

DISCUSSION GUIDE

The Aftermath: The 7 'I Am' Statements of Jesus

March 19, 2023

The AFTERMATH: Jesus says, "I AM..."

...the Resurrection and the Life

For the next several weeks our sermon series will focus on the "I Am" statements Jesus makes in the book of John. This Discussion Guide is designed to help you **think more deeply** about the sermon and **engage with others** through thoughtful conversation, biblical exploration and **allow God to work** in your life as you apply what you discover.

➤ CONVERSATION STARTERS

When you were a kid, what did you want to be when you grew up?

➤ EXPLORATION

Last week we focused on Jesus as "The Good Shepherd." In John 10:10 Jesus says, "I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full." This is the kind of verse we love, it is filled with hope and possibility. We may even think it means we will live a long and happy life. But that is not always the case.

Jesus doesn't focus only on life, he also talks a lot about death. This week we will explore what Jesus meant when he said, "I am the resurrection and the life."

John 11:1-4 (From your bible, read aloud)

Lazarus, Mary and Martha are clearly friends of Jesus. They know him and he knows them. They are part of his community of relationships.

Who is the person you would call if you had an emergency at 3AM?

In verse 4 when Jesus says that this sickness is for God's glory, we have to ask ourselves, what does the sickness of Lazarus have to do with the glory of God? Maybe we need a better understanding of God's Glory.

"For all his resplendent glory and dazzling holiness, his supreme uniqueness and otherness, no one in history has ever been more approachable than Jesus Christ." ~Dane Ortland

God's glory is not a divine fireworks display that dazzles you and leaves you clapping your hands. It is more intimate and deeply personal. It is the revelation of God's heart for us to see.

Psalm 63:2-3 & Psalm 115:1 (From your bible, read aloud)

Which of these honors would you most like to receive? Nobel Peace Prize, Oscar/Grammy, Pulitzer (writing), Olympic Gold Medal

When we talk about God's glory or Jesus being glorified it may not always look like what we imagine.

The Glory of God in the Gospels

- Jesus will return again in glory - Matthew 25:31
- Jesus glory revealed in transfiguration - Luke 9:28-35
- Miracles reveal his glory - John 2:11
- This sickness is for God's glory - John 11:4

The final point in that list doesn't seem to fit. We don't usually think of sickness or a bad diagnosis as a way to experience or reveal God's glory. But that's what it says.

The Glory of God AFTER the Gospels

- Jesus crowned with glory after death - Hebrews 2:9
- God raised Jesus and glorified him - 1 Peter 1:21

- Jesus, worthy to receive glory - Revelation 4:11
- Our suffering and God's glory - 1 Peter 4:13-14

Once again, the final point in this list doesn't seem to fit. Keep this in mind as we continue on in the passage.

John 11:5-7 (From your bible, read aloud)

Why do you think Jesus waited 2 days before going to Judea?

John 11:17-27 (From your bible, read aloud)

Some Jews in those days believed that the soul hovered around the body for 3 days after death hoping to re-enter it. But by the 4th day the body would start to decompose and the soul would have departed. So, this is a way of saying Lazarus was REALLY dead and all hope was gone.

One of the most unsettling things about death is how it leaves us feeling so helpless and out of control. In our current culture we often try to avoid thinking about it at all.

When you think about death, what thoughts or feelings surface for you?

Martha was clearly mourning the death of her brother as she talked with Jesus, wishing he had arrived sooner. But Jesus reminded her to focus on the resurrection that was to come for her brother Lazarus. It was in that powerful moment that Jesus declared, "I Am the Resurrection and the Life"

From the following list, choose one bullet point that captures your attention and read the corresponding verse.

Implications of Resurrection On Us

- Born again to a living hope - 1 Peter 1:3
- Even in death, made alive in Christ - Ephesians 2:5
- Buried with him in baptism, raised with him through faith - Colossians 2:12
- The Spirit who raised Jesus gives us life - Romans 8:11

Which of these implications was most meaningful to you? Why?

John 11:32-36 (From your bible, read aloud)

This story is filled with intimate love, and care. It is one of the most human and tender descriptions we see of Jesus anywhere.

John 11:38-44 (From your bible, read aloud)

There must have been quite a celebration when Lazarus walked out of that tomb! It is hard for us to imagine. But the center of this story is not Lazarus, it is Jesus. The point of this passage is not that Jesus is going to heal every disease, save every person from death, or deliver us every time we call. The point is that Jesus has the power to heal and to deliver and to save and we can trust him, even when we don't understand everything that is happening.

A day is coming when the fullness of his saving, healing and delivering will be fully realized and will be complete in its scope. As we wait for that day, we wait in hope that God is still working for His glory and for our good.

> TAKE AWAY

The story of Jesus and Lazarus gives us perspective, a new way to see ALL of our life in view of the glory of God.

- Our joys and our successes give us the opportunity to give God honor and praise.
- In sickness and in trouble we can learn to look to Jesus, leaning on him to bring glory in the pain.
- When death breaks our heart, we remember Jesus is the resurrection and the life who works in all things.
- In suffering we seek to honor and glorify Jesus, entrusting ourselves to his care.

Which of these do you need to keep in mind this week?

Pray together that you will see your life in view of God's glory this week.

> SERVE OPPORTUNITY

EASTER at Hillside is a great time for you to bring your family and friends.

- Good Friday Service: 6:30PM
- Saturday Easter Service: 4:00PM
- Sunday Easter Service: 8:30AM, 10AM, 11:30AM

We want to make sure Hillside is a welcoming place for everyone. If you are willing to serve during one or more service, please

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