

MONDAY

“Surely, He Is the Prophet”

How did the people respond to His miracle, and how did Jesus use this to try to teach them who He was?

John 6:14-15 Then those men, when they had seen the sign that Jesus did, said, “This is truly the Prophet who is to come into the world.”

¹⁵Therefore when Jesus perceived that they were about to come and take Him by force to make Him king, He departed again to the mountain by Himself alone.

ABSG The Judeans were expecting an earthly messiah who would deliver them from the oppression of the Roman Empire. Two of the most difficult things encountered in war are feeding the troops and caring for the wounded and dead. By His miracles, Jesus showed that He could do both. But that’s not why Jesus had come, and that wasn’t the purpose of His miracle. Instead, the account of the feeding of the five thousand provided the opportunity to illustrate that Jesus is the Bread of Life, that God Himself came down from heaven. “

John 6:26–36 ²⁶Jesus answered them and said, “Most assuredly, I say to you, you seek Me, not because you saw the signs, but because you ate of the loaves and were filled. ²⁷Do not labor for the food which perishes, but for the food which endures to everlasting life, which the Son of Man will give you, because God the Father has set His seal on Him.” ²⁸Then they said to Him, “What shall we do, that we may work the works of God?”

²⁹Jesus answered and said to them, “This is the work of God, that you believe in Him whom He sent.” ³⁰Therefore they said to Him, “What sign will You perform then, that we may see it and believe You? What work will You do? ³¹Our fathers ate the manna in the desert; as it is

written, ‘He gave them bread from heaven to eat.’ ” ³²Then Jesus said to them, “Most assuredly, I say to you, Moses did not give you the bread from heaven, but My Father gives you the true bread from heaven. ³³For the bread of God is He who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world.” ³⁴Then they said to Him, “Lord, give us this bread always.”

³⁵And Jesus said to them, “**I am the bread of life.** He who comes to Me shall never hunger, and he who believes in Me shall never thirst. ³⁶But I said to you that you have seen Me and yet do not believe.

- First of seven “I AM” states recorded in Gospel of John
- I AM = name of God = who was/is/and is to come
- Many Bible scholars – including Matthew Henry—believe
 - **The Angel of the Lord** (meaning *Messenger* of Lord)
 - was preincarnate form of Jesus Christ
- **The Angel of the Lord** = God = distinct from the Father
 - never appeared again after Christ’s incarnation
- One such instance of His appearing as *the Angel of the Lord*
 - was to Moses from burning bush.

Exodus 3:13–14 Moses asked His name, **God said, “I AM WHO I AM. . .** Thus you shall say to the children of Israel, ‘I AM has sent me to you’”

- In NT = Jesus declared Himself to be eternally pre-existent God.
- **John 8:58** “Most assuredly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I AM”
 - In seven “I AM” statements, Jesus repeatedly presented Himself as great “I AM” of OT = revealed important truths about Himself

John 6:35 “I am the bread of life. He who comes to Me shall never hunger, and he who believes in Me shall never thirst”

- Matthew 4:4 – Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of the Lord
- John 1:1-3, 14 = Jesus/ living Word

John 8:12 “I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life”

- **John 1:4–5** In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. ⁵And the light shined in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it.

John 10:9 “I am the door. If anyone enters by Me, he will be saved”

- Jesus / gate = only way into sheepfold of God

John 10:11 “I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep”

- Jesus / leads His sheep = (sheep led; cattle are driven)
- Contrast to hired hand (religious leaders) who cared only for self
- Jesus died to pay our sin penalty

John 11:25–26 “I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live. And whoever lives and believes in Me shall never die”

- Christ has resurrection power = only in Christ is there eternal life

John 14:6 “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me”

- **Acts 4:12** Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.”
- **Romans 3:23–24** ²³f for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, ²⁴being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus,

John 15:5–6 “I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing. If anyone does not abide in Me, he is cast out as a branch and is

withered; and they gather them and throw them into the fire, and they are burned”

Jesus is that great I AM.

But the people missed all this.

They were looking for material benefit instead of truth that endures to eternal life. This is a trap that we all potentially face if we are not careful.

How can we avoid getting caught up in material things at the expense of the spiritual?