

The Great I Am's John 6:35

Shall we turn to John 6 and let us take a look at verse 35, and then we are going to jump over to Exodus 3. So if you could put your finger or a piece of paper in both of those, I will explain. Interesting that in John 6:66, many of His disciples from that moment departed and no longer walked with the Lord. But this morning, we would like to start a seven-part series on the great "I Am's" of the bible. In the gospel of John there are seven I Am's. He declares, **I Am the Bread of Life** (John 6:35). **I Am the Light of the World** (John 8:12; 9:5). So we pick up in John 6:35 and Jesus said unto them, "**I am the Bread of Life. He that cometh to me shall never hunger, and he that believes on me shall never thirst.**" So Jesus is now making a very strong statement "I Am." Then if you would jump down to verse 41 (John 6), the Jews then murmured at Him, because he said, "**I am the bread which came down from heaven.**" Then jump down to verse 48 (John 6), "**I am the bread of life.**" And then lastly in verse 51 (John 6), "**I am the living bread which came down from heaven: if any man eat of this bread, he shall live for ever: and the bread that I will give is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world.**"

So four times in this chapter, it mentions that He is the bread of life. Let me give to you the seven different times this "I Am" is used. Here we find in John 6:35 "**I am the bread of life.**" If you will jump over to chapter 8:12, you will be able to underline "**I am the light of the world.**" "**I am the light of the world.**" (John 8:12) If you will then take another jump over to John 10:9, "**I am the door,**" then again in John 10:11, "**I am the good shepherd.**" And then in John 11:25, "**I am the resurrection.**" You remember when He was speaking to Martha, that He said, "I Am the Resurrection and the Life". There are two more

in John 14:6, the one we know so well—"I am the way the truth and the life." The last one that we will be looking at is in John 15:5, "I am the True Vine." So seven different times, John uses this word, "I Am." **I am the bread of life** (John 6:35), **I am the light of the world** (John 8:12), **I am the door** (John 10:9), **I am the good shepherd** (John 10:11), **I am the resurrection** (John 11:25), **I am the way, the truth, the life** (John 14:6). **I am the vine** (John 15:5)."

I came across an interesting story the other day that kind of says it really where it is. It is a story about a little boy named Timothy. Timothy was afraid of the lightning and the thunder. His mom and dad went into his room and tucked him in and said, "Now Timmy, don't be afraid; God is right here in the room with you." He said, "OK mom and dad, I won't be afraid." But when his mom and dad left the room, he started to get ready for bed, and the lightning flashed and the thunder rolled and he screamed bloody murder and jumped under the sheets. Well his dad and mom came running into the room, and said, "Honey, We thought we told you do not be afraid of the lightning. God is right here with you in the room." And he replied, "Mom and dad, I know that God is right here in the room with me. But I need someone with skin on right now."

I kind of like that story because a lot of times we do not see the Lord nor do we feel the Lord. And yet, He will never leave you nor will He ever forsake you. He is seeking to bring you to a point that you understand the consciousness of God within your life; that you allowed God to come in and to dominate your life, to take control of your very being. If you will do that, then God will bless you, and God will meet you. And God will become all that you need within your life. So when we look at "**I am the good shepherd** (John 10:11), **I am the bread of life** (John 6:35), if I am really going to understand what Jesus is really saying, turn with me to Exodus 3:10. In Exodus 3:10, we come to a dialog between Moses and God, and you know the story very well, how Moses was fleeing for his

life out of Egypt because he took an Egyptian and killed that Egyptian thinking the he will be the deliverer of the children of Israel. But he was premature. God wanted to bury the whole army, but Moses got ahead of God. And because he got ahead of God, he now put himself in a difficult position and so he ran for his life out in the desert, and there in the desert God begins to work in this man. He begins to speak to him, begins to undo what others had done in his life. For forty years, you remember that he had become part of the Pharaoh's house. He was educated in the finest schools, and he was brilliant when it came to things of Egypt. But now God had to redo everything he had learned. And it had to become a time in Moses' life that he would learn to trust God.

