
Sermon Text Discussion Notes 05/24/2020

John 8:30-58 – “I Am” by Drew Hunter

Overview

We've seen Jesus make 7 “I Am” statements in the gospel of John:

I am... the light of the world, the bread of life, the door, the good shepherd, the resurrection and the life, the true vine, and the way, the truth, and the life.

But one of Jesus' most controversial I am statements is just that – Jesus simply declares, “I am.” And when he does, he wants us to understand the answers to three essential questions:

1. What is true faith? (8:30-32)
2. Who are we? (8:33-38)
3. Who is Jesus? (8:38-48)

Quotations

“Jesus is not talking to irreligious people here. He's not talking to the outwardly terrible people. He's talking to very religious people. People who even believe in him in some sense! And he says that there is a deep issue that needs to be resolved—they are enslaved in their hearts, and they need to be set free... This is our deepest problem—and it's the deep problem that religious and irreligious people have in common. This is alarming and uncomfortable to acknowledge. Jesus is saying that every person needs to acknowledge that this is their default heart-condition—until he sets them free.”
– Drew Hunter

“I am trying here to prevent anyone saying the really foolish thing that people often say about Him: 'I'm ready to accept Jesus as a great moral teacher, but I don't accept His claim to be God.' That is one thing we must not say. A man who was merely a man and said the sort of thing Jesus said would not be a great moral teacher. He would either be a lunatic – on a level with the man who says he is a poached egg – or else he would be the Devil of Hell... Either this man was, and is, the Son of God: or else a mad man or something worse. You can shut him up for a fool, you can spit at Him and kill him as a demon or you can fall at his feet and call him Lord and God. But let us not come with any patronizing nonsense about His being [merely] a great human teacher [and nothing else].” -C.S. Lewis, *Mere Christianity*

Understanding & Application

- 1) Read *John 8:30-32*. How does Jesus distinguish between true faith and false faith? Practically, how can we help each other to recognize, cultivate and deepen true faith?
- 2) Read *John 8:33-38*. Then, read aloud the above quote from Pastor Drew. Take time to confess any recent ways you've been impacted by the enslaving power of sin and to testify to recent freedom that you've found by fighting against a particular area of sin in your life.
- 3) Read C.S. Lewis' quote from above, and then read *John 8:38-48*. Here, Jesus claims the divine title, “I am,” for himself. Share about past or recent ways you have wrestled with the claims Jesus makes about himself.
- 4) Take some time to pray together for your neighbors, co-workers, family, and friends who are not-yet Christians. Ask for God to open their eyes to set them free by the Spirit and by God's Word.
- 5) Did God's Spirit press one truth on your heart as you listened to this sermon? Take a moment to share to your group what God wanted you to hear, and how it changes your tomorrow.