

The I Am Statements- The Testimony of Jesus Pt 1

John 6:35

- There is a place in scripture **Math 16:13-15**, where Jesus asks His disciples “**who do men say that I Am**” the disciples answered and said some think you’re a reincarnation of John the Baptist, others say your one of the prophets like Elijah or Jeremiah! Then Jesus asks them “**but who do you say that I Am?**” It’s one thing to quote what others are saying but it’s quite the other to share what you think, because then it becomes personal doesn’t it?
- When it comes to Jesus its always personal, He wants us to understand and know exactly Who He is, which is why He gives us His own personal statements about Himself. These are called the seven **I Am statements** found throughout the book of John starting in chapter 6 and ending in chapter15, which state clearly Who Jesus is, and why He has come.
- Each time Jesus makes these statements it proves to us that Jesus is explicitly identifying Himself as God for the statement itself “**I Am**” is reserved only for God Himself in scripture. **Ex 3:14** is the first time we see this title used in scripture, its where God introduces Himself to Moses by declaring Himself as “**I Am Who I Am**” and that is how Moses was to describe God when Israel asks Who it was that had sent him to deliver them from Egypt, tell them “**I Am**” has sent you is what Moses was to say to them when asked Wow!
- This phrase became a way to connect with God personally and was used throughout Israel’s history to convey that God **always was, always is, and always will Be**. So that is the history of the phrase “**I Am**” and in knowing this it will give you more insight as to how the people respond when they hear Jesus use it to describe Himself to the people, for without this knowledge one wouldn’t think anything of Jesus using this phraseology, but in knowing the background we now know exactly what He meant by calling Himself “**I Am**”.
- In chapter 6 before Jesus made His statement we see some interesting things occur, first we read how the crowds had grown to such an extent that they didn’t have enough food to even feed them and when Jesus asked His disciples to buy some food they responded in sarcasm that **8** months worth of salary which is what **200** denarii was wouldn’t be enough to feed this crowd. **Jn 6:6** says Jesus said this to test His disciples as he already knew what he would do.
- **Jn 6:8-13** there is a kid with enough for two fish sandwiches and Jesus takes it, makes everyone sit down in an orderly fashion, then takes the fish and bread, breaks it, blesses it, and distributes it to the masses feeding at least five thousand. A quick note, it says five thousand men, so if you double or triple that because of women and children it easily could have been fifteen thousand that was fed that day. What’s amazing is those who doubted (the disciples) Jesus didn’t let go hungry they also were fed as well **V13**.

- **Jn 6:15-21** Jesus knowing that upon seeing and others hearing about that miracle the crowds would now want to make Him their King by force if necessary, that always amazes me, when the thought of Jesus feeding and supplying their physical needs they want Him as King, even if they have to force Him into it, but when it comes to salvation from sins, in which they don't have to do anything but surrender, they reject Him and push Him away.
- The disciples get on a boat to go to the other side to wait for Jesus and a storm arises shaking the boat and scaring them, but Jesus comes to them walking on water, and instead of embracing Him their afraid of Him, and He tells them "**it is I do not be afraid**". **Jn 6:22-26** the people follow Him to the other side and ask where did you go? Jesus says they weren't following because of what He was teaching and ministering to them but for the food!
- Jesus was speaking to them about the **spiritual** and the **eternal**, but they were only thinking of the **temporal** and the **natural**, and that is where most people are today. They are unconcerned about their souls, being only aware of the here and now, so they dismiss what is at stake in the future for what they can get right now, and we see the results, things aren't getting any better but growing increasingly worse, and the solution is not to repent and surrender to the Lord but to regroup and dig our heels in even further to try and fix ourselves.
- **Jn 6:27** Jesus tells them not to seek Him only because their physical appetites were satisfied but to come to Him so that their spiritual needs can be met, as they wanted the food but not the truth. **Jn 6:28-29** they ask Jesus a question with the sense of just tell us what to do so that we can get what we want from You and move forward. Notice they picked up on the word "**labor V27**" and misinterpreted that to mean that they had to work for Jesus approval, many wrongly think that as well, but He corrects that thinking in these next verses.
- **Jn 6:32-33** the food Moses fed the people although it came from God it only filled the natural needs, but the food Jesus is offering will satisfy both the natural and the spiritual, speaking of course of Himself. **Jn 6:34** the people answer give us this food always that will never be hungry again, what the people needed wasn't food but life, eternal life.
- **Jn 6:35-** Jesus answers them "**I Am The Bread of Life**" he who comes to Me shall never hunger, and he who believes in Me shall never thirst, amazingly two thousand years after this verse were still **starving** why? Because we have not come to Jesus, and we have not believed in Jesus, we go to and believe in everything else but Him. But those things we're pursuing can never satisfy, as what is quickest and easiest is not what is best.
- For by calling Himself "**The Bread of life**" Jesus is saying that He didn't just come to **sustain life**- like our earthly food, He came to **give life**- becoming our spiritual food. He repeats it in **V48** saying "**I Am The Bread of Life**" and again in **V51** saying "**I Am The Living Bread**". Meaning we cannot survive without Him, we cannot have life as it was created by Him and for Him > **Jn 10:10** Jesus says "**I came that you may have life and that you may have it more abundantly**" a fulfilling life can only be found in surrender to our Loving Savior.