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I Am the Bread of Life, John 6:25-35, 47-58

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Introduction

- We are continuing our series exploring who Jesus is.
 - Today we are learning about the kingdom life he gives.

The Bread that Perishes

- Previously in John 6... The crowds desired to take Jesus and make him their king (14-15).
 - The next day, they realized that they missed Jesus, but they missed him in more ways than one.
- **Point:** People miss Jesus by searching for the false bread.
 - Jesus confronted their unbelief (26-27). They misunderstood the point of the sign and had materialistic notions of the kingdom.
 - They thought Jesus was bringing a kingdom of “bread that perishes.” They found Jesus useful and that’s why they wanted him to be king.
 - Many people find Jesus useful today too. They want him to give bread that perishes.
- Jesus explains that they missed the message.
 - Jesus' definition of the work of God as faith (29).

The Bread of Life

- He said you fulfill the work of God by believing in the one he sent.
 - They want a sign (how ironic!). The contrast with manna in the wilderness.

- Jesus declares that *he is* the bread (35).
 - He explains the contrast between the bread of life and the manna in 47-51.
- Point: Jesus' kingdom is established by his self-sacrifice to give us eternal life.
 - The bread of life is the gift of eternal life. Eternal life means abundant life without end.
 - So, the bread of life isn't a therapeutic solution but a whole new life.

How to Get That Bread

- We all need this bread. How do you get it?
 - You have to receive the one that God sent!
 - Is this describing the Eucharist (53)? No. He clearly explains the metaphor (35).
- Point: We receive the bread of life by coming to Jesus in faith.
 - John Calvin, "Faith is like an empty, open hand stretched out toward God, with nothing to offer and everything to receive."