



GOD THE SON – I AM (5)

START HERE:

In his conversations and teaching, Jesus often used everyday things to explain or clarify a profound truth. Trees, water, stones, vines, birds, branches, flowers, sheep, and other physical objects were some of his favorite metaphors for spiritual truths.

He even used everyday metaphors for himself so people could more easily understand who he was, why he was there, and what he had come to accomplish.

One example is in John 6. After miraculously feeding more than 5,000 people with just five loaves of bread and two fish, Jesus used the event to explain his true identity, power, and purpose by tying it into a well-known story of their ancestors eating manna in the wilderness. You can find that story in Exodus 16 and Numbers 11.

Jesus described himself with seven total “I AM” statements in the book of John. This is the first one. It features bread — very unspectacular, ordinary, and unflashy. But also very familiar, which makes it brilliant. Everyone knows what bread is. Everyone can understand the metaphor and make sense of the meaning if they have attentive ears and open hearts.

First Jesus multiplied real bread. Then he said it was bread from heaven. Then he said **he** was bread from heaven. Then he said people who eat bread from heaven will live forever. Then he told people to “eat his flesh.” Follow the metaphors: “eat” is a metaphor for “believe.”

Anyone who believes in Jesus will have eternal life.

READ THIS: John 6:1-15, 22-35 (First listen to it on Streetlights link on Devo page.)

LISTEN TO THIS: Go back to the Devo page and listen to the Propaganda link “The One and Only Jesus”

THINK ABOUT:

Jesus is talking about spiritual food and spiritual life in this story.

He says whoever comes to him will never be hungry again (v. 35).
What do you think he means?

Jesus said whoever “eats this bread” will never die (vv. 50, 58). Think about the *purpose* of eating actual food, the *act* of eat-ing actual food, and the *results* of eating actual food.

What do you think Jesus means when he says, “Anyone who eats the bread from heaven will never die.”?

Why and how do followers of Jesus “eat” him?

AM / PM:

AM: How will you “eat” or nourish yourself with Jesus today?

PM: How did you experience Jesus’ nourishment and strength today?

Father, Thank you for the “bread of life,” your Son Jesus. Help me grow deeper in my faith, more mature in my discipleship, and stronger in my obedience by nourishing myself on Jesus every day. Amen.

EXTRA THINGS

Besides the seven “I am...” statements Jesus spoke in the book of John, he also called himself “I AM!” (8:58) — the very same thing God called himself in Exodus 3 (look back at devo 2).

The story of feeding 5,000 is the only miracle of Jesus’ that is included in all four gospel accounts. Only John mentions that the loaves are made of barley.

Thousands of years earlier, a foreign woman named Ruth gathered leftover barley from the fields of Boaz, a wise and respected Israelite man. They eventually married. Ruth was an ancestor of Jesus.

In 2 Kings 4:38-44, the prophet of God multiplied barley to feed a hungry crowd.

In Hosea 3, God’s prophet redeemed his wife with silver and barley.

EXTRA VERSES

Six “I am” statements.
John 8:12
John 10:9
John 10:11
John 11:25
John 14:6
John 15:1

EXTRA STUFF

Watch the spoken word by Propaganda: “The One and Only Jesus”