

APRIL 8, 2018

ALWAYS LEARNING...I AM sayings

Lesson 1: The Seven “I AM” sayings in the book of John

ICE BREAKER: Would you Rather (answer the 3 questions below)

Would you rather know the history of every object you touched *or* be able to talk to animals?

Would you rather be able to see 10 minutes into your own future *or* 10 minutes into the future of anyone but yourself?

Would you rather know when you are going to die *or* how you are going to die? (You can't change the time or method of your death.)

ALWAYS LEARNING BY...

I. Seeking God first.

A. Matthew 16:13-16 tells of the answer that Peter gives to Jesus's question concerning who He is. Read these verses and say the answer out loud several times. Let the answer sink in.

Background:

With his brother James, John was a fisherman on the Sea of Galilee in northern Palestine. One day when he and his brother were mending nets Jesus came by, walking along the shore. He called the brothers to follow Him and they did abandoning their father and his fishing business.

John may have begun his life as a fisherman on the shores of a small lake in northern Palestine, but toward the end of his life he found himself in the cosmopolitan city of Ephesus, the third largest city in the Roman Empire after Rome, where he wrote a book, a “gospel”, an account of the life, and death, and resurrection of Jesus, all of which he had witnessed. (The word “Gospel” is from

the Medieval English, “good spiel”, and in turn translates a Hellenistic Greek word which means, “Good News”.)

One characteristic of this document is that it includes seven statements of Jesus about Himself. (Among the Jews of that day the number “seven” was deemed to be holy and especially meaningful.) With these seven statements Jesus taught humankind who He was, what He had accomplished, and what He could do for those of us who followed Him. Here are the seven announcements of Jesus as to His identity—what a magnificent life-summary!

II. Studying His Word

A. The seven “I AM’s. (write out the verses)

1. I am the bread of Life. *John 6:35*
2. I am the Light of the World. *John 8:12*
3. I am the Door. *John 10:9*
4. I am the Good Shepherd. *John 10:11*
5. I am the Resurrection and the Life. *John 11:25-26*
6. I am the Way, and the Truth, and the Life. *John 14:6*
7. I am the Vine. *John 15:5*

III. Searching Resources

A. Look at some cross-references of these verses and see what you can learn.

IV. Sharing with one another (Believers)

A. Consider spending some time with one of your friends that is a Christian and relish in these truths together. It can be in person, on the phone or in a note.

V. Serving the Lord (Reaching the Unbelievers)

A. Ask the Lord to give you an opportunity this week to share one or all of these truths with someone you meet. It may just be what they need to hear.

“This is the best news I have ever heard, and I gladly share it with you my friends!” Cliff (*The background information and this statement were written by my father. He was the best teacher!*)