

THE 'I AM'S OF JESUS

Sunday 2nd April 2017



How did Jesus describe Himself?

How is that relevant to me?

Come and learn more about Jesus with us in April and May.

Sunday mornings at 11.00am

nuneatonchristianfellowship.org.uk

12 Disciples

12 Disciples

Simon Peter
Andrew
James
John
Philip
Bartholomew
Thomas
Matthew
James
Thaddaeus
Simon
Judas

Matthew 10: 2-4
Luke 6:12-16

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Simon
Judas

Matthew 10: 2-4
Luke 6:12-16

Scholars think that only two of these men were not martyred.

ie Judas and John – first and last.

Four Gospels

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- Matthew
- Mark
- Luke

The Synoptics

Four Gospels

- Matthew
- Mark
- Luke

95% of Mark is found in Matthew and Luke!

Four Gospels

- Matthew
- Mark
- Luke
- John

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Tangent Alert

Four Gospels

- Matthew
- Mark
- Luke
- John

He also wrote Acts of the Apostles

He also wrote 3 Epistles and Revelation

Tangent Alert

Matthew and John were both Disciples of Jesus on earth. Mark (or John Mark) was a friend of Paul and a relative of Barnabas. Many people think that Peter told Mark many of the stories that are in his account of Jesus. Luke was a close friend of Paul and was a gentile.

John wrote his Gospel in c85AD in Ephesus. This is perhaps 20-25 years later than the other Gospel writers and around 15 years since the Romans destroyed the Temple in Jerusalem. He was “the disciple whom Jesus loved” but is now an old man. He was in the inner circle of the disciples. His brother James was also a disciple (he was the first disciple to be killed in 44AD-Acts 12:1, 2) and their dad was Zebedee. His Letters were written in Ephesus just a few years later. Revelation was written on an island called Patmos – a Greek island in the Aegean Sea, pretty close to the Turkish coast.

Over half of John’s Gospel is given over to the last few days of Jesus’ earthly life. There are 8 miracles that John writes about – 6 of these aren’t in the other Gospels (water to wine, healing official’s son, healing man at pool, the man born blind, Lazarus and second catch of fish. A few conversations are only found in John – Nicodemus and Samaritan woman etc, as well as Jesus’ intercessory prayer in chap 17.

Four Gospels

- Matthew
- Mark
- Luke
- John

95% of Mark is found in Matthew and Luke!

90% of John is unique to John

I am

- The Messiah
- The Bread of Life
- The Light of the World
- The Door/Gate
- The Good Shepherd
- The Resurrection
- and the Life
- The Way, the Truth
- and the Life
- The True Vine
- The Alpha and the Omega

These metaphors declare His deity and His relationship to mankind as Saviour and often reflect back to terms used in the OT.

I Am – John 8:48-59

58 "Believe me," said Jesus, "*I am who I am* long before Abraham was anything." [The Message]

58 "I tell you in solemn truth," returned Jesus, "before there was an Abraham, I AM!" [JB Phillips]

58 Jesus replied, "I assure you *and* most solemnly say to you, before Abraham was born, I Am." [New Living Translation]

58 Jesus said to them, "I assure you: Before Abraham was, I am." [Holman Christian Standard Bible]

I Am

- Exodus 3:13-15
- Philippians 2:6-11

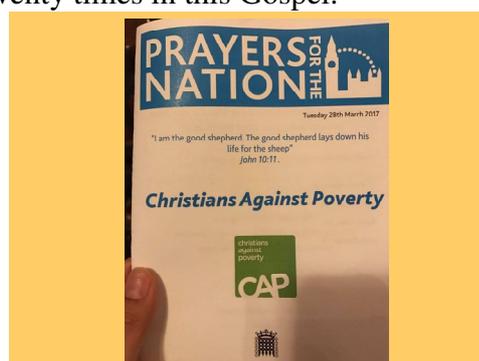
Jesus' 7 *I Am* statements in John are like an echo of Exodus 3:14. *I AM* is the name God gave Himself at the burning bush. Jesus is saying He is God!

Jesus is saying that He was alive before Abraham was alive. He is affirming His timeless existence. Their reaction at end of chapter 8 was to pick up stones. Kill Him. Blasphemy! Jesus uses the words "I am" over twenty times in this Gospel.

Jesus said:

"I am the Good Shepherd."

(John 10:11)



This is the 4th of Jesus, I Am proclamations. Shepherds were very familiar in Biblical times. Still quite a few in various parts of UK. 'One Man and his Dog' aired on BBC 1976-1999.

ἐγώ εἰμι ὁ ποιμὴν ὁ καλός

Short Definition: beautiful, good, worthy
 Definition: beautiful, as an outward sign of the inward good, noble, honourable character; good, worthy, honourable, noble, and seen to be so.
kalós – attractively good; good that inspires (motivates) others to embrace what is lovely (beautiful, praiseworthy); i.e. well done so as to be appealing.

That word describes Jesus so well!

The Message

“I am the Good Shepherd. The Good Shepherd puts the sheep before himself, sacrifices himself if necessary.

Amp

I am the Good Shepherd. The Good Shepherd risks *and* lays down His [own] life for the sheep.

Good News

“I am the good shepherd, who is willing to die for the sheep.

New Living Translation

“I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd sacrifices his life for the sheep.

Worldwide English New Testament

“I am the good shepherd. I am the one who really cares for the sheep. The good shepherd is willing to die to save his sheep.

He is contrasting Himself with the leaders of Israel – the Pharisees. Many of God’s leaders in Biblical times weren’t great. Ezekiel 34 – the shepherds of Israel are criticized.

