

Jesus is...

In the Gospel John, Jesus gives us 7 "I Am" statements about who He is.

Where do we first hear these words, I Am?

- Back in Exodus when Moses is having a conversation with God Himself. And Moses asked this question:
 - What is your name?
 - In Hebrew the phrase He asks is Mah Shemo?"

The phrase Mah Shemo when you dig a little deeper is really like asking:

- "What is the meaning of Your name?"
- Or "what is the significance of your name?"
- Or, what makes you ... you?"
- He's asking the Father:
 - Who are you?
 - What are like?
 - Tell me about Your character!

And that's when our Father in Heaven speaks His name for the first time, ever.

- Exodus 3:14: "God said to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM.

In Hebrew, it's Ehyeh-Asher-Ehyeh.

- Which is translated "whatever I am, I will be."
 - Meaning, whatever this God is like, he's that way consistently.

As we embark on this journey to describe who Jesus is. Words can't begin to describe the Name of Jesus. Trying to describe who Jesus is with words is an impossible task.

Ephesians 3: 8 make this abundantly clear:

- "To me, though I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given, to preach to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ."
- The unsearchable riches of Jesus... How do you communicate that? How do you communicate the unsearchable riches of Jesus?
- John 21:25

As we study these verses in John 18, I want you to hear how awesome, how incredible, and how powerful our Lord Jesus is.

- John 18:2-6
 - Verse 5 tells us that Jesus responded with a phrase that sent shock waves to everyone who was there that day.
 - You know what's interesting, in verse 3 it says:
 - There was a Roman detachment (The Greek word for a 'detachment of soldiers' is speira.
 - Speira - which is traditionally rendered 'cohort,' which means about six hundred men.

And when you and I begin to understand who Jesus is... we don't need anything else. And the reason this story in John 18 is so important for us to understand is because prior to John 18 Jesus said these words "I Am" 7 different times. Every time Jesus referred to Himself with one of those "I Am" metaphors Jesus was emphatically reminding us that He is Yahweh, He is the Great "I Am" the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.

Here is the list of verses that contain the **7 I Am** statements:

- "**I Am** the Light of the World" John 8:12
- "**I Am** the Bread of Life" John 6:35
- "**I Am** the Door" John 10:7
- "**I Am** the Good Shepherd" John 10:11
- "**I Am** the Resurrection and the Life" John 11:17
- "**I Am** the True Vine" John 15:1
- "**I Am** the Way the Truth and the Life" John 14:6

Napoleon Bonaparte said this about Jesus:

- “I know men and I tell you that Jesus is not a man... superficial minds see a resemblance between Christ and the founders of empires and the gods of other religions (He says:) that resemblance does not exist there is between Christianity and every other religion the distance of Infinity.”

John 8:12 will be the verse we spend the rest of our time on. “...**I am** the light of the world...”

- Jesus says I am the **Light of the World** in the context of a group of religious people getting ready to stone a woman that was caught in adultery in John (Chapter 8).
- And the **Light of the World** showed up at just the right time, at just the right place and spoke those famous words in John 8.
 - John 8:7-9
 - ⁷... “Let any one of you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone at her.” ⁸ Again he stooped down and wrote on the ground. ⁹ At this, those who heard began to go away one at a time, the older ones first, until only Jesus was left, with the woman still standing there.

Always keep this in mind... that light reveals and light exposes... Jesus came into a Dark World and suddenly turned the light on by his personal presence...

- Light exposes and light reveals and what's interesting is that this is the only **I Am** statement that Jesus reveals, that says you and I need to be Like Him. Because Jesus tells us very clearly in Mathew 14 that we are to be what?
 - The light of the world.

Mathew 14:5 says: “You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden.”

Let me give you 3 ways you can be a Light for the World:

1. The first way we can be a light, is by telling a God story or sharing a God story: I.e., Ok. Women’s Softball
2. The Second way we can be a light is by telling our story.
 - Listen to what Charles Spurgeon said:
 - If Jesus is precious to you (as he is to the Spirit), you will not be able to keep your good news to yourself; you will be whispering it into your child’s ear; you will be telling it to your husband; you will be earnestly imparting it to your friend; without the charms of eloquence you will be more than eloquent; your heart will speak, and your eyes will flash as you talk of his sweet love....It cannot be that there is a high appreciation of Jesus and a totally silent tongue about him...
 - J.D. Greer puts it this way, “Sharing the Gospel requires **words** because you can’t really explain what Jesus did through **charades.**”

So, when we play it safe, and we don’t step out and tell our story, what we are really saying is we don’t trust the Shepherd. And we miss out on what we are called to do, what were commanded to do.

John Wesley says,

- “Light yourself on fire with passion and people will come from miles to watch you burn.”

The third and most important piece of the puzzle is to tell “The Story”.

3. “The Story” is the Gospel Story.
 - This is the one we must become familiar with, and this is the one we're asking the Holy Spirit to give us boldness to tell “The Story.” So, what is the Story?
 - John 3:16 “For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not parish but have everlasting life.”

God sent His Son for us, to save us yes, but that is just the beginning of the journey, as followers of Christ we are commanded to go and make disciples, by sharing a God story, by sharing our story and most importantly by sharing “The Story” ... the Gospel Story.

Application:

- Be in prayer by asking God to give you three names of people that need to be born again. Then pray that God will give you the opportunity to share who **Jesus is.**

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