointed to something bigger. V.33 For the bread of God is He who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world."

C)Here is the Big Revelation: The true bread is not an It but a HE

D)Their response is that sounds amazing – V. 34 Then they said to Him, "Lord, give us this bread always."

And that is when Jesus drops the mic -

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.

#2 Why does Jesus refer to himself as the Bread of Life ?

A)There is a Longing in the heart of man today that – Only Jesus can fill!

B)People are longing – Young people are struggling with thoughts about their purpose/ identity – future

C)Suicidal Ideation in the younger generation is at an all time High – Hopeless

1)The Longing in the heart

But it is not just Young people – Our world is longing – WONDERING

A)Is there any Hope

B)Who or what is going to Satisfy me

C)Jesus boldly stands up and says to everyone – longing – wrestling –

D)Everyone who is discouraged – lost hope - "I am the bread of life. He who comes to Me shall never hunger, and he who believes in Me shall never thirst.

E)For Everyone who has maybe achieved great success – still empty inside

Harrison Ford: Hans Solo –

In ABC Special Report interview with Barbra 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."

For He satisfies the longing soul, and fills the hungry soul with goodness. Psalm 107:9

My guess this morning is that many of you have come in here thinking of something YOU need from Jesus.

A)A job. Help with your marriage. Help with your kids. A miracle in your health

B) Maybe you want To get pregnant and have kids..

C) And understand - Jesus is not insensitive to those desires and needs-

1) as we see in this story, he cares about your empty stomach. - He fed these people.

But what you most need is not the miracle itself; you need the Maker of those miracles.

A) You think, "Oh if only Jesus would give me this or give me that or do this for me..."

B) But there's nothing in creation that can satisfy you.

This is the Beauty of Jesus – this is what sets Christianity apart from every other religion

A) Every other religion points you to a practice to follow in order to reach an elevated state of reality –

B) Or to win favor with a proposed Deity.

C) Christianity does not point us to a practice to follow but a person to Know! –

1) To relationship with Jesus

Jesus says I am the bread of Life - He who comes to Me shall never hunger, and he who believes in Me shall never thirst.

A) He who comes to me – Draws to himself –

B) He who Believes = trust in rely upon me - - Never Hunger or thirst

C) Jesus is the only one who can satisfy the Longing in your soul.

#3 How does Jesus Satisfy the longing in our hearts?

A) That can sound like a lot of spiritual mumbo Jumbo

B) Here is what it means: It means that Jesus satisfies the deepest longings and heals what is broken in us

There is the Longing to be Loved and to Belong –

A) Man's love is so fickle and conditional – Changes so often - Hero one day / Hated the next!

B) The Lord is not like that – he says come as you are

C) Come to Me – believe in me – Immediately accepted into the Beloved. – Ephesians 1:6

D) Loved Perfectly – Unconditionally – All our flaws

E) Without measure: No limits – good / bad / everywhere in between.

The Love of Christ is so complete- the more we partake of Him – more it impacts us

A) And the More we allow who He is and His love to infiltrate every area of our lives – More Satisfied

B) Nothing so amazing than His Love

It means that you have the absolute assurance that you belong to him

A) And he belongs to you.

B) It means that when you are in pain, you have this abiding joy that even as your body falls apart,

1) you still belong to him,

³⁸ For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, ³⁹ nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord. Romans 8:38

There is a Longing in man to be forgiven and have Guilt Removed

A) Being Satisfied By Jesus means – you understand you have been Justified –

B) Declared righteous by faith in Christ

C) When Stephen was Martyred in NT – Saul of Tarsus – was in full agreement – Applauding

1) He set out to Destroy the church

Saul of Tarsus meets Jesus on the Road to Damascus

A) Why are you persecuting me – Touch God's people – touch me

B) Saul gets radically saved – becomes Paul the Apostle

C) Wouldn't surprise me if when Paul died for his faith if Stephen was the first to greet him

D) That is the beauty and power of the gospel – Forgive – turn terrorist into ambassadors

What if the guy who Shot Charlie Kirk gets saved in prison – dies

A)Charlie the first to welcome him into heaven

B)Jesus satisfies the longing in our hearts for forgiveness

There is a longing for Security for our future –

Being Satisfied by Jesus means that you know

A)Christ in you is your Hope of Glory!

B)it means when you look into the future, you're not afraid,

1)because even though you don't know what the future holds,

C)You know Him who holds the Future and He is holding you!

There is a longing for Purpose and Self Worth

A)He says – Ephesians 2:10 – We are his Workmanship – His Masterpiece in the making

B)All of that and More is what it means to be Satisfied by Jesus

C)It is understanding what the Bible says – In Him we live and move and have our being –

1)that is what it means to be satisfied in Jesus

Close with this:

A)There was a Survey done in which Americans were asked - what phrases do people most long to hear?

B)The first was easy to guess – Americans love to hear the phrase – I love you. – Longing to be loved

C)The 2nd wasn't that surprising either – The Phrase – I forgive you – Longing to be forgiven

But the 3rd most popular Phrase was surprising – Dinner is ready!

A)Well in Psalm 34:8 the Lord gives us this invitation – Taste and see that the Lord is good!

B)Partake of Jesus the Bread of life today!

66 From that time many of His disciples went back and walked with Him no more. 67 Then Jesus said to the twelve, "Do you also want to go away?"

68 But Simon Peter answered Him, "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. 69 Also we have come to believe and know that You are the Christ, the Son of the living God."