

I AM: *I am the Bread of Life* (Week 2)—Gabe Cleave

The Passover Meal (Exodus 12:1-28)

- One of the first significant stories we see about bread comes after God delivers the Israelites from slavery in Egypt.
- He institutes what is called the Passover meal, which among other things included eating a lamb that had been sacrificed along with unleavened bread.
- The Passover meal was celebrated each year to remember that God delivered the Israelites from slavery in Egypt.

The Manna in the Wilderness (Exodus 16)

- God then takes them on a journey through the wilderness on their way to the promise land.
- The people get hungry and begin to complain because they think they are going to die of starvation.
- God miraculously provided them with what is called “bread from heaven” or “Manna.”

The Showbread in the Tabernacle/Temple (Exodus 25:23-30 and Leviticus 24:5-9)

- As the Israelites wandered in the wilderness, God gave them some instructions on setting up what is called a Tabernacle, which is a mobile tent that God’s presence would be in.
- In the first room, called the holy place, was a table that had bread on it. It was called the “showbread” or “the bread of the presence.”
- The showbread or the bread of the presence was laid on a table of gold and the bread was covered in frankincense...
- This bread was prepared every sabbath for the priests to eat throughout the week

The Temptation in the Wilderness (Matthew 4:1-4)

- Jesus shows up, John the Baptist baptizes him, God the Father declares Jesus to be His Son, and immediately The Holy Spirit leads Jesus out to the wilderness to be tempted for 40 days
- The very first thing that the devil tempted Jesus with was the first thing the devil tempted the Israelites with in the wilderness—satisfying their physical needs

Matthew 4:1-4 (NIV)

- The Israelites were in the wilderness for 40 years
- Jesus was in the wilderness for 40 days
- The Israelites constantly complained about their physical needs not being met
- Jesus fasted and set aside His physical needs to prepare for the spiritual battle ahead

The Build Up

Matthew 5:1-11 (NIV)— 1 Now when Jesus saw the crowds, he went up on a mountainside and sat down. His disciples came to him, **2** and he began to teach them... **6** Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

Matthew 6:9-13 (NIV)— 11 Give us today our daily bread.

The Rubber Meets the Road (John 6)

John 6:1-69 (NIV)— 32 Jesus said to them, “Very truly I tell you, it is not Moses who has given you the bread from heaven, but it is my Father who gives you the true bread from heaven. **33** For the bread of God is the bread that comes down from heaven and gives life to the world. **34** “Sir,” they said, “always give us this bread.” **35** Then Jesus declared, “I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never go hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty...

- With this statement, Jesus just took the show bread in the temple, and the manna in the wilderness and said...” all those things point to me.” All of those things were a foreshadowing of what would come.

John 6: 48-51 (NIV)— 48 I am the bread of life. **49**

‘Your ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness, yet they died. **50** But here is the bread that comes down from heaven, which anyone may eat and not die. **51** I am the living bread that came down from heaven. Whoever eats this bread will live forever. This bread is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world.”

The Response (Luke 22:1-20)

- The showbread in the temple
- The manna in the wilderness
- Brought clarity to his sermon on the mount
- Announced that He is the daily bread that we need

Luke 22:1-20 (NIV)— 1 Now the Festival of Unleavened Bread, called the Passover, was approaching... **7** Then came the day of Unleavened Bread on which the Passover lamb had to be sacrificed. **8** Jesus sent Peter and John, saying, “Go and make preparations for us to eat the Passover.” ... **19** And he took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to them, saying, “This is my body given for you; do this in remembrance of me. **20** In the same way, after the supper he took the cup, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in my blood, which is poured out for you.”

For Small Group Discussion: What did you hear that was new or challenging from the message this weekend?

Opening Question: Why are you following Jesus?

Main Point: Jesus is essential for life. As bread sustains physical life, so Christ offers and sustains spiritual life.

Main Scripture: John 6:25-51

Head:

- What does Jesus mean by saying that He is the bread of life?
- What were the people looking for? Why were they following Him?

Heart:

- Describe a time in your life when you attempted to survive off of worldly sustenance.
- How has Jesus sustained you?

Hands:

- What is tempting for you to put your trust in rather than trusting in God?
- What helps you to maintain trust in God and dependence on Him?

Additional Scripture: Luke 22:19, Deuteronomy 8:3, 1 Corinthians 10:4



Sermon Series Resources: <https://bit.ly/RLcurrentseries>