

New Testament Church
The Book of John #11 – John 6:1-40 – I Am the Bread of Life
March 22, 2026 - Pastor Paul Jehle

I The Gospel of John - Why expository preaching and why the Book of John at this time?

- A. Expository preaching brings depth, continuity and helps a congregation study together
 - 1. John reveals Christ as God – (eagle) - “behold your God” (Is. 40:9)
 - 2. The gospels reveal the “four faces” of Christ – king, servant, man, eagle
- B. John, author of John, 1st, 2nd, 3rd John and Revelation was a disciple of John the Baptist
 - 1. One of the sons of Zebedee (Salome his mother), a fisherman with Simon & Andrew
 - 2. ***John began as a critic but learned the balance of truth, grace and love...***
- C. We face a time right now when believers are called to be light in the midst of darkness
 - 1. We are called to be the stability in a time of chaos and increased hatred / violence
 - 2. The Gospel of John is a book that depicts *how to be light in the midst of darkness*
- D. One of the themes in John are the various **signs** that indicate critical aspects of Christ
 - 1. The **first SIGN** was water into wine (John 2) – there is New Life in Christ
 - 2. The **second SIGN** was healing the Nobleman’s son (John 4) – faith in Christ’s Word
 - 3. The **third SIGN** was healing the cripple (John 5) – Christ’s undeserving Grace

II “I am the Bread of Life” – John 6:1-40 – Learning to seek first the Kingdom (Mt. 6:33)

- A. v. 1-15 – The **fourth SIGN** – Feeding of the five thousand – **Abundance of Bread**
 - 1. The OT precedent is 2nd Kings 4:42-44 – Elisha uses 20 loaves of barley bread to feed 100 men
 - a. It preceded the fall of Samaria and subsequently Israel – it was judgment on their sin
 - b. Elisha told put the small loaves in his servants hands - God provided the food in their hand
 - 2. Here the disciples cross the sea and the multitudes seek Jesus for more miracles
 - 3. There are 5,000 men – so probably the total, with women and children – is about 12 to 15k
 - a. Lad with 5 loaves and two fish gave it – God multiplied it *in the disciples hands!*
 - b. The people wanted to force Jesus to be King – *miracles used for man’s control*
 - 4. *Temptation* – this is a power we can use for Israel – manipulation for our glory not His
 - 5. “Man’s chief end is to glorify God, and to enjoy him forever.” – Westminster Shorter Catechism
 - 6. The lesson here is that Christ is training the disciples to supply bread for the world
- B. v. 16-21 – The **fifth SIGN** – Walking on water – **Transcendence of Bread**
 - 1. This event is recorded in Matthew 14:23-33 and Mark 6:47-52 – from different perspectives
 - 2. To avoid the crowd making him King, Jesus departed into a mountain alone to pray
 - 2. He “constrained” the disciples to enter the boat and sail to the other side (Capernaum)
 - 3. About half way across (about 3 and a half miles), a storm came (sudden storms often come)
 - 4. Jesus came walking on the water (from his time of prayer) and they thought he was a ghost
 - a. The disciples were most likely disappointed He hadn’t allowed the people to make Him King
 - b. So He came to them privately to demonstrate that He *transcended the laws of nature*
 - c. He walked on water, had Peter do so, got the storm to cease, and had the boat go to the shore
 - d. Miracles were not God’s duty to meet our expectations and hopes – but for His glory!
 - 5. He demonstrated to the disciples alone that His purpose was *not to be the King of bread (heavenly welfare) but to redeem us to give Him glory and advance His Kingdom*
- C. v. 22-40 – **1st I AM** - He is our focus, not miracles or any glory of our effort!
 - 1. Many boats had now come from Tiberias to Capernaum, now that Jesus was with the disciples
 - 2. “How did you get here?” – Jesus said “you sought me for the food” (heavenly welfare)
 - 3. “How do we work the works of God?” – It was to make them powerful – not a focus on Christ
 - 4. “Do a sign” like Moses with manna – “**I AM THE BREAD OF LIFE**” – v. 35
 - 5. Don’t distort the Confession to “*God’s chief end is to glorify man and enjoy him forever.*”
 - 6. He is not to bless our hopes, but we “him that comes to me I will in no wise cast out.” (v. 37)