



John: The Great "I AM" Gospel  
John 7:25-36  
From Sermon 1. 7.23

Read *John 7:25-36*

Overview from Sunday's sermon: Having entered the final 6 months of His earthly ministry, Jesus goes into overdrive to preach repentance and salvation thru Himself alone. While many are fascinated by Jesus, very few actually commit to Him. Time is becoming both short and critical. Fallen human nature never changes. That is why there are striking parallels in these accounts of Jesus' preaching to the obstacles and responses we face in the presenting the Gospel today.

1. What have you learned so far from John's Gospel? Various Personal Answers

2. Review: What does "I AM" mean? It is the formal Name of God. We translate it "YAHWEH". It encompasses His eternity and sovereignty. See Exodus 3:13-14

2a. Why is it so significant that Jesus claimed that title? See also John 8:56-58 & 10:33. Jesus was claiming to be God. He was the One speaking to Moses on Mt. Sinai. He is the Word of God.

3. What terms and phrases from chapter 7 show the mass confusion the people had concerning Jesus? Various answers. "We know where He's from/we don't know where. Are the leaders trying to kill Him or not? Do the priests know He's the Messiah or a fake? Will the Messiah do more miracles than this Jesus?"

4. What did Israel's religious leaders do to clarify the crowd's confusion? Nothing. They knew the answer to many of the questions but did not want to lend any legitimacy to Jesus' identity. They did not lead the crowd in the study of the Scriptures but kept them trapped in religion. See Matthew 9:36

4a. How is that identical to the church today and teaching about Jesus? One portion of "the church" wants to keep the Scriptures closed and the people trapped in a reliance on works. Another segment wants to make Jesus into a spiritual Santa Claus who's not concerned about holiness, repentance, and death to self—but instead on prosperity, self-esteem, & a problem free life.

5. Read and discuss Jesus' same warning from other Gospel parables: *Matthew 25:1-13 & Luke 14:16-24* One day (soon) the door will shut. Unable to be reopened. Be prepared.

5a. From Sunday's sermon: What two unsettling realities did the "closed door" doctrine bring to life? 1) The Word will be gone—preaching will cease. 2) Hearts grow harder each time the Truth of the Gospel is heard and rejected.

**Understanding the Diaspora/Dispersion (Verse 35)**

**Following the rebellion and apostasy of both the northern and southern kingdoms of Israel in the Old Testament, the Jews were scattered (dispersed) around the known world. That is why, when the Gospel begins to spread, there were synagogues in almost every city. Very few Jews returned to the Land after the exile(s). Preaching to the Diaspora means you'd be interacting with non-Jewish people/nations.**