*John 8:56-59 Your father Abraham rejoiced to see my day: and he saw it, and was glad. 57 Then said the Jews unto him, Thou art not yet fifty years old, and hast thou seen Abraham? 58 Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Before Abraham was, I am. 59 Then took they up stones to cast at him: but Jesus hid himself, and went out of the temple, going through the midst of them, and so passed by.*

**Introduction**

The violent response of the Jews to Jesus’ “I AM” statement indicates they clearly understood what He was declaring—that He was the eternal God incarnate. Jesus was equating Himself with the "I AM" title God gave Himself in Exodus 3:14.

If Jesus had merely wanted to say He existed before Abraham’s time, He would have said, “Before Abraham, I was.” The Greek words translated “was,” in the case of Abraham, and “am,” in the case of Jesus, are quite different.

There is no doubt that the Jews understood what He was saying because they took up stones to kill Him for making Himself equal with God

The words chosen by the Spirit make it clear that Abraham was “brought into being,” but Jesus existed eternally

But Jesus committed no blasphemy; He was and is God, the second Person of the Godhead, equal to the Father in every way.

Jesus used the same phrase “I AM” in seven declarations about Himself. In all seven, He combines I AM with tremendous metaphors which express His saving relationship toward the world. All appear in the book of John. They are I AM the Bread of Life (John 6:35, 41, 48, 51); I AM the Light of the World (John 8:12); I AM the Door of the Sheep (John 10:7, 9); I AM the Good Shepherd (John 10:11,14); I AM the Resurrection and the Life (John 11:25); I AM the Way, the Truth and the Life (John 14:6); and I AM the True Vine (John 15:1, 5).

*Topic:* **The Bread of Life**

*John 6:35 And Jesus said unto them, I am the bread of life: he that cometh to me shall never hunger; and he that believeth on me shall never thirst.*

Bread and water was a dietary need back then. Man could survive for a long time with just bread and water.

Bread we even use this a synonym. “Breaking Bread together”

Bread also played a major part in the Jewish Passover meal.

After wandering around in the desert 40 yrs, God rained down Manna from heaven to feed them.

All of these things play into the scene of Jesus saying that he was the bread of life.

Jesus had a huge crowd following Him. Jesus trying to get away left to cross the sea of Glaliee, but when he came these same people was following him. Philiip said Lord how are we going to feed all these people because we don’t have enough money, it showed his lack of faith.

Andrew brings a boy to Jesus who has five small loaves and two fish. Then Jesus fed this entire 5000+ people with 12 baskets left over.

He was leaving again to cross over back where he left from and the people was following him. So Jesus used this time as a teachable moment.

*John 6:27 Labour not for the meat which perisheth, but for that meat which endureth unto everlasting life, which the Son of man shall give unto you: for him hath God the Father sealed.*

He told them that they wasn’t following him for the miracle that he was doing but that they was following him for the free meal they was getting from Him.

So they asked him to show them a sign that he was sent from God. So that they could believe.

*John 6:30 They said therefore unto him, What sign shewest thou then, that we may see, and believe thee? what dost thou work?*

They tell Jesus that God gave them manna during the desert wandering. Jesus responds by telling them that they need to ask for the true bread from heaven that gives life. When they ask Jesus for this bread, Jesus startles them by saying, “I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in me shall never thirst.”

Let’s look at This is a phenomenal statement!

1. **I AM – Claim to his deity**

This is the first I am statements in the Gospel of John

The phrase “I AM” is the covenant name of God (Yahweh, or YHWH), revealed to Moses at the burning bush

*Exodus 3:14 And God said unto Moses, I AM THAT I AM: and he said, Thus shalt thou say unto the children of Israel, I AM hath sent me unto you.*

An attribute only God possesses. It is also a phrase the Jews who were listening would have automatically understood as a claim to deity.

1. **Bread – essential for life**

Jesus is saying that he is essential for life.

Jesus was contrasting the manna that the Jews received in the wilderness to sustain and keep their forefathers alive, was the same manna that he himself was.

1. **Life - Spiritual**

Physical life he trying to get the Jews to get off the physical realm and into the spiritual realm.

But instead of keeping them alive physically he would keep them alive spiritually.

1. **Come and Believe**

This is an invitation for those listening to place their faith in Jesus as the Messiah and Son of God.

*“We will see this throughout John”*

Coming to Jesus involves making a choice to forsake the world and follow Him.

Believing in Jesus means placing our faith in Him that He is who He says He is, that He will do what He says He will do, and that He is the only one who can.

1. **Hunger and Thirst**

Again he’s not talking about the physical

The key is found in another statement Jesus made, back in His Sermon on the Mount.

*Matthew 5:6 Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled.*

When Jesus says those who come to Him will never hunger and those who believe in Him will never thirst, He is saying He will satisfy our hunger and thirst to be made righteous in the sight of God.

One thing that the history of human religion tells us is people seek ways to earn their way to a heaven.

This is such a basic human desire Why? Because God created us with eternity in mind.

The Bible says God has placed [the desire for] eternity in our hearts

*Ecclesiastes 3:11 He hath made every thing beautiful in his time: also he hath set the world in their heart, so that no man can find out the work that God maketh from the beginning to the end.*

**Altar Call**

We can’t earn our way

*Romans 3:23 For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;*

And the only thing our sin earns us is death.

*Romans 6:23 For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.*

Our dilemma is we have a desire we cannot fulfill, no matter what we do. That is where Jesus comes in. He, and He alone, can fulfill that desire in our hearts for righteousness through the Divine Transaction:

*2 Corinthians 5:21 For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.*

When Christ died on the cross, He took the sins of mankind upon Himself and made atonement for them. When we place our faith in Him, our sins are imputed to Jesus, and His righteousness is imputed to us. Jesus satisfies our hunger and thirst for righteousness. He is our Bread of Life.