I want to tell you upfront, trusting God is not an easy thing. It means you are not going to worry about anthrax. It means you are going to trust God that He will be with you and that He is going to show you, guide you, lead you, and direct you within your life. It means you have to trust God with your teenage daughter when she goes out on a date. Sometimes I think if did it over again, I would be cleaning my guns as a boy came over or something, just to kind of give him an idea what I am going to be with him. Sometimes I think that if I had to do the whole thing all over, I would send both kids to the mission field and bring them back when they are 23 years old. But being a parent is about trusting God, not always trusting your children. Sometimes it even means trusting God more than you trust your spouse, because you believe that god can speak to your spouse where you can't. And you believe that God can speak to your boss where you cannot. So the dialog begins where you begin to grow in the knowledge of grace. You begin to pray not because you are trying to turn the tide; you are trying to find what God's will is in your life and so you show your humility and ability to humble yourself in submission and surrender your life to His Lordship as you begin to seek his direction. At the end of 40 years, Moses is now 80 years old. He sees a burning bush. You need to remember that was quite a common sight there in the desert. Things would often explode because of the heat. But

this one was different because the bush was not being consumed. So he was drawn towards the bush and when he turned, the bible declares, God turned (Exodus 3:4). And when you turn, God will turn. And the moment he turned, he heard a voice **"take off your shoes for this is holy ground"**. I in my own heart believe that what it means to take off your shoes is a very important part of your life and my life. In the book of Joshua the angel hosts told Joshua "take off your shoes because this is holy ground." (Joshua 5:15) If I were to put it in our terminology today and put the cookies on the bottom shelf, I would say that after 80 years of Moses's life, he was tired of walking in those shoes. It had not really done much for him. In the life of Joshua, it was 40 years in Egypt and 40 years in the wilderness, so he was tired of walking in those shoes. So when he took off his shoes, it means that now he is going to walk in God's shoes. It means that God is going to walk in your shoes.

When a person really comes to a point where they are tired of who they are, tired of what is going on in their life, and they take off their shoes, in a sense they are saying, "God would you come now and begin to walk in my life." The moment God takes over your shoes, takes over the place of your authority, what you do, and the things that are important to you, then things begin to happen.

So we pick up the story, and now therefore in Exodus 3:10, **"Come now, therefore and I will send thee to Pharaoh, that thou mayest bring forth my people the children of Israel out of Egypt." But Moses said to God, "Who [am] I, that I should go unto Pharaoh, and that I should bring forth the children of Israel out of Egypt?"** (Exodus 3:11). And He said, **"Certainly I will be with thee"** (underline I will be with thee), **"and this shall be a token unto thee, that I have sent thee: When thou hast brought forth the people out of Egypt, ye shall serve God upon this mountain."** (Exodus 3:12). **And Moses said unto God, "Behold, [when] I come unto the children of Israel, and shall say unto them, The God of**

your fathers hath sent me unto you; and they shall say to me, What [is] his name? what shall I say unto them? (Exodus 3:13). Great question. **“And God said unto Moses, I AM THAT I AM: and he said, Thus shalt thou say unto the children of Israel, I AM hath sent me unto you. ”** (Exodus 3:14)

Now maybe that does not mean a lot to you today in the year in which we live, but to Moses it was a revelation. Before, it was a name that was unapproachable, Yahweh or Jehovah. But for the first time in the life of Moses, God was saying to Moses, “This is how you are going to know Me. You are going to know Me in a way that you need to know Me.” What it means is I Am that I Am. In other words Moses, you can put in whatever you need between the letters. I am your strength that I Am. You might be losing joy today and God would say I am your joy that I Am. So whatever need, whatever desire whatever thing that is bothering you, God is inviting you to a personal relationship with Him. Now that has nothing to do with church; it has nothing to do with religion, nothing to do with my past. It has everything to do with right now within my life.

The reason why relationships are falling apart with our children, in our marriages, in our single life, is because we do not know how to maintain relationships because we do not know how to maintain a relationship with God. If you are right with God, you are right in every other relationship in your life. But if you are wrong with God, then every other relationship in your life is going to suffer. So when God becomes the common denominator of your life, though I fall and though I stumble, yet I still look to the Lord, then God becomes all that I need. And he said to Moses, “Tell them that I Am has sent you.”

