



## **ETC 2024 Quiet Time Commentary**

*Monday, July 22*

### **John 6:25-35 — I AM #1 “I am the Bread of Life”**

Key Verse: John 6:35, 48

#### ***Commentary***

In this first “I AM” statement, Jesus shows us the need to satisfy our spiritual appetite. Having just performed the miracle, “Feeding 5,000” (6:1-15), a crowd of hungry people were searching for Jesus. The crowd coming were seeking physical bread that would never go bad (6:30-34), but instead of offering them bread, Jesus offered them Himself (6:35,48). Jesus Christ alone can satisfy our spiritual appetites and provide us with everlasting life. When you believe in Jesus by faith, you are saved and can be fully satisfied in Him. All you have to do is believe, “whoever believes has eternal life” (6:47).

*Day 2: Tuesday, July 23*

### **John 1:1-5 & 8:12 — I AM #2 “I am the Light of the World”**

Key Verse: John 8:12

#### ***Commentary***

Jesus declared this second “I AM” statement around the time of the Feast of Tabernacles, where Jewish people remember God’s provision to their ancestors through the desert with manna, water, and light in the form of a pillar of fire (Exodus 13:21). In the same way God rescued the Israelites out of slavery and delivered them into the promised land, Jesus now rescues and delivers us out of darkness and into His marvelous light (1 Peter 2:9). We live in a world full of sin and darkness, but by following Jesus we have Light to help us navigate, maintain fellowship with God (1 John 1:6-7), and even shine as lights in the world (Philippians 2:15).

*Day 3: Wednesday, July 24*

### **John 10:1-18 — I AM #3 “I am the Door” & I AM #4 “I am the Good Shepherd”**

Key Verses: John 10:7,9 & 11,14

#### ***Commentary***

In these third & fourth “I AM” statements, Jesus is the shepherd and we are the sheep. As you might know, sheep are prone to wonder, getting injured or stuck, basically they are very vulnerable creatures in need of someone’s care and guidance! “I am the Door” means we can enter into God’s family only by going through Jesus. He is the doorway into abundant life, security, and fellowship with God. “I am the Good Shepherd” means Jesus knows us, watches over us, will not abandon us, and is even willing to lay down His life for us. When you follow Jesus, you can find safety and shelter under the loving care of our Good Shepherd. Jesus will not abandon you and He even willingly gave His life for you (John 3:16).

*Day 4: Thursday, July 25*

**John 11:17-27 — #5 “I am the Resurrection & the Life”**

Key Verses: John 11:25-26

***Commentary***

This fifth “I AM” statement comes in the middle of Jesus performing the seventh sign where He raises Lazarus from the dead. The fear of death lives inside every human and every religion; however, as Christians we have hope after death because of Jesus. In the story death had brought a huge sense of hopelessness and sadness to everyone, but Jesus comforted Martha by promising to her Lazarus would live again, which He demonstrated later (John 11:43-33). We have something no other religion has, a living God. Jesus has conquered death and has the ability to grant everlasting life to anyone who believes. Everyone who believes and follows Jesus will live forever, sin has lost its power and death has lost its sting (1 Corinthians 15:55). We don’t have to fear death, because Christ has conquered that for us. He truly is the Resurrection and the Life.

*Day 5: Friday, July 26*

**John 14:1-14 — #6 “I am the Way, and the Truth, and the Life”**

Key Verse: John 14:6

***Commentary***

In this sixth “I AM” statement, we learn Jesus is the only way into heaven and a relationship with God. In heaven “Father’s House” there are “many rooms” and Jesus will go to prepare a place for us. In those days before a young man was able to marry, he must first prepare a house for his future bride. Jesus has gone and prepared a place for us, so if you follow Jesus, you are following Him into heaven. The world might say all roads will eventually lead to the same place in the end, but as Christians we believe Jesus is **THE WAY** into heaven and eternal life. The world might say there is no absolute truth (no right from wrong), but as Christians we believe Jesus is **THE TRUTH** and tells us the truth about God. The world might say Jesus was just a really good person, but as Christians we believe He was 100% Human & 100% God, if you want to know more about God, just look at Jesus.

