

I Am – The Christ

In these days after Easter, many people are still wondering who Jesus was and why billions of Christians around the world worship him. *What made Jesus so great?* We answer that question in this next series of devotions, as Jesus makes his **Great I Am** statements. As we take a look at how the Son of God reveals himself in Scripture in various ways, we see the many and great characteristics of our Savior and Lord.

One day Jesus took his disciples through a part of Israel called Samaria. There they came to the town of Sychar. Just outside the town was a well where the people came to get their water. Jesus was very tired, so he sat down to rest by the well. Meanwhile, his disciples went into the town to buy food. Soon a woman from Samaria—a Samaritan—came to the well to get water. Jesus asked her, “Will you give me some water to drink?” The woman was very surprised when Jesus spoke to her. She said, “Why are you asking me for a drink? I am a Samaritan, and you are a Jew.” She said this because the Jews and Samaritans did not get along with each other.

“If you knew who I am,” Jesus said, “you would ask me for a drink and I would give you living water.” Through a dialogue back and forth, Jesus wanted the woman to understand that he was the Christ and able to give her the waters of eternal life. The Samaritans only believed the first 5 books of the Bible, the Pentateuch, and as such they knew very little about the coming Messiah. The Samaritans would have also looked upon the Messiah as more of a teacher than a Savior.

Jesus wanted to make this woman see how sinful she was and how much she needed a Savior. So he told her about some of the many things she had done that were wrong. The woman thought, “This man has never met me, and yet he knows all about the sinful things I have done. He must be a prophet.”

But Jesus wanted the woman to see that he was more than just a prophet. So he told her, “I am the promised Messiah, I AM The Christ.” Jesus also knows the many things we have done wrong. Even though we have never met Jesus face to face, he knows our every sin. Christ means *The Anointed One*. At the beginning of Jesus ministry, he quoted the prophet Isaiah concerning his coming, “*The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners*” (4:18).

Like the Samaritan woman, we need to understand the purpose for Jesus’ coming. He did not come to simply be a teacher, a prophet, or a righteous man – he came to be our Savior. Only Jesus could take away our sins on the cross. Only Jesus could give us eternal life through his resurrection from the dead. Jesus is the Christ, God’s Anointed One, the only one through whom we can be saved.

Read...**John 4:1-26** as today’s Scripture Lesson

Blessings to you and your families,
Pastor Matthew Guse