

Who was Jesus? What claims did he make about Himself? Who do I believe He is? While these questions have been asked by many over the years, they are truly some of the most important questions we could ever answer. During Palm Sunday and the week leading up to Resurrection Sunday, we will look at the seven "I am" statements Jesus made, and consider what they reveal about His identity and mission.

Understanding the Claims of Jesus

I. Old Testament Background

It's critical to see God's big picture throughout all of Scripture. To fully understand Jesus' claims in the Seven "I Am" statements, we need to begin with Exodus 3:13-15. Take a moment to read the passage and consider the significance of the simple phrase, "I Am".

II. CONSIDERING OUR STRUGGLES

DESCRIBE a time you were severely hungry. **HAVE** you ever felt a similar way, spiritually?

WHAT is the closest experience you've had to complete darkness?

HOW have you experienced the power of light? **WHAT** made it wonderful? **WHAT** was the source of the light?

WHAT comes to mind when you think of a shepherd? **WHY** do you think a shepherd makes a good metaphor for Jesus?

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OBSERVATION

Read John 6:22-51

When the crowd can't find Jesus, what do they do (vs. 24-26)?

What kind of food does Jesus say they need, and where can they find it (vs. 29)?

According to Jesus, what must be done to attain this food (vs. 27-29)?

Read John 8:12-30

Why do the Pharisees question Jesus in vs. 13 and how does Jesus respond (vs. 14-18)?

What is the second question of the Pharisees (vs. 25) and how does Jesus answer them (vs. 28-30)?

Read John 10:1-21

What two claims does Jesus make about his identity in vs. 7 and vs. 12?

In vs. 18, what is Jesus communicating?

INTERPRETATION

From John 6:22-51

What does Jesus mean when He claims, "I am the bread of life"?

From John 8:12-30

Jewish law required at least two witnesses in collecting evidence. How can Jesus have authority to testify about himself?

In vs. 24-30, why do the crowds respond in frustration to Jesus' claim? What is Jesus' response to them?

From John 10:1-21

What does Jesus mean when he says that he is the door of the sheep as well as the shepherd in vs. 7 and 11)?

What is Jesus claiming when he says he has the authority to lay down his life and take it up again (vs. 17-18)?

APPLICATION

What seems to be the shared theme between all the "I am" statements Jesus makes?

What real difference does it make knowing that Jesus is God?