

The Bread Man
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Based on John 6:35, 51-59

- Narrator: The crowd caught up with Jesus on the far side of the Sea of Galilee, also called the Sea of Tiberius.¹
- Man: I'll have half a dozen brown rolls and a large white loaf, please, Jesus.
- Jesus: I beg your pardon?
- Man: I said, half a dozen brown rolls and a large white loaf, please. Oh, and Elizabeth, here, would like a small wheat loaf as well.
- Woman: Excuse me! I think you'll find that I was here before Elizabeth.
- Man: But she just wants a small wheat loaf.
- Woman: That's not the point. I was here before her and I'd like a large wholemeal Jesus, sliced if possible, and a dozen breakfast rolls.
- Man: Wait a minute! It's still my turn first and I'd like half a dozen brown rolls and a large white loaf please.
- Woman: Hurry up, then! I don't have all day -- I've a hungry family waiting at home.
- Man: OK, Jesus, I'm ready whenever you are.
- Jesus: Ready for what?
- Man: For a dozen brown rolls and a large white loaf, of course.
- Jesus: I think you've got the wrong person.
- Man: You are the bread man, aren't you?
- Jesus: Well . . .
- Woman: What's the hold up?

¹ Slight edit to the script to match the way the NRSV tells the story in John 6:1.

Man: He's not sure if he's the bread man or not.

Woman: Seems a fairly simple question to me. Either he is or he isn't. Make sure he's not holding out on us.

Jesus: I Am the Bread of Life.

Man: It's OK! He is the bread man.

Jesus: Just listen for a minute will you? I Am the Bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, whoever believes in me shall never be thirsty.

Man: Great! I'll have a loaf of that instead of the large white. But I still want half a dozen brown rolls as well, OK?

Woman: You mean he's got some special sort of bread that'll stop you from being hungry ever again? I'll have some of that.

Jesus: Look here! You're missing the point! I'm not going to give you any bread.

Man: Why not?

Woman: Yes, why not?

Jesus: Firstly, because I don't have any bread.

Man: Well that's not very fair. You just said you were the bread man.

Jesus: And secondly, I'm not talking about bread, but about Love.

Man: Oh. Are you sure?

Jesus: Yes, I'm sure. What I'm talking about is soul food.

Man: Are you a fish monger then?

Jesus: No, I'm not a fish monger, either. What I'm offering you is food for the soul. Food that will nourish your inner self and will last you for eternity - I'm offering you the Love of God.

Woman: So, no bread then?

Jesus: No, not the type you're talking about.

Man: No large white or a small wheat then?

Jesus: No.

Man: Not even half a dozen brown rolls?

Jesus: Not even half a dozen brown rolls.

Narrator: And so the crowd departed, with empty bellies and, more importantly, with empty minds - because they missed the point!