Kind of interesting, I am to you Moses what I am in Myself. I am to you Steven in what I am in Myself. The moment you join heart with Me, you and I become one and you now become a majority not a minority. In other words, I will not

give you joy, I will become your life, therefore you will have joy. You won't have power but I will give you Myself, and that is all the dunamis power you need in your life. Today, we live in a society that we want all the benefits without God. We want someone to protect our nation but not God. We want someone to watch over our marriage but not get involved. We want all the blessings of life, but we do not want to have to answer to anyone in our life. Until I understand that **"greater is He that is in me than He that is in the world"**; when I really understand that nothing can touch me, unless it goes through His hand; when I understand that **"He will never leave me nor forsake me.."** as long as I live; when I really understand that He died for me that He might save me, then it becomes a personal relationship with my Father. When that happens, everything changes in my life. I become part of the work that God is doing. Now God speaks through me, and God works through my life. So it is important for you and me to understand the relationship that God is seeking to build.

He said the very same thing to Abraham (Genesis 17:1) **"And when Abram was ninety-nine years old, the LORD appeared to Abram, and said unto him, I [am] the Almighty God; walk before me, and be thou perfect."** So we declare, who is ever going to be perfect? That is not the point. The point of "perfect" means to be complete or to be mature. The issue is how can I walk a Christian walk without Him being part of my life. You remember Amos 3:3 **"Can two walk together, except they be agreed?"** So God is saying that I will be your God and I will walk with you during this time in your life. He also said to David, **"be still and know that I am God."** So I can rush around and live on CNN and read every newspaper and understand everything that is going on in my country, but it still will not bring me a peace in my own heart.

So God simply declares to David, David you need to sit still. David, you need to be still. You need to be still enough to realize I am fighting your battles. To Jeremiah 32:27, **"Behold I am the Lord the God of all flesh. Is there**

anything too hard for me to do?" And the answer is no. Can he deliver you from cancer? Yes. Does he want to? I don't know. You say well, I want to be delivered. You will be delivered one way or the other. Either you are going to be healed and walking down here or you're going to be healed with a brand new body up in heaven. Whether I live, I live into the Lord, whether I die, I die into the Lord. Whether I live or whether I die, I am the Lord's. People who do not know the Lord think that is really morbid. Is it? Is it really morbid to want to meet the Lord? Is it really bad to want to be with the Lord? To go to a place where there is no more crying, no more tears, no more sadness; that where my body will be transformed in a moment within a twinkling of an eye, that this corruption will put on incorruption. In other words, why am I living my life?

Paul says, "Listen. If you keep me alive, I am going to share with you the answer of life, Jesus Christ." **"For me to live is Christ"** (Philippians 1:21). If you take my life, and I die of anthrax, then for me to die is to gain. I am going to see the Lord. So how am I going to function today? I have my past and my future and my present dedicated in the Lord. Now there is not one of us who desires to go through hard times. None of us know how to deal with difficult moments in our life. And I have seen enough pain in life to want to say that God is good and life is tough. God never promised to insulate or isolate you from pain or sorrow within your life. The reason why there are divorces going on, the reason why there is terror going on, the reason why things are falling apart all over the world is because God made the heavens and the earth, and man is unwilling to submit his life to God's authority. And God is saying to us once again, "I Am." He is saying more than ever before, "I want to walk with you. I want to fellowship with you." He said to Ezekiel 38:23, **"Thus will I magnify Myself and sanctify Myself and I will be known in the eyes of many, for I am the Lord."** So it is God who will magnify Himself. It is God who will sanctify Himself.