Sheep are nearly always in potential danger. They need a good shepherd to look after them. In training now and I recognise how Nik and Paul have gone before me as the shepherd of this flock – they have authority leading the congregation. Please pray for Gill and I! A good relationship for us all. I want us all to hear the Chief Shepherd’s voice and follow it.

Sometimes God might say a lot to us and sometimes a little: Peter heard one word, recognised Jesus’ voice and went!

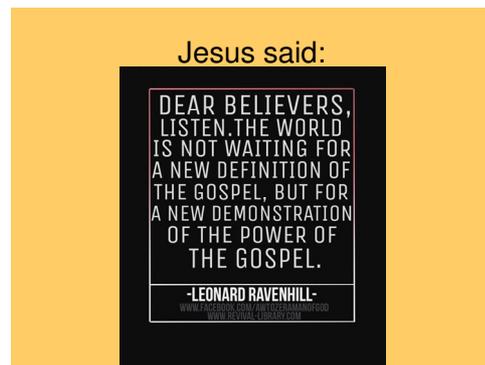
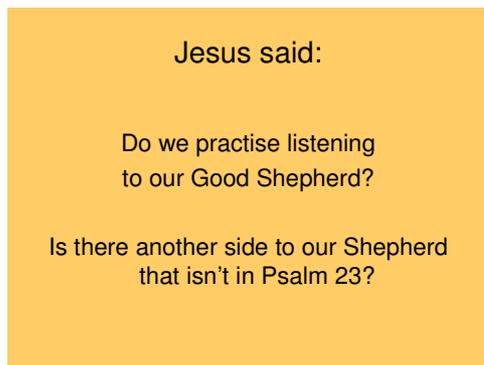
Jesus said:

- “Come.” (Matthew 14:29)
- “Be healed.” (Matthew 8:3)
- “Come, follow me.” (Matthew 4:19)
- “It is finished.” (John 19:30)

Jesus said:

Do we practise listening to our Good Shepherd?

Which voices do we listen to? Friends, family, films, newspapers and other media. People give their opinions, but they might always be the best or right opinions. Do we practise listening to God? Is it a voice we’re used to? Can we distinguish his voice to other voices? We can all be led astray over different matters.



Jesus isn't just our Good Shepherd when we get lost or feel terrible because of what we are going through. He isn't only our Shepherd when we lose our way.

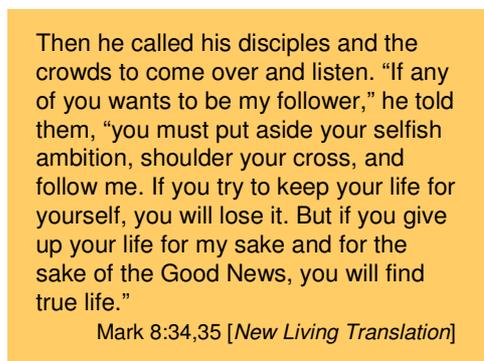
Jesus calls us all to live a different life to the one we had before we got saved.

Jesus calls us all to a fuller life than the one we had with Him five years ago.

Jesus calls us all to live a deeper life than the one we had with Him in 2016.

Jesus is calling us all to show the people that we know that the Gospel is real. Sin, hell and eternal death are real.

Jesus is calling us to the way of the Cross. We show the power of the Gospel by living like Jesus did.



John 10:10. "I have come that they might have life, and have it to the full." Freedom not to live for ourselves but for others. Dying to ourselves makes us come alive to God and thus to others. Jesus promises us all abundant life, but He gave His life for us and calls us to share our lives with others. It's a voluntary act of sacrifice. The hired person runs away when there is trouble. Jesus died for us. Jesus commands us to die to ourselves and live for Him. It's a total revolution to what most people would do.

Christians don't put their faith in a dead hero from the past. People have all sorts of heroes – from their family or scientific, political, sporting, religious, artistic, royal, acting, musical.... Winston Churchill, Duke of Wellington, Robert Peel, JS Bach, Harold Wilson, David Bowie, Queen Victoria, Mother Teresa, Vivaldi, Bernard Cribbins, John Lennon, Muhammed Ali, Mahatma Gandhi, Leonardo da Vinci and thousands of other icons are dead. Jesus is alive and active in our lives and throughout the world.

Jesus still says:
“I am the Good Shepherd.”
(John 10:11)

Jesus still says:
“I am ~~the~~ Good Shepherd.”
your
(John 10:11)

Are we allowing Him to be our shepherd *today*? Perhaps you did several months or years ago. Do you today?

Jesus still says:
“I am ~~the~~ Good Shepherd.”
your
(John 10:11)

How will *you* respond?

Jesus still says:
“I am ~~the~~ Good Shepherd.”
your
(John 10:11)

The Good Shepherd became
the Lamb (Isaiah 53:1-8)

Giving God 10-20 minutes most days and a couple of hours on a Sunday morning isn't enough. Cp driving from Nuneaton to Paris. c400 miles and would take c7 hours. If you looked at your atlas for 10 minutes before you set off and then didn't look at it through the remainder of the journey that would be strange. Even weirder if you had three passengers in the car and you didn't talk to them at all.

20 Now may the God of peace [Who is the Author and the Giver of peace], Who brought again from among the dead our Lord Jesus, that great Shepherd of the sheep, by the blood [that sealed, ratified] the everlasting agreement (covenant, testament),
21 Strengthen (complete, perfect) *and* make you what you ought to be *and* equip you with everything good that you may carry out His will; [while He Himself] works in you *and* accomplishes that which is pleasing in His sight, through Jesus Christ (the Messiah); to Whom be the glory forever and ever (to the ages of the ages). Amen (so be it).
Hebrews 13:20,21 [*Amplified*]