Research on: I am the bread of life!

John 6:1, 2, 35, 38, 48-51

1 After these things Jesus went over the sea of Galilee, which is *the sea* of Tiberias.

“**Tiberias**: is a Gentile city on the lake (Sea of Galilee) built by Herod Antipas during Jesus’ lifetime, and named after the emperor Tiberius” (Dummelow 784). [This city is still there today, a Jewish city on the western shore of the lake.]

2 And a great multitude followed him, because they saw his miracles which he did on them that were diseased.

35 And Jesus said unto them, I am the bread of life: he that cometh to me shall never hunger; and he that believeth on me shall never thirst.

“Jesus must specifically identify himself as the bread that gives life. We have seen that this means that he is the revealer of the truth, the divine teacher who has come to nourish men. . . When Jesus says that those who believe in him shall never be hungry or thirsty, he is expressing the same ideas that he will proclaim: “I am the life. . . he who believes in me shall never die at all.” (*The Anchor Yale Bible: The Gospel According to John (i-xii)*. Introduction, translation and notes by Raymond E. Brown. New York: Doubleday, 1966.)

Importance of ‘bread’

* source of daily nourishment
* source of spiritual nourishment
* part of the Eucharist celebration
* daily bread: what one needs in order to live
* “One cannot live by bread alone,” man has spiritual as well as physical needs
* most basic of needs is to have bread
* food in general
* the Word of God: the truth
* Jesus says, “I am the bread of life.”

“*I am the bread of life*. Jesus is the Word of God, revealing God to man, teaching the eternal truths which are the life of the spirit just as bread is of the body” (Ellicott’s Commentary, www.biblehub.com).

38 For I came down from heaven, not to do mine own will, but the will of him that sent me.

John 6:31-35 (not in this week’s Lesson)

31 Our fathers did eat manna in the desert; as it is written, He gave them bread from heaven to eat.

32 Then Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Moses gave you not that bread from heaven; but my Father giveth you the true bread from heaven.

33 For the bread of God is he which cometh down from heaven, and giveth life unto the world.

34 Then said they unto him, Lord, evermore give us this bread.

35 And Jesus said unto them, I am the bread of life: he that cometh to me shall never hunger; and he that believeth on me shall never thirst.

48 I am that bread of life.

“The ‘manna’ of the OT is to be spiritually interpreted (Philo identifies it with the ‘Logos’ or ‘Word’ of God: St. Paul calls it ‘spiritual meat,’ I Cor 10:3; the Psalmist calls it ‘angels’ food,’ Ps 78:25” (Dummelow 785).

49 Your fathers did eat manna in the wilderness, and are dead.

50 This is the bread which cometh down from heaven, that a man may eat thereof, and not die.

51 I am the living bread which came down from heaven: if any man eat of this bread, he shall live for ever: and the bread that I will give is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world.

“The living bread. . . from heaven is no other than the very life of Jesus given up; that life may be given to the world” (*The Interpreter’s Bible*. Ed. George Arthur Buttrick et al. 12 vols. New York: Abingdon, 1953, page 472).

**“I am the living bread.**—The words are again repeated (comp. [John 6:35](http://biblehub.com/john/6-35.htm);[John 6:48](http://biblehub.com/john/6-48.htm)), but with a new fullness of meaning. He spoke before of bread which was “of life,” characterized by life, producing life. He now speaks of this bread as “living,” containing the principle of life in itself.

“The lifeless manna fell and lay upon the ground until they gathered it, and passed to corruption if they did not. Each day’s supply met the need of each day, but met that only. He is the bread containing life in Himself, coming by His own will and act from heaven, living among men, imparting life to those who eat by coming to and believing on Him, so that it becomes in them a principle of life, too, which cannot die, but shall live forever.” (Ellicott’s Commentary, www.biblehub.com).