

Sermon Summary
11th after Pentecost
12th August 2012

- Jesus' identification of himself as the bread of life follows a tradition in to OT in which bread is used symbolically.
- If we think that this refers only to the eucharist, we limit what is going on.
- The bread of life in the OT means the teaching and wisdom of God.
- It refers to the fact that we need not just physical food, but need also refreshment in mind and spirit. This comes from God's Word.
- So , when Jesus talks of being the bread of life, he is actually doing more than setting up the eucharist.
- He is identifying himself with the wisdom of God,
- And that means he is claiming to be God himself.
- The "I am" sayings in John's gospels are never just symbols or metaphors. They always include the claim that Jesus is God, that these shared symbols don't simply mean he is "on the side of God", but that he is God.
- This is made even clearer by the identification of the bread as coming from heaven: a reference to both Jesus' incarnation and God as source and origin of what the bread is.

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