

# **I AM — ENCOUNTERING THE IDENTITY OF JESUS**

## **The Resurrection and the Life**

### **Intro — The Courtroom of John**

- The Gospel of John presents Jesus like a courtroom case
- John serves as a witness presenting:
  - evidence
  - testimony
  - claims

### **Purpose of John's Gospel**

- John 20:31
- Believe Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God
- By believing → receive life

### **Sonship Through Belief**

#### **Becoming Children of God**

- John 1:12–13
- Not based on:
  - heritage
  - human will
  - behavior or works
- Based on:
  - receiving Jesus
  - believing in His name
  - the will of God

### **Kingdom Eyes — Being Born Again**

- Spiritual birth is necessary to see the Kingdom
- John 3:3 — must be born again
- John 3:16 — belief leads to eternal life

### **Identity Shift**

- From slave → to son
- John 8:35 — sons remain forever

### **The Central Question**

**Do you believe that Jesus is the Son of God?**

### **The Invitation — “Come and See”**

- John the Baptizer points to Jesus
- First disciples begin following
- Jesus invites them: “Come and see”

### **Meaning**

- Faith begins by following
- Invitation into relationship

## **The Pathway of Sonship – The “I AM” Statements**

Jesus reveals His identity:

- I am the bread of life → Believe
- I am the light of the world → See
- I am the gate → Enter
- I am the good shepherd → Protection

### **Purpose**

- Move from slaves → to sons and daughters
- Invitation to “taste and see that the Lord is good”

### **The Problem**

- The world is corrupted and deceived
- Many fail to recognize Jesus as:
  - the Word made flesh

### **Result**

- Crowds diminish
- Only a few continue following

## **Two Choices – The Turning Point (John 10–11)**

At this point, everyone must choose:

- Reject Jesus → “I do not believe”
- Receive Jesus → “I believe You are the Son of God”

## **The Rejection – John 10:22–42**

### **The Question**

- “Who are you?”

### **The Answer**

- “I have told you”
- Works testify
- “I and the Father are one”

### **The Reaction**

- Accusation of blasphemy
- John 10:33 – “You make yourself God”

### **The Result**

- John 10:40 – Jesus departs

## **The Reception – John 11**

### **The Situation**

- Lazarus is sick and dies

### **Jesus’ Purpose**

- John 11:14–15
- “So that you may believe”

## **Important Reality**

- Jesus re-enters a world that rejects Him
- He moves toward death intentionally

## **The Tension — “If You Had Been Here...”**

- Martha and Mary express grief
- Honest disappointment

## **Personal Connection**

- “Jesus, if You had shown up sooner...”

## **Faith Mixed with Limitation**

### **Martha’s Faith**

- John 11:22 — still believes

### **Martha’s Limitation**

- John 11:24 — hope pushed into the future

## **Application**

- Settling for distant hope
- Conditional prayers:
  - “If it be Your will”

## **The Declaration of Jesus**

### **John 11:25–26**

- “I am the resurrection and the life”
- Belief leads to life

## **Key Truth**

- Resurrection is not just an event
- Resurrection is a person

## **The Invitation Reversed — “Come and See”**

- Original invitation: Jesus → “Come and see”
- Now reversed: people → “Come and see”

## **What We Bring to Jesus**

- Grief
- Despair
- Suffering
- What feels dead

## **Jesus’ Response**

### **John 11:35**

- Jesus wept

### **John 11:33, 38**

- Deeply moved
- Steps toward the tomb

## **The Nature of Jesus**

- He does not remain distant
- He enters into:
  - grief
  - suffering
  - death

## **Purpose**

- Not just to be seen
- But to bring life

## **Application — What Feels Dead?**

- Hope
- Relationships
- Faith
- Joy
- Purpose

## **Common Belief**

- “It’s too late”
- “It’s too far gone”

## **The Declaration of Easter:**

**Because Jesus is the resurrection, it is never too late for life**

## **The Invitation**

- Question shifts:
  - Do you believe?
  - Will you invite Jesus in?

## **The Gospel**

- Jesus enters the tomb
- Jesus conquers death
- Jesus calls us out of death

## **John 8:36**

- “Who the Son sets free is free indeed.”