

## **I AM... THE BREAD OF LIFE**

As preached on Sunday, August 11<sup>th</sup>

**Read:** John 6:48-58

1. Our text for this week is preceded by Jesus feeding the 5,000 (John 6:1-14). As you read through that text, what is it that makes the crowds so impressed with Jesus? What do they intend to do with him?
2. In v.48, when the crowds find Jesus again, he speaks of their ancestors. What difference does he highlight between their experience in the wilderness and the “bread that comes down from heaven”? Why does he mention their ancestors rather than just talking about this new bread?
3. Jesus identifies himself as the “bread that comes down from heaven” in v.51. What is the significance of his coming down from heaven? What does he mean when he says, “This bread is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world”?
4. Do you think the Jewish leaders mentioned in v.52 understood what Jesus meant? Can you think of a time when you missed an important truth because you were thinking too literally about it?
5. What does it mean to feed upon Jesus? Is there anything mentioned in the immediate context (vv.29-47) that gives us a clue?
6. What result can we expect when we eat of Jesus’ flesh and drink of Jesus’ blood? (see vv.53-58) Why do you think that Jesus didn’t just come out and state this without using these images that were so confusing for his audience?
7. When we look ahead to vv.60-66 we see that some of Jesus’ hearers that day struggled with what he taught and that many turned away from their faith. What portion of Jesus’ revelation of himself has this same impact on people today? How can we help those who struggle with this so that they don’t choose to walk away from faith?