

Jesus is I AM!
I AM the Bread of Life
John 6:22-69

In the gospel of John, this is the first of the “I AM” statements...

It's important on several levels...

The feeding of the 5,000 is the only miracle/sign Jesus performed that is recorded in all four of the Gospels...

(Matthew 14:13-21; Mark 6:32-44; Luke 9:10-17; John 6:1-13)

Its significance cannot be overstated!

Why was this event so significant?

John gives us a hint in his record of the people's response following the miracle...

John 6:14 (ESV) — When the people saw the sign that he had done, they said, “This is indeed the Prophet who is to come into the world!”

This miracle/sign is recorded in all four Gospels because the people had been taught that Messiah would come and rain down bread from heaven just as Moses did...

John records that the people saw in Jesus the fulfillment of this... and that Jesus was the Prophet like Moses that was to come...

Deuteronomy 18:18 (ESV) — I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their brothers. And I will put

my words in his mouth, and he shall speak to them all that I command him.

They had been taught that the Messiah, the Prophet like Moses that would come, would take the throne of King David...

John 6:15 (ESV) — Perceiving then that they were about to come and take him by force to make him king, Jesus withdrew again to the mountain by himself.

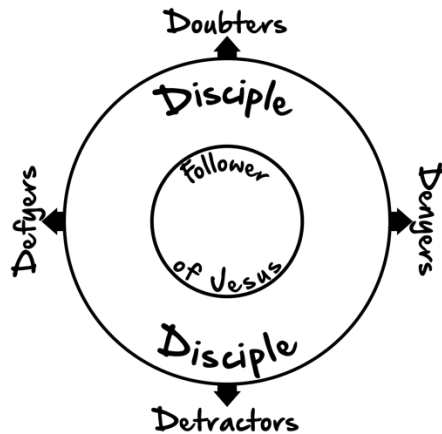
How could these people, who knew this, understood this, and saw Jesus as the fulfillment of this, end up turning away from Him?

John 6:66 (ESV) — After this many of his disciples turned back and no longer walked with him.

Jesus then turns to the twelve...

John 6:67–69 (ESV) — So Jesus said to the twelve, “Do you want to go away as well?” Simon Peter answered him, “Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life, and we have believed, and have come to know, that you are the Holy One of God.”

→ Pic 1 – True Followers



For us today, how can we not fall into the same trap and follow Jesus to a point, but when we hear the true nature of the Gospel, walk away?

1. **EXPOSE any fleshly MOTIVES**

John 6:24–26 (ESV) — So when the crowd saw that Jesus was not there, nor his disciples, they themselves got into the boats and went to Capernaum, seeking Jesus. When they found him on the other side of the sea, they said to him, “Rabbi, when did you come here?” Jesus answered them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, you are seeking me, not because you saw signs, but because you ate your fill of the loaves.

Why were they seeking Jesus?...

➤ **SELFISHNESS over SURRENDER**

2. **EXAMINE for a flawed MESSAGE**

John 6:14 (ESV) — When the people saw the sign that he had done, they said, “This is indeed the Prophet who is to come into the world!”

They knew what to look for in the coming Messiah...

John 6:15 (ESV) — Perceiving then that they were about to come and take him by force to make him king, Jesus withdrew again to the mountain by himself.

They knew part of the message, but not the full message

➤ **TEACHING of Man over TRUTH from God**

Mark 8:33 (ESV) — But turning and seeing his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, “Get behind me, Satan! For you are not setting your mind on the things of God, but on the things of man.”

They were following a flawed message...

So how can we know the truth?

John 6:44–46 (ESV) — No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him. And I will raise him up on the last day. It is written in the Prophets, ‘And they will all be taught by God.’ Everyone who has heard and learned from the Father comes to me— not that anyone has seen the Father except he who is from God; he has seen the Father.

John 8:32 (ESV) — And you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.”

→ ILLUSTRATION – Navajo Code Talkers...

Can anyone here tell me what this says?

“Diné bizaad yee atah Naayéé' Yik'eh Deesdlíí.”

Translation in English...

“The Navajo language defeated the enemy.”

- **Thomas H. Begay entered the military expecting to be trained as a gunner**
- **However, a piece of paper containing 20 words forever changed his life...**
- **On that piece of paper were 20 words in the Navajo Indian language...**
- **Him being Navajo, he could read those words and he along with a small group of others became known as the Navajo Code Talkers...**
- **This group of Code Talkers would relay messages in Navajo to the U.S. Marines during WW2...**
- **The Code Talkers had a hand in every major Marine operation in the Pacific theater and were never successfully decoded by the Japanese codebreakers.**
- **At the Battle of Iwo Jima, 800 messages had been transmitted and received by the Code Talkers without error.**
- **Major Howard Connor, a Marine officer of the signal division at Iwo Jima, once said, “Were it not for the Navajos, the Marines would never have taken Iwo Jima.”**

→ Pic of Medal



In the same way, Jesus says that the Word of God can only be fully understood through the “Heavenly Code Talker”!

John 6:63 (ESV) — It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh is no help at all. The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life.

John 16:13 (ESV) — 13 When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth, for he will not speak on his own authority, but whatever he hears he will speak, and he will declare to you the things that are to come.

Revelation 2:17a (ESV) — He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.

3. EXPEL a faulty MINDSET

John 6:28–29 (ESV) — Then they said to him, “What must we do, to be doing the works of God?” Jesus answered them, “This is the work of God, that you believe in him whom he has sent.”

➤ **CONVENIENCE over CONVICTION**

John 6:35–40 (ESV) — Jesus said to them, “I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in me shall never thirst. 36 But I said to you that you have seen me and yet do not believe. 37 All that the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never cast out. 38 For I have come down from heaven, not to do my own will but the will of him who sent me. 39 And this is the will of him who sent me, that I should lose nothing of all that he has given me, but raise it up on the last day. 40 For this is the will of my Father, that everyone who looks on the Son and believes in him should have eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day.”

John 6:53–58 (ESV) — 53 So Jesus said to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you. 54 Whoever feeds on my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day. 55 For my flesh is true food, and my blood is true drink. 56 Whoever feeds on my flesh and drinks my blood abides in me, and I in him. 57 As the living Father sent me, and I live because of the Father, so whoever feeds on me, he also will live because of me. 58 This is the bread that came down from heaven, not like the bread the fathers ate, and died. Whoever feeds on this bread will live forever.”

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1. _____ **any fleshly** _____

➤ _____ **over** _____

2. _____ **for a flawed** _____

➤ _____ **of Man over** _____ **from God**

3. _____ **a faulty** _____

➤ _____ **over** _____