



John: The Great "I AM" Gospel
John 7:37-52
From Sermon 1.14.24

Read *John 7:36-52*

Overview from Sunday's sermon: With every presentation of the Gospel (then and now) Jesus is posing the eternal question: Who do you say that I am? While there may be numerous human answers to the question, in the end, they all boil down to two: Just another man/option or the exclusive almighty God. Jesus is also showing you don't get any break or benefit for being closer to Jesus' identity but still falling short of making Him Lord. The invitation is given, yet few will respond.

1. What are some of the transcending, universal responses to the question of Jesus' nature and identity? A legend, a philosopher, a misunderstood martyr, a deceiver of masses, another prophet, one of many ambassadors for God throughout history, a wise teacher...

2. Who is salvation in Jesus Christ available to? Anyone and everyone.

See also *John 3:16, Galatians 3:26-28, & 1 Corinthians 6:9-11*

2a. Because of our Reformed Doctrines of Unconditional Election and Limited Atonement, what are Calvinists often falsely accused of when it comes to evangelism? That since God has all things preordained, we are not concerned with evangelism. That we would somehow, in any way, limit those with whom we would share Christ and our testimony. This is just Not true. We have no idea whom God has chosen. We must follow the Great Commission. See Matthew 28:18-20

3. What does it mean to be spiritually thirsty? What type is universal and what type is "unto salvation"? Spiritual thirst is the common emptiness in man's soul. Universally, everyone seeks to fill the void and usually does so with religion. But man will worship just about anything. Thirst unto salvation is recognizing our true condition—total depravity. Hopelessness. Unbridgeable estrangement from holy God. Seeing our need for a Savior and an alien righteousness.

See *Ecclesiastes 3:11 & Matthew 5:3 & 6, & Romans 7:18*

4. What was the positive "Response Ratio" of the Parable of the sower? 1 in 4. What is the salvation ratio of those who heard Jesus on this day? Same ratio, but only in response options, not in response population.

4a. What does that very low positive response ratio tell us about today's church marketing & methods (watered-down, diminished, softened Gospel. Making church more palatable to the world Gospel)? Low positive response and great rejection to Jesus is reality—And He's the greatest teacher ever. Conversion is not based on argument, logic, appeal, answers, benefits, or tolerance. God must move the heart of stone, transform the person thru rebirth, gift faith, and present the truth of the Word/Gospel.

5. If you had to be honest, what worldly methods have you tried to get someone (a loved one even) to come to Christ? Various Answers. Manipulation, guilt, shame, becoming like them, avoiding the hard truths, ...