

## I AM — ENCOUNTERING THE IDENTITY OF JESUS

### The Way, The Truth, and The Life

#### INTRO — The Decision That Divides

- The Gospel of John presents a **decision moment** that leads to division:
  - Those who **receive Jesus** as the Son who gives life
  - Those who **reject Him**
- This division produces conflict:
  - Rejection leads to **violence** (attempt to silence the Light)
  - Reception leads to **exposure** (the Light reveals truth)
- After Lazarus is raised:
  - Plots begin to kill both **Jesus and Lazarus**
  - Reason: many are believing because of Lazarus
  - *John 12:10–11*
- Even among rulers:
  - Some believed but would not confess
  - Fear of rejection outweighed devotion
  - *John 12:42–43*
- Jesus gives a final public plea:
  - His words are from the Father
  - His message is **eternal life**
  - *John 12:44–50*

#### THE SHIFT — From Public Ministry to Private Instruction

- Scene shifts to the **Upper Room**
- Audience narrows to **the 12 disciples**

#### Key Moments:

- **Foot Washing**
  - Example of how to live
  - *John 13:15*
- **Judas Departs**
  - Betrayal is in motion
- **Jesus Declares:**
  - “Now I am glorified”
  - “I am going where you cannot come”
  - “Love one another as I have loved you”
  - *John 13:31–35*

## **THE DISCIPLES' CONDITION – CONFUSION & UNCERTAINTY**

- The disciples experience a dramatic shift:
  - From confidence (Lazarus raised, triumphal entry)
  - To confusion and fear

### **Their Questions:**

- Where are you going?
- Why can't we come?
- How can we know the way?

### **Reality:**

- The room is filled with **confusion**

## **THE HUMAN CONDITION – THE WILDERNESS**

- This moment reflects the human condition:
  - Lost
  - Confused
  - Afraid
- Internal experience:
  - Drained
  - Empty
  - Unfulfilled
  - Lifeless
- Scripture describes this as: **The Wilderness**

### **Contrast:**

- **Garden (with God):**
  - Order
  - Purpose
  - Clarity
- **Wilderness (apart from God):**
  - Wandering
  - Confusion
  - Death

## **THE CENTRAL HUMAN QUESTION**

**“Is there a way through the wilderness?”**

## **ISAIAH 35 — THE PROMISE**

- God speaks a promise over humanity:

### **One Day:**

- The wilderness will bloom
- The blind will see
- The lame will walk
- Sorrow will turn to joy

### **Most importantly:**

#### **There will be a way**

- A path where:
  - People are not lost
  - People do not wander
  - People are not overcome

## **JOHN 14 — JESUS RESPONDS**

- In the middle of confusion, fear, and uncertainty:
  - Jesus gives instruction for how to live when He is not physically present

### **Read:**

- *John 14:1–6*

### **Key Declaration:**

- *John 14:6*  
“I am the way, the truth, and the life...”

## **THE CONNECTION — ISAIAH TO JESUS**

- Isaiah promised: A **Holy Way**
- Jesus declares: “**I am the way.**”

### **The Way is Not:**

- A road
- A system
- A plan

The Way is a **person to know and follow**

## **THE WAY — Direction in Confusion**

- When you don't know where to go:  
Follow Jesus

### **Questions to Ask:**

- What did He do?
- Where did He go?
- How did He live?
- How did He respond?

### **THE TRUTH — Stability in Uncertainty**

- When everything feels unstable:  
Jesus is what is real

#### **Not:**

- Culture
- Emotion
- Circumstances

Jesus

#### **Questions:**

- What did He say?
- What did He teach?

### **THE LIFE — Sustenance in Weakness**

- When life feels like it's falling apart:  
Jesus sustains
- Life is not just something He gives  
**He is life**
- In our weakness:  
His strength is revealed

### **THE CHALLENGE — BELIEF + TRUST**

- Belief alone is not enough
- *James 2:26*  
Faith without works is dead

#### **True discipleship requires:**

Belief + Trust

#### **WHAT TRUST LOOKS LIKE:**

- Walking when the path is unclear
- Staying when things feel uncertain
- Surrendering when you are not in control

#### **Call:**

Believe in God

Believe in Jesus

Trust that Jesus is enough

### **CORE DISCIPLESHIP TRUTH**

The way forward is not about having everything figured out. It is about staying with Jesus

## **ISAIAH 35 — FULFILLED IN JESUS**

- The promised highway:
  - Strength for the weak
  - Courage for the fearful
  - Joy for the redeemed

Jesus says:

**“That way is me.”**

## **THE SHIFTING QUESTION**

- No longer:  
“Is there a way?”
- Now:  
**“Will you walk it?”**

## **THE CALL TO ACTION**

- Walking the way requires:  
Trust
- Warning:
  - Many talk about the road
  - Few actually walk it

## **PERSONAL APPLICATION**

Today:

- Whatever feels:
  - Uncertain
  - Unstable
  - Like wilderness

## **Step onto the way**

**Response:**

- Follow Him
- Trust Him
- Stay with Him