

SERMON OUTLINE

'Who do you say I am?'

The 'I Am' sayings in John's Gospel - 1

John 6 v25 - 51 & v66 - 69

Key Question for this new series of studies (Matt 16 v15) - "Who do you say I am?" If Christianity is Christ then this question of who Jesus Christ is, is of crucial and fundamental importance.

'What think you of Christ?'

John Newton

In John's Gospel it's Jesus Himself who gives us the answer to this in His 'I Am' sayings.

I AM THE BREAD OF LIFE

I AM THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD

I AM THE GATE FOR THE SHEEP

I AM THE GOOD SHEPHERD

I AM THE RESURRECTION AND THE LIFE

I AM THE WAY AND THE TRUTH AND THE LIFE

I AM THE TRUE VINE

The context of this first 'I Am' saying (v35, v48, v51) is the account of the miracle of the feeding of the five thousand. See v1 - 14.

Key Verse (having fed the five thousand) - v27. The best way to understand what Jesus was saying is to think of the events that took place here from the perspective of the people who saw everything that Jesus did and heard everything that Jesus said.

1. WE SEE THE PEOPLE LOOKING FOR JESUS

See v25. Key Question - Why were the people looking for Jesus? Note - v26a & 20 v30 - 31. Answer - v26b & v14 - 15. A king who would prosper them physically, materially, and socially.

Key Question of application - Why are we looking for Jesus?

Key Point - v27. What should be of primary importance is not the material and temporal but the spiritual and eternal.

2. WE SEE THE PEOPLE GRUMBLING ABOUT JESUS

See v41a. Key Question - Why were the people grumbling about Jesus?

A. THERE IS WHO HE WAS CLAIMING TO BE

Note - "I Am", see Ex 3 v14. Jesus was claiming to be God. See 8 v58 - 59. Notice the reaction here to this. See v41 - 42.

B. THERE IS WHAT HE WAS OFFERING TO ALL

See - v33. Notice how the people spoke about the manna in the days of the exodus from Egypt. See v31. Key Point - The significance of the manna was that it was given to the people, not just to provide them with sustenance (physical life) but to direct them to the God who alone could provide them with spiritual life - eternal life. See v48 - 51. This is exactly what lay behind the miracle of the feeding of the five thousand.

Note (v35) - In these days bread was necessary for life. If you didn't have bread you would die. Key Point - If we don't have Jesus we will die.

Key Question - How can we get this bread - this Jesus?

(i) We must come to Him

See v35a & v37, v44a

(ii) We must believe in Him

See v35b & v47

3. WE SEE THE PEOPLE TURNING FROM JESUS

See v66. Key Question (v68) - "To whom shall we go?"