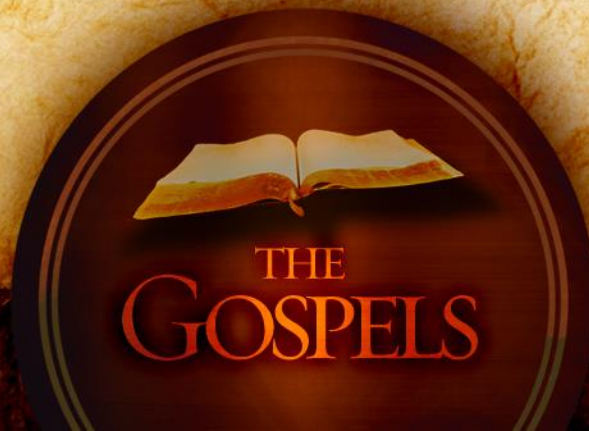




JOHN

Light of the World





INTRODUCTION:

1. Jesus made 7 - "I AM" claims - in John's Gospel. From the last to the first: 15:5, 14:6, 11:25, 10:11, 10:9, 8:12, 6:35, 51.

JOHN 15.5

JOHN

"I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing."

JOHN 14:6

JOHN

“Jesus answered, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.”

JOHN 11.25-26

JOHN

"I am the resurrection and the life.
He who believes in me will live,
even though he dies; and whoever
lives and believes in me will never
die. Do you believe this?"

JOHN 10:11 AND 10:9

JOHN

"I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. . . . I am the gate; whoever enters through me will be saved."

JOHN 8:12

JOHN

When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."

JOHN 6:35

JOHN

Then Jesus declared, "I am the bread of life. He who comes to me will never go hungry, and he who believes in me will never be thirsty."

JOHN 6:51

JOHN

"I am the living bread that came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever. This bread is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world."



INTRODUCTION:

1. Jesus made seven “I AM” claims presented in John’s Gospel. From the last to the first: 15:5, 14:6, 11:25, 10:11, 10:9, 8:12.
2. Chapter six has two parts:
 - A. The **Picture** of the Bread of Life (5:1-5)
The miracle of the feeding of the 5,000
 - B. The **Presentation** of the Bread of Life (6:22-71)
Jesus preaches in the synagogue at Capernaum (6:59) and offered himself to the people as the living bread which came down from heaven.



THE SETTING (1-4)

“The number of those who ate was about 5,000 men, besides women & children” (Mark 14:21). *Possibly 8 to 10 thousand?*

THE SITUATION (5-9)

Jesus: “Where shall we buy bread for these people to eat?”

THE MIRACLE (10-13)

Jesus had the people sit down. Mark and Luke add that Jesus had them sit down in groups of 50's & 100's. From the little boy's lunch offered to them, Jesus fed the entire crowd, with some left over. The disciples “filled twelve baskets” with the leftovers (verse 13).



THE RESULT (14-15)

1. It reminded the people of what Moses **did**.
2. It reminded the people of what Moses **said**.
“The LORD your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among your own brothers. You must listen to him” (Deut. 18:15).

THE IMPORTANCE of this Miracle (14-15)

1. There are **four** versions of it, one in each of the Gospels.
2. This repetition surely cannot be without **significance**.
Robert H. Glover, The Bible Bases of Missions. Copyright 1946.

“We believe that this incident is more than simply one among many miracles: it is a parable as well. A parable of what? someone asks. A parable of missions. We believe that when Jesus broke that material bread to appease the physical hunger of the crowd on the shore of Galilee that evening, He had in His vision the infinitely larger multitude of men and women the world over and the centuries across, starving not for material food but for the Bread of Life; and that He performed this miracle not merely to satisfy the physical hunger of those before Him, but also to teach His disciples, then and ever since, some fundamental principles about giving the Gospel of Salvation to earth’s perishing millions. For this reason, we choose to regard this incident as a parable, a parabolic miracle, if you will.”

Robert H. Glover



THE APPLICATION of this Miracle

- The main principle: *God has graciously chosen to use human instruments in the task of world evangelism.*
- This principle is *illustrated* twice in our passage.
 1. We observe our Lord accepting the offer of a little boy with meager resources to feed a multitude.
 2. We observe our Lord using his disciples in the dis-tribution of the bread.

ROMANS 10:14-15

ROMANS

How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them? And how can they preach unless they are sent? As it is written, "How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!"



JESUS NEEDS SOME . . .

1. Some to **GO** (Rom. 15b)
2. Some to **GIVE** (Rom. 15a)
3. Some to **PRAY** (Matt. 9:37-38)

MATTHEW 9:37-38

MATTHEW

Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field."

“At the very foundation of missions is the vision of The Founder, Jesus Christ. Amazingly, He engaged us to be the facilitators of this endeavor. There is no question that He will succeed in this vision, but the remarkable part is that He expects us to actually pull it off. Christians are the weak link in this chain. We believe in Jesus enough to secure our salvation, but we don't necessarily believe in Jesus enough to fulfill His vision. We trust Him for our salvation but may not be driven by His cause. There are several things that derail our commitment to the cause.”

Paul Seger - BMW

The background of the slide is a grayscale photograph of a harbor. In the foreground, several large cargo ships are docked or moving slowly. The water is calm, and in the distance, a range of mountains or hills is visible under a hazy sky. The overall tone is serene and contemplative.

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THE WEAK LINK

1. **Unbelief** (see John 14:6)
2. Misplaced **priorities**
3. Confused **compassion**