

## WEDNESDAY BIBLE FELLOWSHIP

Christ Church, Crouch End Hill

Tel/ Fax: 020 8340 1566

No: 74

### "I am" sayings of Jesus in John's Gospel (1)

Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty."

#### **Objective :**

To begin to understand the significance of Jesus' description of himself as the "bread of life". John 6: 25-51

Brief Talk on John 6: 25-41

#### **Introduction**

Our society is no longer ignorant of hunger on a world scale. We know that adequate food is vital for subsistence, but it is also vital for growth and health. Jesus was well aware of the demands of physical hunger. The miracle of the loaves and fishes is the most obvious example of this. When he fed the crowd he pointed to people's physical needs as well as their spiritual ones. He identified himself with God who had satisfied the hunger of the Israelites (Exodus 16: 1-15). In doing this, he tried to show the people who he was and what he had come to do.

Jesus' words show that he is willing to offer himself to meet the needs of men and women. He does not simply give the bread necessary to physical filling. He is the Bread, the basis of spiritual filling (verses 33, 51)

Our deepest needs, including our need for victory over death (verses 40, 49) can be satisfied when we recognize and believe in Jesus Christ.

## Questions for discussion

1. Why are the crowds still searching for Jesus? (verses 24-26)  
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2. How does Jesus' response to their question show the difference between his interests and theirs. Do you think it is true to say that many people today cram their lives with material things in order to disguise, even from themselves, their basic needs?  
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3. What does the crowd ask Jesus to do in order that they can believe him? What is their real interest?  
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4. What are the similarities between manna and the "bread of life"?  
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5. What promise is repeated several times for those who do come to Christ (vv35, 40, 47, 51, 53, 56)?  
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6. How is the "bread" Christ gives greater than that of Moses? (vv32, 49)  
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7. On what level are the people responding to Christ's comments?  
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## Conclusion

The “I am” sayings of Jesus are all in the nature of promises. Yet they are set not in the future but in the present tense. They start now. And they are set in the context of human experience.

Jesus is pointing to the eternal life he has come to bring, but he uses every—day images—bread, light, shepherd, the vine—to help his followers understand what this means. In using these images, Jesus built on his disciples’ existing understanding of God as revealed in the Old Testament.

Like the whole of John’s Gospel, these images are rich in layers of meaning. As we study them, we may feel rather like children at a party, opening a parcel to find yet another wrapper to undo. We will constantly discover new meanings in them. But the prize for continuing to look for the truth will be the joy of discovering Jesus.

