

TORRE DEL MAR CHURCH SUMMER

Bible Study Series:

The Seven I AM Statements of Jesus

I am the Bread of Life; I am the Light of the world; I am the Gate;. I am the Good Shepherd; I am the Resurrection and The Life; I am the Way, The Truth and The Life: I am the True Vine

I AM THE BREAD OF LIFE, says Jesus in the first of His great I AM statements (John Chapter 6:35 ff). He says this in answer to a question (Jn.6:25): "*Rabbi, when did you get here?*" Quite often in this Gospel people call Jesus "Rabbi" and then do not treat him as a Rabbi; that is, they do not receive his teaching. As this dialogue unfolds we see this crowd fitting this pattern. Indeed, their uncertain attachment to Jesus may be evident even in this question. We would expect them to ask *how* Jesus arrived, not *when*. By asking *when* they seem to assume he slipped away undetected and arrived by normal means. They have already observed something unusual about Jesus' travel (v. 22), yet they are slow to believe that Jesus is unusual, too. Jesus' reply to their question, as is often the case, is neither polite nor seemingly directed to the question asked. He responds as a holy man would, revealing their own state of heart. That they are looking for him is good (cf. 1:35-39), but Jesus says there is something wrong with their motivation. The proper motivation has to do with seeing *miraculous signs* (v. 26). A sign is a deed that is full of significance, revealing Jesus' identity and God's saving activity in his ministry. They had seen a miracle, but it did not focus their attention on Jesus. Rather, he was seen as a means to the filling of their stomachs (v. 26). Jesus did not come to fill stomachs with food, but to fill lives with the very presence of God, as he makes clear in this, first of His great statements, which tell us about himself. "I AM the Bread of Life", says Jesus, "he who comes to me will never go hungry, and he who believes in me will never be thirsty." We are exploring the seven I AM statements of Jesus in Gospel of John each week in our present series of Bible Studies on Thursdays.

READ JOHN 6:25-40

I AM the Bread of Life says Jesus. This chapter is crammed full of good things, amazing really, that Jesus should speak them to a largely unbelieving crowd. They say they want the "Bread of God", but they resent Jesus' claims.

BACKGROUND: Verses 25-35

When they found Him on the other side...

Questions and Discussion