

“I AM” Seven Times

Session-1: I Am The Light Of The World

Notes

Introduction

Who is Jesus? What better source to find out than through Jesus own words. And the Gospel of John contains seven statements, all beginning with “I am...” that tell us much about Him and His identity.

- Identity is defined in the dictionary as “...the distinct characteristics belonging to any given individual.”

There are many other important aspects of Jesus’ identity that are not included in the “I am” statements. But what set these apart are the “functional” aspects of His identity in that they express more of what He “does” for people than what He is. In each of these statements Christ tells us one aspect of His identity, one unique characteristic, then tells us how to respond to Jesus and what happens when we do. So what are the seven statements?

John 8:12

Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life."

John 10:7

So again Jesus said to them, "Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep."

John 6:35

Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty."

John 10:11-14

"I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. **12** The hired hand, who is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away—and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. **13** The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care for the sheep. **14** I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me..."

John 15:1

"I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower.

John 14:6

Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

John 11:25-26

25 Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, **26** and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?"

The order in which Jesus’ statements are presented in the study is different from the order in which they occur in the Gospel of John. They have been rearranged by the author to present a more functional sequence, representing a person’s relationship with Christ.

Session-1: "I Am The Light Of The World"

Introduction

The importance of knowing Jesus' identity is shown by His words to the Samaritan woman at the well of Sychar: (New Revised Standard-NRS)

John 4:9-10

9 The Samaritan woman said to him, "How is it that you, a Jew, ask a drink of me, a woman of Samaria?" (Jews do not share things in common with Samaritans.)

10 Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God, and **who it is** that is saying to you, 'Give me a drink,' you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water."

John 4:13-14

13 Jesus said to her, "Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, **14** but those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty. The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life."

Analysis of the first "I Am" statement:

- ✓ Identity (characteristic): "I am the **light** of the world..."
- ✓ Our respond: "Whoever **follows me** ...
- ✓ What are the results: never walk in darkness but **will have the light of life.**"

"I Am" according to the author is used because that was the name by which God was identified Himself to Moses (Exodus 3:14): *God said to Moses, "I am who I am." He said further, "Thus you shall say to the Israelites, "I am has sent me to you.' "*

The author also states that in the Gospel of John, Chapter 8, Jesus refers to himself as "I Am" three different times:

John 4:24

I told you that you would die in your sins, for you will die in your sins unless you believe that **I am** he."

John 4:28

So Jesus said, "When you have lifted up the Son of Man, then you will realize that **I am** he, and that I do nothing on my own, but I speak these things as the Father instructed me.

John 4:58

Jesus said to them, "Very truly, I tell you, before Abraham was, **I am.**"

Light: Jesus Identity (Characteristic)

Light is continually associated with beginnings in the bible:

- ✓ The creation in Genesis 1:
 - 1** In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, **2** the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. **3** Then God said, "**Let there be light**"; and there was light. **4** And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. **5** God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

✓ Jesus birth in Luke 2:

28 Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying, 29 "Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace, according to your word; 30 for my eyes have seen your salvation, 31 which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, 32 a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel."

The light of Jesus is meant in the spiritual sense, but his light does similar things as light does in the material world:

✓ **Reveals**

- Jesus reveals the reality of God, God's character since He is God incarnate.
- Jesus reveals our spiritual identity in that we human beings were formed in the image of God, which was corrupted by our sin. But through Jesus, God and humanity are brought together again because through Christ our sins were forgiven.
- Jesus reveals that there are absolute standards of justice and truth.

✓ **Gives life**

- Light and life are not only connected in the physical world, but also in the spiritual world in both the Old Testament and the New.
- In John 10:10 Jesus states that "I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly."

✓ **Guides**

- Light in the physical world guides us through the darkness and similarly the light of Jesus guides us through the spiritual world.
- In 1 John 1:7 it states that with regard to Jesus that "...if we walk in the light as he himself is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin."
- Jesus is clearly referred to as the guiding light in the following passage in Luke 1:78-79 "...the dawn from on high will break upon us, to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace."

Our Response: Follow Me

Jesus tells us what he wants to do for us, however, but we likewise need to respond to him:

- ✓ Concentrate on the light, study the light to learn what is revealed by Jesus Christ through the bible.
- ✓ Turn toward the light to get the most exposure to it. Transform your life to one that walks in the light of Christ and lives by his commands to love God and love one another.
- ✓ Move toward, in the direction of a life with Christ.