

A “I am the bread of life”:

❖ The prophet who was to come. John 6:1-15.

- Elisha multiplied the barley loaves, but no one thought he was “the prophet who was to come” (2 Kings 4:42-44). Why did the crowd associate Jesus with the prophet (Messiah) announced by Moses after multiplying the loaves?

(1) Moses:

- (a) He brought Israel out of Egypt at Passover (Ex. 12:12-14, 29-32)
- (b) He went up to Sinai (Ex. 34:2)
- (c) The Israelites were put to the test (Deut. 8:2-3)
- (d) He fed them with manna, “angels’ bread” (Ps. 78:25 NIV)
- (e) He ordered the gathering of manna (Ex. 16:15-16)
- (f) He led the 12 tribes of Israel (Ex. 24:4)
- (g) He announced the arrival of “the prophet” (Dt. 18:15)

(2) Jesus

- (a) The Passover was near (Jn. 6:4)
- (b) He went up the mountain (Jn. 6:3)
- (c) He tested Philip (Jn. 6:5-6)
- (d) He multiplied the loaves (Jn. 6:11)
- (e) He ordered to collect the leftovers (Jn. 6:12)
- (f) 12 baskets were collected (Jn. 6:13)
- (g) They recognized him as “the prophet” (Jn. 6:14)

❖ The bread that came down from Heaven. John 6:16-36.

- The crowd saw Jesus as the perfect leader to free them from Rome: he would feed the troops and heal their wounds. But Jesus refused to be crowned king (John 6:14-15).
- When Jesus met the crowd again the next day, He spoke to them clearly (John 6:22-26). He did not want to meet only their physical needs. He had come to give them eternal life: “I am the bread of life” (John 6:35).
- With this expression, and others like it, Jesus identified himself with God, the “I AM” who spoke face to face with Moses (Ex. 3:13-14):
 - (1) I AM the bread of life (John 6:35)
 - (2) I AM the light of the world (John 8:12)
 - (3) I AM the door (John 10:7, 9)
 - (4) I AM the good shepherd (John 10:11, 14)
 - (5) I AM the resurrection (John 11:25)
 - (6) I AM the way (John 14:6)
 - (7) I AM the true vine (John 15:1, 5)

B “I am the light of the world”:

❖ An enlightened life. John 9:1-16.

- Do we get sick because we have sinned? Do our children get sick because of our sins? These were the questions on the minds of the disciples when Jesus called their attention to a person who had been born blind (John 9:1-2).
- The relationship between sin and illness was made clear, for example, in the healing of the paralytic at Bethesda (John 5:14). However, this illness – like many others that affect us – was of a different origin, related to the sin that surrounds us, but without any relation to any personal or parental sin.
- With an act that recalled the creation of man, Jesus illuminated the life of this blind man by giving him sight (John 9:6-7; Gen. 2:7). After the miracle, John tells us about its consequences (John 9:8-16).
- The former blind man believes in Jesus as the One Sent (Siloam), and the Pharisees reject him because he heals on the Sabbath. But... “How can a sinful man perform these signs?” (John 9:16).

❖ **Choosing darkness. John 9:17-34.**

- Blind:
 - (1) He is becoming increasingly spiritually better (John 9:17, 38)
 - (2) He knows that Jesus is a holy man (Jn. 9:30-31)
 - (3) He knows that Jesus came to give him light (Jn. 9:25)
 - (4) Affirms his faith in Jesus (Jn. 9:32-33)
- Pharisees:
 - (1) They are spiritually confused (Jn. 9:16)
 - (2) They believe that Jesus is a sinner (Jn. 9:24)
 - (3) They do not know where or why Jesus comes (Jn. 9:29)
 - (4) They refuse to believe and expel the “sinner” (Jn. 9:34)
- Before performing the miracle, Jesus had declared: “While I am in the world, I am the light of the world” (Jn. 9:5).
- Jesus is the light that enlightens every person and guides them to salvation (John 1:4, 9; 3:21). But unfortunately, there are those who prefer to live in darkness and reject salvation (John 1:11; 3:19-20).
- This was the case with the Pharisees. They had before them the evidence of someone who, having been born blind, now saw (John 9:25, 30, 32). But, despite all the evidence, they persisted in rejecting the light.

C “I am the resurrection and the life”:

❖ **The resurrection of Lazarus. John 11:1-44.**

- John 11 is full of sadness and tears (Verses 1, 14, 19, 21, 31, 32, 35, 38). But, just as in the case of the man born blind, God was going to turn all this evil into a reason for Himself to be glorified (Jn. 11:4, 15).
- Jairus' daughter and the widow's son from Nain had been resurrected shortly after they died. However, Lazarus had already begun to decompose. Everyone thought it was impossible for Jesus to resurrect him (John 11:24, 37).
- What is the difference between resurrecting a person who has just died or one who has been dead for 5,000 years? For Jesus, there is no difference. He is the resurrection and the life. All will be resurrected by the power of his voice (John 5:28-29).
- Sadly, some thought it was better for Jesus to die than to give life (John 11:46-50). But others believed, and one day they will be resurrected—along with us—to eternal life (John 11:45).