

# Why You Need Jesus to Face Life's Problems

## Jesus, the Great "I AM"



*"2 There the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a blazing fire from the middle of a bush. Moses stared in amazement. Though the bush was engulfed in flames, it didn't burn up." "14 God replied to Moses, 'I am who I am. Say this to the people of Israel: I am has sent me to you.'" Exodus 3:2, 14 NLT*

Life is constantly filled with problems. The good news is, we don't have to face them alone. Christ will walk through them with us.

### The Seven "I Am" Claims of Jesus in the Gospel of John

The "I am" statements have their roots in the Old Testament where Moses encountered God in the burning bush. God identified Himself as "I AM WHO I AM" (Exodus 3:14). I AM = the divine, eternal, pre-existent, infinite, perfect Being.

Jesus identified Himself as God when He used this expression (also cf. John 8:56-59).

John 8:58-59 *"58 Jesus answered, 'I tell you the truth, before Abraham was even born, I am!'" "59 At that point they picked up stones to throw at him. But Jesus was hidden from them and left the Temple."*

#### Central Lesson:

Jesus is sufficient to help us with life's problems because he is the "I Am" - God in human form.

#### 1. "I am the **BREAD** of life" (6:35).

*"Jesus replied, 'I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry again. Whoever believes in me will never be thirsty.'"*

Jesus uses this Old Testament reference to manna and claims to be the bread of life. He explained the bread in the wilderness of Exodus was only a temporary provision. It pointed to a true and eternal bread from heaven that God would later give. Jesus was this bread.

**Jesus:** Satisfies spiritual hunger; sustains and nourishes our lives.

#### 2. "I am the **LIGHT** of the world" (8:12).

*"Jesus spoke to the people once more and said, 'I am the light of the world. If you follow me, you won't have to walk in darkness, because you will have the light that leads to life.'"*

"Jesus was speaking in the part of the temple where the offerings were put (8:20), where candles burned to symbolize the pillar of fire that led the people of Israel through the wilderness (Exodus 13:21, 22). In this context, Jesus called himself the light of the world. The pillar of fire represented God's

presence, protection, and guidance. Jesus brings God's presence, protection, and guidance. Is he the light of your world?" *The Life Application Study Bible.*

**Jesus:** God's presence, protection, and guidance

#### 3. "I am the **GATE**" (10:7).

*"so he explained it to them: 'I tell you the truth, I am the gate for the sheep.'"*

"In the sheepfold, the shepherd functioned as a gate, letting the sheep in and protecting them. Jesus is the gate to God's salvation for us. He offers access to safety and security." *The Life Application Study Bible*

**Jesus:** Entrance into God's flock, inclusion in a caring family.

#### 4. "I am the good **SHEPHERD**" (10:11).

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

Ordinarily, the sheep were given as a sacrifice for the shepherd. But the Lord Jesus died for the flock. The shepherd leads his flock to pasture and protects them from danger, such as wolves. Jesus will lead us, provide for us, and protect us.

**Jesus:** Guidance, provision, protection, a caring friend & overseer.

#### 5. "I am the **RESURRECTION** and the life" (11:25).

*"Jesus told her, 'I am the resurrection and the life. Anyone who believes in me will live, even after dying.'"*

"Jesus has power over life and death as well as power to forgive sins. This is because he is the creator of life (see 14:6). He who is life can surely restore life. Whoever believes in Christ has spiritual life that death cannot conquer or diminish in anyway." *The Life Application Study Bible.*

**Jesus:** Victory over our greatest enemy—death. Assurance of possessing eternal life.

#### 6. "I am the **WAY** and the truth and the life" (14:6).

*"Jesus told him, 'I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one can come to the Father except through me.'"*

"Jesus says he is the only way to God the Father. Some people may argue that this way is too narrow. In reality, it is wide enough for the whole world, if the world chooses to accept it." *The Life Application Study Bible.* Salvation is in a person—Jesus Christ.

**Jesus:** Assured access to a relationship with God.

#### 7. "I am the **VINE**" (15:5).

*"Yes, I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who remain in me, and I in them, will produce much fruit. For apart from me you can do nothing."*

The branches must be connected to the vine to stay alive. Life and nourishment flow from the vine into the branches. As believers, we must stay connected to Christ so that his spiritual life and strength flows into our lives

**Jesus:** Source of spiritual life and strength for living.

#### Central Lesson:

Jesus is sufficient to help us with life's problems because he is the "I Am" - God in human form.

► Accept Christ as your Savior. ► As a Christian, dedicate your life to Christ. ► Invite someone to next Sunday's study. ► Attend a small group. ► Read the Bible this week & journal meaningful verses. ► Pray for friends that need Jesus.