

The Gospel of John – The Seven “I AM” sayings Session 3

In John 10:7 we read: “Truly, truly, I say to you, **I am the door** of the sheep.”

In John 10:9 we read: “**I am the door**; of any one enters by me, he will be saved, and will go in and out and find pasture.”

Today’s “I am” saying is, “I am the door.” This phrase has no Old Testament connection, no other relevance to draw from. So we will look at the bigger context of chapter 10; to whom was he speaking this time?

I also want to explore a theme of John’s Gospel that experts over the years have determined to be called, “Christology”. Simply put, Christology is the study of Christ. In John’s Gospel we can look at what Jesus says about himself!

Jesus is clear that the way to God is through him

First, Jesus as the door. In the book of Revelation, that is attributed to John as well, there is the famous verse, “I stand at the door and knock.” (Rev. 3:20) Here Jesus is also inviting people to pass through the door with him as in Gospel of John 10:9. If people do not know him they will not be saved. This is a theme for John, knowing Jesus is your salvation.

I’m also wondering if Jesus as the door, in some translations it is a gate, (Psalm 118:20) if this is where we get the idea of the “Pearly Gates” before you get into heaven. Jesus as gatekeeper. After all we do confess in the Apostle’s Creed, “He comes to judge the living and the dead.”

Christology

John’s Gospel is ripe with images of Jesus that he himself gives to us that point us in the direction of “discovering” who he is and where he came from. His use of Father Son language brings that point home. “Who has seen me has seen the Father.” John 14:9

Jesus is so ready to talk about himself he uses "I" 118 times in John's Gospel. The other three Gospels combined is a total of 36 times.

With Christology certain questions are asked.

Who was Jesus?

Who does Jesus say he is?

What purpose did Jesus have in coming to earth?

Jesus is referred to and refers to himself as "Son of Man" and "Son of God" in the Gospels. Why the difference?

Now for the answers...You really need to read the Gospel in its entirety. The Prologue of John 1:1-18 is like a summary of what is to come. Jesus' I am sayings spell out who Jesus knows himself to be. And the last, and this is the best, in John's Gospel Jesus doesn't die the day after Passover. Jesus dies ON Passover. The Lamb of God as John the Baptist called him in the Prologue is hung up on the cross, sacrificed on Passover. His blood spilled so we might have freedom from sin.

More shall be revealed as our weeks go on...

Next week: "I am the Good Shepherd" John 10:11, 14