



## **The “I AM Plus” Sayings of Jesus**

Good morning! Hope you are doing well today.

The past three weeks we have listened to Jesus as he reveals who he is: Son of Man – Son of God – The I AM of the burning bush in Exodus 3.

This week we go to John chapter 8 where there is an explosion of self-revelation by Jesus. This is late in his ministry and events are moving quickly toward Passion week when he will suffer and die on the cross for the sin of the world.

On this day Jesus has been teaching in the Temple in Jerusalem when he is confronted by the unbelieving leaders of the nation. They accuse him of being an illegitimate child, a despised Samaritan, and a demon possessed mad man!

Why would they do that? Well, Jesus claims to be the One who comes down from the Father to save God’s People from their sin.

So, who is Jesus?

Is he a madman?

Is he a false messiah deceiving the people?

Jesus responds to the attacks of the leaders by identifying himself with an astonishing list of “I AM Plus” statements we find in John 8:

I AM the Light of the world (who lights the ways for my followers) – v. 12

I AM the One sent by the Father – vv. 18, 24, 26, 29, 36, 42

I AM the One my Father testifies to – vv. 18, 19

I AM the One who returns to my Father – v. 21

I AM the One who rescues you from your sin – v. 21, 36, 51

I AM the One from above (NOT from this world) – v. 23, 37

I AM the One who hears from the Father – vv. 26, 42, 47

I AM the One who speaks what the Father says to me – v. 28

I AM the One who does what pleases the Father – v. 29

I AM the One whose teachings are Truth – v. 31

I AM the One without sin – v. 46

I AM the One who honors the Father – I do not seek my own glory – vv. 49-50

I AM the One whom God glorifies – v. 54

I AM the One who knows God – v. 55

I AM the One who keeps God’s word – v. 55

I AM the One who existed before father Abraham – v. 58

Wow! These public statements leave no doubt that everyone listening has a life or death decision to make. The leaders picked up stones to murder Jesus – all in the name of God of course.

Which brings us to 2024. The same decision about Jesus faces every human being today.

Who is this Jesus-Who-Is?

Is he a madman?

Is he a false messiah deceiving everyone?

If he is either of these, we should reject him totally.

But...but...what if all of the above "I AM Plus statements" are true? What if Jesus is who he claims to be?

Then surely we must fall on our faces – confess that we are sinners separated from God – and plead with the Son of God to forgive us and impart to us eternal life.

The I AM Plus has come for you.

The I AM Plus has died for you.

What will you do?

What will you encourage others to do?

Blessings-



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