

## **The Great I AM: The Bread of Life (4/15/2020)**

Bread has been called the staple of life. In virtually every culture around the world, some form of bread is included in almost every meal. Someone once said that bread is the perfect food. It is the one food you can live longest on if that is all you have.

Jesus had just performed a miraculous sign. He fed five thousand men, plus women and children, with five loaves of bread and two small fish. The people were so enamored by Jesus they planned to make him their king by force. But Jesus slipped away from the crowd.

The next day he and his disciples were on the opposite shore of the Sea of Galilee. The crowds came in boats to where Jesus was and asked him, “Rabbi, when did you get here?” Jesus answered, “I tell you the truth, you are looking for me, not because you saw miraculous signs but because you ate the loaves and had your fill. Do not work for food that spoils, but for food that endures to eternal life which the Son of Man will give you. On him God the Father has placed his seal of approval.” They asked, “What must we do to do the works God requires?” Jesus’ answer reminds us that eternal life doesn’t come by what we do, but by what we believe. He said, “The work of God is this: to believe in the One he has sent.”

In spite of the fact that they had just witnessed a miraculous sign—the feeding of the 5000—they demanded, “What miraculous sign will you give that we may see it and believe?” Then they referred to how Moses fed the Children of Israel for forty years with that heavenly bread called manna. Each morning the desert floor was miraculously covered with enough bread to feed over a million people. So, in their estimation, Jesus’ feeding of the 5000 was nothing in comparison. But Jesus corrected them, “I tell you the truth, it is not Moses who has given you the bread from heaven, but it is my Father who gives you the true bread from heaven...Your forefathers ate the bread in the desert, yet they died. But here is the bread that comes down from heaven, which a man may eat and not die. I am the living bread that came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever. This bread is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world.”

As miraculous as the giving of the manna was, it could not keep a person from dying. That’s why it’s so foolish simply to live our lives chasing after the things of this world, seeking only to keep our bellies full and our worldly desires satisfied. All of those things are fleeting. None of those things is able to conquer death for us. There is only One who can do that: Jesus Christ the Bread of Life from heaven. He would offer up his flesh on the cross to provide forgiveness and eternal life for all who believe. We are to continually feed our souls with the Good News of the Bread of Life who came down from heaven. He who feeds on this Bread will live forever. This is the genuine Wonder Bread and is the true Staple of Life.

Today I was my Savior’s guest; My soul was here so richly blest, The bread of life receiving.  
Oh, may thereby my faith prevail So that its fruits may never fail  
Till my account is given Before God’s throne in heaven! Amen.

*After sharing this devotion with your family, take the time to read John 6.*

Pastor Zuberbier