And one other, Isaiah 41:10, **"Fear thou not for I am with thee. Be not dismayed for I am thy God. I will strengthen thee, yea I will help thee, I will hold thee with thy right hand of righteousness."** So "Isaiah," he declares, **"I will be with you. When you walk through the fire, I will be with you. When you go through the valley, I will be with you. When you go through the times when the floods begin to overflow you, I will be with you. In other words, God is declaring that He will never leave you nor forsake you."** (Isaiah 43:2)

When I look at my life and I look at some of our lives and I look at the world in which we live, what am I to do? Do I panic and go ballistic? Or do I drop to my knees and ask God to help me? Do I fly or do I not fly? Do I minister to others around the country, or do I stay home and fear? Do I grab my mail without gloves, or do I just walk out there and grab it? Those are questions that only you can answer. But for me in my life, there are things that I still need to do and want to do. So there is no difference if it's Nero seeking to kill the Christians or anthrax seeking to get a hold of me. For me to be paralyzed is very simply to say, where are you God? And you are going to hear about others who are going to have difficult times. But wouldn't it make sense to you that when our country is under attack and terrorism is beginning to gain a foothold and you can now do terrorism for \$.34 a stamp, wouldn't you just dream in your heart and mind when you hear the Postmaster who said that the mail is no longer safe to be delivered to your home? Wouldn't you think that you and I would fall to our knees and say God if there is ever a time that I need you, it is now. Watch over my family. God, would you please help my children through this tough time? But the problem is, the answer is, I can't believe it. what is going on? This is the time that God wants to build a relationship in your life.

So I want to give you the very basics of a foundation. Jesus said, you remember in the New Testament, before Abraham was, "I Am." They said you are not even

40 years old. He said before Abraham was ever alive, I was. Jesus said when you see me lifted up on the cross then you will know that I Am.

And finally, one of the most frightening verses that Jesus ever said, **"I say therefore unto you, that ye shall die in your sins: for if ye believe not that I am [he], ye shall die in your sins."** (John 8:24) And Jesus now says, **"I am the bread of life"** (John 6:35). You can try to satisfy the hunger but the material things will never satisfy the hunger that God has placed in your heart. The woman at the well sought to satisfy the thirst in our own heart. But she couldn't. Jesus said to the woman at the well, if you drink of this well you are going to thirst again, if you drink of me you will never thirst again (John 4:13). He is going to come next week, and He is going to share with us and you are the bread of life that in that bread you will never hunger again. Though you can be blessed and have material things, they will not drive you or fulfill your heart. The driving force of your life has been healed. If you have, great; if you don't, great; you are satisfied because never again do you need to say I am not right with God. Or never do you need to say again, I am so thirsty but I have nothing to drink. I need to go here or go there. Finally, there is a peace that comes over your life. But it will only happen as you begin to realize, "Steven, I Am. What ever you need me to be, I am that I am in myself."

You mean God that this morning I can put you, put whatever I need there? "Yes, Steven. I am your strength that I am to myself." "You mean God you are going to give me your strength to finish up today? Uh-huh. **"As your day is, so shall my strength be."** Oh, God, I don't have a lot of love right now, I'm kind of bitter." "I am your love, that I am Myself. I am the Source of love. I'll be your love." "You mean you will love me in spite of who I am, with so much love that I will be able to love my children, my family, and my friends even though they hurt me?" "Uh-huh. You have been doing it all in a flesh, in your time. Are you willing to come and say I Am?"

Closing Prayer:

Father, I pray this morning that God, as we look in the next few weeks together on Sunday morning, how that we need to be able to say and hear that You are the bread of life. God, we are so hungry within our own spirits. We are dying spiritually though we have so many material things, buying the newest cars or the newest clothing or buying the newest home or occupying more things and having greater positions will never satisfy the hunger that You put within our heart. It is only as we come to You and we begin to eat of Your word that we eat something that will not perish. Everything else we partake perishes before us. Lord our friends die, cars begin to decay, homes begin to get termites, children begin to leave home, relationships begin to falter. And we look around and we cry out where are You? And God if we will listen, we will hear, "I am here." We need to today come to the Source of the food. Come to the Source of the water. Come to the Source of the light. It is not that we have been hurt by other churches, or other pastors, by other marriages we need to come back to Jesus. Come back to the living water. Come back to the word of God. So this morning, we want to come home. Father we will thank You and we will praise You in Jesus name, Amen.