

Introduction

Coaching
Parenting
Pastoring → EGO

1. I AM

(1) 7 Metaphorical
(slide #1)

(2) 5 Absolute
(slide #2)

Metaphorical "I am" statements	John
1. I am the bread of life	6:35, 48, 51
2. I am the light of the world	8:12; 9:5
3. I am the door of the sheep	10:7, 9
4. I am the good shepherd	10:11, 14
5. I am the resurrection and the life	11:25
6. I am the way, the truth, and the life	14:6
7. I am the true vine	15:1

John 6:20; John 8:24; John 8:28; John 8:58; John 18:5

I am = ego/eimi

①

²⁰ "But he said to them, "It is I; do not be afraid."

②

²⁴ I told you that you ^mwould die in your sins, for ⁿunless you believe that ^oI am he you will die in your sins."

③

²⁸ So Jesus said to them, "When you have ^ulifted up the Son of Man, ^vthen you will know that ^wI am he, and that ^xI do nothing on my own authority, but ^y speak just as the Father taught me.

⑤

⁵⁸ Jesus said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, before Abraham was, ^zI am."

④

⁵ They answered him, "Jesus of Nazareth." Jesus said to them, ^{aa}"I am he." ^{ab}Judas, who betrayed him, was standing with them.

Exodus 3:13-14 - Then Moses said to God, "If I come to the people of Israel and say to them, 'The God of your fathers has sent me to you,' and they ask me, 'What is his name?' what shall I say to them?" God said to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM." And he said, "Say this to the people of Israel: 'I AM has sent me to you.'"

③ I Am = To Be = Workplace for Yahweh

2. I AM NOT

Exodus 4:1 - Then Moses answered, "But behold, they will not believe me or listen to my voice, for they will say, 'The Lord did not appear to you.'"

Job 38:4 - "Where were you when I laid the foundation of the earth? Tell me, if you have understanding.

How do I live as though "I am not"

I. I am not here for notice, but service (v1-12)

1. Service means willing to be unseen (v1-9)

(1) What will be his final, great exploit? He's at his best...

1. This should be Abraham's moment to shine! He's at his best
2. Turns his attention to legacy & the future
3. Last time we will hear from Abraham

Not here for our own egos

John 3:30 - He must increase, but I must decrease.

(2) Are you willing to decrease your place in this story, so Jesus can increase?

1. We want people to see us... it's natural.
2. But being noticed (like Anthem Kids) interferes w/ being of service.

Matthew 6:1-5 - "Beware of practicing your righteousness before other people in order to be seen by them, for then you will have no reward from your Father who is in heaven. "Thus, when you give to the needy, sound no trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may be praised by others...do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your giving may be in secret. **And your Father who sees in secret will reward you.** "And when you pray, you must not be like the hypocrites. For they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, that they may be seen by others. **Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward.**

2. Service means willing to be unsung (v14-12)

(1) This story belongs to a servant

1. Servant = Eliezer?

Genesis 15:2 - But Abram said, "O Lord GOD, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?"

2. We can't know for sure

3. Moses (writer) decides to leave this servant unknown, unnamed... unsung

Proverbs 27:2 - Let another praise you, and not your own mouth; a stranger, and not your own lips.

(2) v12 - Unsung = your success, but not your credit

1 Timothy 1:17 - To the King of the ages, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.

(3) Reflected or Emitted Glory?

1. We seek glory because we seek love.

(4) Are you willing to be a servant?
that means unseen, unsung ministry

Galatians 5:13 - For you were called to freedom, brothers. Only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another.

1 Corinthians 4:1 - This is how one should regard us, as servants of Christ and stewards of the mysteries of God.

II. I am not here for contact, but impact (v. 12-48)

Not here to be relational consumers

≠ IPA-ian Christian

1. Impact means devotion (v. 12-14)

(1) He could phone it in ... do the minimum.

1. But a life of service means you care more about having intended Kingdom impact more than just making contact with nonbelievers.
2. You like the idea of mission, you hang around a lot of non-Christians, & you think letting them know you're a Christian is enough.
3. Your content w/ just not being a stereotype which makes zero impact.
4. Where do I start?

(2) Start with prayer

1. Pray God reveals specific moments
2. Pray God reveals specific persons



2. Impact means discernment (v15-32)

(1) Discerning their stage of Christian orientation (v15-21)

1. Closed Heart (Hard-Heart)
2. Open Heart (Person of Peace)
3. Changed Heart (Other Christians)

Slide 3

(2) Discerning your stage of Missional Engagement (v23-26)

Slide 4

1. Planting seeds
2. Pulling weeds

3. Impact means discourse (v33-48)

(1) Discourse includes identity (v34-35)

1. Your identity - knowing you're a Christian, what that means
2. God's identity - addressing stereotypes, what is gospel?

(2) Discourse includes testimony (v36) (v37-48)

1. Your story; distinct life/change

Using simple accessible language

III. I am not here for complacency, but urgency. (v49-61)

1. Urgency means priorities (v49-52)

- (1) v49 - Discerning their right stage of orientation helps you prioritize (relationships)
- (2) v50-52 - Discerning your right stage of engagement helps them realize (what they believe)
- (3) All Christian relationships, either w/ other Christians or unbelievers, presume progress & abhor complacency. They are inherently urgent.

2. Urgency means tenacity (v55-57)

- (1) v55 - Tenacity w/ their hesitations
 1. You're asking them to leave what they love
- (2) v56-57 - Tenacity w/ their objections
 1. You're asking them to defy their experiences

* We want to be tenacious, but not pretentious. →

3. Urgency means sincerity (198-61)

- (1) Urgency means we want a sincere response, not resigned compliance.
- (2) People must be responsible through decision, not our assumptions they're ok

Not here for a comfortable, complacent existence.

Conclusion

1. You can't "ship" Jesus (567-67)

2. The Better Love Story