

5-13-2026 – I AM – part 4

A little teaching/preaching. ... Encourage!

The “I AM” statements of Jesus from John’s Gospel. “I AM”- God’s name.

- Last week, **1** - I Am the Bread of Life (John 6:35)

2 – “I am the light of the world” (John 8:12, 9:5):

#3 “I am the gate” & **#4** “I am the good Shepherd”

This week - statement **#6** – “I am the way, the truth, & the life”

John 14 - “Do not let your hearts be troubled. You believe in God; believe also in me. ² My Father’s house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you? ³ And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am. ⁴ You know the way to the place where I am going.”

⁵ Thomas said to him, “Lord, we don’t know where you are going, so how can we know the way?”

⁶ Jesus answered, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.”

1 - Jesus - the Way to the Father

This ties in with last week’s message - “I am the Gate” – Jesus is clear, “**no one comes to the Father except through me.**”

- And **Context** – “I go to prepare a place for you” – **He’s the way there!**

Q - Are there many paths to heaven? Many paths to SGI? Yes & No

- **“Universalism”** - view that all human beings will eventually be embraced by God, regardless of their specific faith.
- Universalism encourages seeing diverse traditions (Hinduism, Islam, Christianity, etc.) as **different ways to reach the same goal.**
- **2009 PewStudy** – **70%** of Americans believe many religions can lead to eternal life; including **65%** of those **identifying as Christians.**

- Surprising – 56% of evangelical Christians said **there are many paths, other than faith in Christ**, to God and eternal life.
- Shocked. Maybe other Christian denoms in mind? **Round 2**
- Of the **30%** who said eternal life depends on one’s belief - nearly half designated “belief in God, a higher power, or other generic beliefs as sufficient for salvation.”
- Of evangelical Christians, only 45% said that a personal belief/relationship w/ Jesus was essential for eternal life.
 - **Growing number people are questioning the long-held foundational truth of Church that salvation is only in Jesus.**
- Of Americans affiliated w/ a religion:
 - 52% believe Islam leads to eternal life w/ God (J - prophet)
 - 53 % believe Hinduism leads to God (J - great teacher)
 - 42 % even believe Atheism leads to heaven. (J-historical Jew)
 - **Father of Lies causes people to doubt.** “If u are...” to J.
 - He’ll whisper – how arrogant of you. “Only way”
 - He’ll say - ignore that part ... “don’t believe everything”
 - He’ll comfort you with: “the Bible is so confusing.”
- **One path** is what Jesus said. He was clear, **“I am the way, the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me”** (Jn. 14:6).
 - **“I am the Gate” – one entrance to one place.**
 - Many different religions? Yes, if they are based on Jesus Christ.

What do you do with these words of Jesus?

- Was this just a man saying such things? If so, he was a lunatic. Cra-cra.
- Who was Jesus? John/Baptist asked: Are you the one? Expect...
- He healed / lame. Healed lepers. Sight/ blind. Deaf/ hear. Dead/raised
- ⁶Jesus [said], “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. ⁷If you really know me, you will know my Father as well. From now on, you do know him and have seen him.”
- ⁸Philip said, “Lord, show us the Father and that will be enough for us.”

- ⁹ Jesus answered: "Don't you know me, Philip, even after I have been among you such a long time? Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'?" ¹⁰ Don't you believe that I am in the Father, and that the Father is in me? The words I say to you I do not speak on my own authority. Rather, it is the Father, living in me, who is doing his work. ¹¹ Believe me when I say that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; or at least believe on the evidence of the works themselves.
- And what is the "evidence of the words"? Water/ wine. Calm/ sea.
 - o Walking on Water. Feed 5000/5 loaves. Bring dead back to life.

Look at Jesus w/ Mary and Martha. **John 11.** Bethany.

Vs 21 - "Lord," Martha said to Jesus, "if you had been here, my brother would not have died. But I know that even now God will give you whatever you ask." Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again." Martha answered, "I know he will rise again in the resurrection at the last day." **25** Jesus said to her, "**I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die; 26 and whoever lives by believing in me will never die. Do you believe this?**"

This is "I AM" statement #5.

He asked this **before the tomb.**

- Connects Jesus to **God** – "I AM"- the one who sent Moses.
- Connects Jesus to the **Divine/Deity** – can do the impossible.
- Connects J to **Salvation** - belief in Jesus ... the way. The only way.
 - o **Q:** Do you believe? Most people want to believe in what's true.

"The work of God is this; to believe in the one he has sent" Jn. 6:29

2 - Jesus – "I Am ... the Truth"

The Enemy doesn't want you to believe. He's the **father of lies.**

- **Jesus is Truth.** "Word made flesh" - "**Your word is truth.**"
- H.S. - "**Spirit of Truth**" "**Truth shall set you free**" ... sin/penalty
 - o A.I. Artificial truth... creating doubt... **hides what's real/ true.**
 - o What is truth? That which is in accord with fact/reality.
- Jesus didn't **hide anything.** Bible is consistent throughout.
 - o Come and See. . . empty tomb. **Open your eyes.**

- *You can decide He's a fool; you can spit at Him and call him a blasphemer; or you can fall at His feet & call Him Lord, Son/God*

3 - Jesus – “I am . . . the Life.”

- Jesus is not just the pathway to eternal life; path to best life now.
 - The **best life U will live** is found in embracing Jesus. His way.
 - Matt. 7 - Jesus explained there is a narrow gate & wide gate
 - Wide gate leads to destruction; many enter
 - **“But small is the gate and narrow the way that leads to life, and only a few find it.” – Matt. 7:14.**
 - Jesus is **“the gate” – He is the path to life.**
 - **We have many choices in life. Choose Jesus. Choose narrow. Life!**

Mid-week encouragement for the Soul. Hope you are encouraged!