*Day 6: Saturday, July 27*

**John 15:1-17 — #7 “I am the True Vine”**

Key Verses: John 15:1,5

***Commentary***

In this seventh and final “I AM” statement, we find that the key to an effective and fruitful Christian life is through abiding in Christ. In the past Israel was often referred to as a vine, but now Jesus is the “true vine” or the “better vine.” He represents all that is good about a vine, spiritually speaking. Fruit is an outward product of an inner reality, it shows the inside of the plant is healthy and rooted well. As Christians, the fruit we produce is an outward display of the inner working of God in our lives. Abiding in Christ means following His example daily (1 John 2:4-6), staying connected and rooted in His Word (Colossians 3:16), and actively becoming better friends with Jesus (John 15:15). As we follow Christ and our obedience, our fellowship and intimacy with Him will grow (John 15:10). If you want to accomplish much for God’s Kingdom, you need to be abiding in Jesus. He will provide you with the strength, nourishment, and ability to make an impact for His glory.

*Day 7: Sunday, July 28*

*Throughout His ministry and recorded in John, Jesus performed seven signs/miracles to prove He was the Son of God (John 20:30-31).*

**John 2:1-11 — Sign #1 “Water to Wine”**

***Commentary***

By performing this first sign, Jesus proved that He is Lord over both nature and time, by changing one substance into another. We need to place our faith in Jesus and believe just as the disciples “believed” after witnessing the miracle. Is there an area of your life that needs to be “made new” again? By trusting our lives to Jesus, we believe He can make all things new. If God can turn water into wine, He can also turn our mess into something beautiful.

*Day 8: Monday, July 29*

**John 4:46-54 — Sign #2 “The Official’s Son”**

***Commentary***

By performing this second sign, Jesus proved that He is Lord over life. He chose to heal the Official’s son and also reward the man for his great faith. We need to have the same belief and faith in Jesus that the Official had, but that can be easier said than done at times. Jesus always had a purpose when healing. Often we just focus on the actual miracle taking place, but can miss the meaning behind it. Whenever Jesus heals anyone, try and look for the purpose underneath it.

*Day 9: Tuesday, July 30*

**John 5:1-17 — Sign #3 “Healing of a Lame Man**

***Commentary***

By performing this third sign, Jesus proved He could save/heal the spiritually dead/sick. Jesus has the power to restore life to the spiritually dead, no matter how sinful or dirty they are. He also has the power to save you. Have you been spiritually healed by Jesus? Believe in Jesus today and receive this free gift of eternal life and spiritual healing. Also, by asking the man to “Get up, take up your bed, and walk”, Jesus was asking for immediate obedience.

*Day 10: Wednesday, July 31*

**John 6:1-14 — Sign #4 “Feeding of the 5,000”**

***Commentary***

By performing this fourth sign, Jesus proved that He is the sustainer of life and the daily food we need. Not only did Jesus perform a great miracle in multiplying the loaves and fishes, but He also used His disciples to test their faith and teach them as well. Even a little, in the hands of Jesus, can be much. If we faithfully follow and give Jesus our entire lives, He can take it, bless it, multiply it, and use it to make an impact around the world for His glory!

*Day 11: Thursday, August 1*

**John 6:15-21 — Sign #5 “Jesus Walks on Water”**

***Commentary***

By performing this fifth sign, Jesus proved that even in our greatest trials and storms of this life, He is a helper and refuge for us. Jesus was able to walk on water, calm the sea (in other Gospels), and comfort His disciples who were full of fear. Fear is a very common feeling the Bible addresses and something every believer will have at some point. However “take heart” because even in the midst of the crashing waves and terrifying storms in this life, we have a gracious and loving Savior

*Day 12: Friday, August 2*

**John 9:1-41 — Sign #6 “Healing of the Blind Man”**

***Commentary***

By performing this sixth sign, Jesus proved that He can provide people both physical sight and spiritual sight. The Blind Man was healed and given physical sight by Jesus (vrs. 6-7), but only later (vrs. 35-38) did he gain spiritual sight, having the eyes of his heart opened. Are you spiritually blind? Can you see Jesus? Millions of people around the world just see Jesus as a very good person, but few choose to follow Him and truly “see” Him as the Son of God. Only by coming to Jesus and believing can you ever experience real light and have true sight.

*Day 13: Saturday, August 3*

**John 11:1-44 — Sign #7 “The Raising of Lazarus”**

***Commentary***

By performing this seventh sign and one of the greatest, Jesus proved that He is Lord over eternal life. By resurrecting Lazarus from the dead, Jesus now gives all believers hope that our physical death is not the end. This sign was also a shadow of what was to come soon after, when Jesus would rise from the dead, defeating the power and sting of death. Now, any follower of Jesus will experience eternal life with God. Remember, Jesus performed all these seven signs to prove He was truly the Son of God. Think about that amazing truth today!

