

Sunday Morning, April 30, 2023
I Am the Bread of Life
Exodus 16:4-5, 31-36; John 6:47-58, 66-71

I. Is Jesus, who claims, “I Am the Bread of Life,” the One for whom our souls do hunger and thirst?

A. As the great I AM, *a claim of divinity to be God with us.*

The “I am” formula harkens back to God’s only name, Yahweh, meaning “He who always was, is, and will be” (John 8:58; Exodus 3:14) who had “come down to deliver” his people (John 1:14; Exodus 3:7-8).

B. As life giving bread, *a claim of vitality to feed us.*

The miraculous feeding of the 5000 (6:1-14) and the miraculous provision of manna in the wilderness (6:31; Exodus 16:35) sustained life temporarily (6:27, 49, 58) and served as a sign and symbol of the reality of eternal life in Jesus that he would provide through his atoning sacrifice (6:53-57).

C. As a guarantee of eternal life, *a claim of authority to never forsake us.*

God the Father has set his seal on Jesus as the food that endures to eternal life (6:27), that “all who come to him shall not hunger and whoever believes in him shall never thirst” (6:35) and “he will raise him up on the last day” (6:39, 40, 44, 54).

II. Does the interaction about the claim of Jesus – a series of heart gripping superlatives – benefit our souls?

A. Many of his former disciples make *the saddest of departures*

“Many of his disciples turned back and no longer walked with him” (6:66).

B. Jesus gives the twelve *the sincerest of challenges*

“Do you want to go away as well?” (6:67).

C. Peter makes a confession of *the strongest of beliefs*

“Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life, and we have believed, and have come to know, that you are the Holy One of God (6:68-69).

D. Jesus tenderly provides the eleven with *the securest of reminders*

“‘Did I not choose you, the twelve? And yet one of you is a devil.’ He spoke of Judas the son of Simon Iscariot, for he, one of the twelve, was going to betray him” (6:70-71).