

DISCUSSION GUIDE

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

March 6, 2023

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

The Door for the Sheep

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

What is one thing about Jesus that you are most grateful for?

➤ EXPLORATION

Throughout this series we are focusing on the ways Jesus identifies himself, "I am the bread of life", "I am the light of the world" and now, "I am the door for the sheep." Before each new revelation we see a story that helps us understand the context of these declarations.

John 9:1-11 (From your bible, read aloud)

What an incredible miracle. Jesus heals a grown man who had been blind his entire life. We might think that everyone would be thrilled to see the love of God demonstrated in such a practical way. But in verse 16 we read, "Some of the Pharisees said, 'This man is not from God, for he does not keep the Sabbath.'" Jesus had healed the man on the Sabbath.

The Pharisees were more interested in the rules than they were in this miracle. They even went so far as to

kick the man who had been healed out of the synagogue.

John 9:35-37, 40-41 (From your bible, read aloud)

What stands out to you from these verses?

The gospels give us glimpses of real life situations. We get to see real people going through difficult things. And we get to see how Jesus interacted with the hurting people. In the very next verse, Jesus begins to use the analogy of a shepherd and their sheep.

John 10:1-5 (From your bible, read aloud)

How do you know when God is speaking to you?

Jesus was confronting the Pharisees in this passage because they were only interested in making people follow their rules in order to be in good standing with God. They didn't even recognize that God was right there talking with them.

<u>Pharisees Were</u>	<u>But it Made Them</u>	<u>Jesus Desires</u>
Religious	Self righteous	Love
Knowledgeable	Proud	Transformation
Active	Self-centered	God-centered
Law abiding	Judging	Compassion

There is nothing wrong with being religious, knowledgeable, active or law abiding. These are generally good things. The problem begins when that becomes our focus rather than keeping Jesus as our focus.

Share about a time when you or someone you know became self-righteous, proud, self-centered or judgemental in the name of being a “good Christian.”

We read in John 9:38 that when the man Jesus healed heard his voice he was overjoyed and began to worship. However, when the Pharisees heard the same voice they chose to look for ways to silence Jesus. Jesus was offering a different way of life.

Salvation is Found in Jesus: verses for further study

- Jesus saves His people from their sin - Matthew 1:21
- Salvation is only found in Jesus - Acts 4:12
- By grace you are saved - Ephesians 2:8-9
- Jesus came to save sinners - 1 Timothy 1:15

Jesus + nothing = Salvation

Romans 10:9-10 *If you declare with your mouth, “Jesus is Lord,” and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you profess your faith and are saved.*

Why do you think God says we need to declare with our mouths AND believe in our hearts?

Jesus is the gate for the sheep. He is the only entrance into God’s Kingdom:

Jesus leads the way - we follow
Jesus initiates - we respond
Jesus calls - we answer

Staying Close to Jesus: verses for further study

- We find satisfaction - John 6:35
- We have the light of life - John 8:12
- Know the truth and walk in freedom - John 8:32
- Have confidence to approach God - Ephesians 3:12

We read in John 10:10, “The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I [Jesus] have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.”

We often assume the thief to be the devil, and it could definitely be said that Satan’s desire is to steal, kill and destroy... but we know from the context of this passage that Jesus is not talking about the devil here.

Jesus is speaking directly to the Pharisees, the religious leaders of the day who wanted people to follow them rather than Jesus. They did this through imposing rules and regulations people had to follow in order to prove they were truly religious. This was never God’s plan.

RELIGION: I obey, therefore I am accepted

GOSPEL: I am accepted, therefore I obey

RELIGION: Motivation is based on fear and insecurity

GOSPEL: Motivation is based on joy

RELIGION: When circumstances in my life go wrong, I am angry at God or myself because I believe that anyone who is good deserves a comfortable life.

GOSPEL: When circumstances in my life go wrong, I struggle, but I know that while God may allow this for my training, he will exercise his fatherly love within my trial.

~ Tim Keller, Center Church

Take a moment to consider each of these comparisons. Where might God be inviting you to grow?

➤ TAKE AWAY

As we finish our time together, take a few moments to ask God if there is anything in your life that hinders you from following Jesus.



Pray together that you will hear the voice of Jesus and follow him faithfully this week.