

JESUS IS THE GREAT "I AM"

John 4:26-27

(Not entirely original with me)

Introduction: As Jesus was talking with the woman at the well, the conversation came around to just WHO Jesus was. It wasn't until Jesus told her who He was that she could then decide whether to continue their conversation or end it. There is a "pattern" here of how the Lord Jesus works in bringing the lost to a place of decision about Him.
Note:

1. **John 4:3-7**

- Jesus deliberately went to Samaria to seek out a particular woman at a well. She didn't come to Him, He came to her.
 - Salvation does not begin with a person seeking God, but God seeking that person. One will never be saved until God steps in that person's way, crosses his/her path.
2. One will never have an interest in spiritual things, salvation, being saved, unless the Lord God creates an interest in that person.
- Jesus created an interest in spiritual things with the woman at the well.
 - The woman came to the well with spiritual things last on her mind.
 - She had an interest of sorts, but Jesus made her more interested.
3. IF a person is ever saved, his/her sin must be first exposed.
- Jesus told the woman to go call her husband - which she had already had several.
 - The woman then realized that there was something special about Jesus.
 - It is painful to face one's sins, and confess them before the Lord but until this happens, salvation can not happen.
 - He wounds first, then He heals.
 - He strips, then He clothes.
 - He slays, then He makes alive.
 - He takes away, then He gives.
 - He creates a thirst, then He quenches it.
 - He makes one hungry, then He feeds.
4. IF a person is ever saved, the Lord must make Himself know to that person and be IN that person.
- Salvation comes by knowing, being shown who Jesus is.
 - One cannot be saved by an unknown Jesus and one cannot know Jesus until He makes Himself known.
 - **2 Corinthians 4:4-6; Galatians 1:15-16; John 4:25-26; Isaiah 52:6**
 - Jesus made Himself more clearly known to the woman at the well than to anybody else during His ministry.

I. JESUS IDENTIFIED HIMSELF AS THE ONE THE SCRIPTURES SPOKE OF (I AM HE)

1. God has only ONE way of saving the lost.
- One must know Him.
 - It is by Grace alone, through faith alone.
 - Old Testament people were saved in the same way as today.
 - Eve knew that the Redeemer would come from a woman's seed. (**Genesis 3:15**)
 - Abel knew about blood atonement. (**Genesis 4**)
 - Abraham knew about the Redeemer. (**Genesis 22:8**)
 - David understood that forgiveness is through blood atonement of a substitute. (**Psalms 22;32, 51**)

- Enoch spoke clearly about the Lord's coming. (*Jude 14*)
- Job wrote of the Redeemer and of His resurrection. (*Job 19:25-27*)
- Isaiah understood about the sinner's substitute being God and a human being in a single person whose work of redemption and grace would bring salvation.
(*Isaiah 7:14; 9:6-9; 52:13-53:1-12*)

2. Throughout the Old Testament the theme of God's grace and a coming Redeemer is proclaimed.
 - God gave the Old Testament saints faith as faith is given today, by supernatural revelation.
 - People of the Old Testament believed God, they worshiped and trusted Him, just as it is today.
 - *John 5:39*

II. JESUS DECLARED HIMSELF TO BE THE GREAT "I AM" IN HUMAN FLESH

1. Jesus made this claim more than 14 times in John's writings. Jesus said I AM....
 - "*...the Bread of Life.*" (*6:35*)
 - "*...the Light of the World.*" (*8:12; 9:5*)
 - "*...the Door.*" (*10:7, 9*)
 - "*...the Good Shepherd.*" (*10:11, 14*)
 - "*...the Resurrection and the Life.*" (*11:25*)
 - "*...the Way, the Truth, and the Life...*" (*14:9*)
 - "*...the Vine.*" (*15:1, 5*)
2. Jesus made Himself known to the woman at the well as the ONE of whom the Scriptures spoke about, God in human flesh.

III. JESUS DECLARED HIMSELF TO BE THE LONG PROMISED MESSIAH

1. Jesus told the woman at the well that He was that promised One as well as being God, Himself.
 - The Jews expected the Messiah to be a man, anointed, chosen, set apart, consecrated by God.
 - A Prophet like Moses, to show them all things.
 - A Priest like Melchizedek, to bring them to God.
 - A King like David, to deliver them from their enemies, to rule, to protect, to provide.
2. The woman quickly left the well and hurried back into town and told them to come see the person who had told her about her past and that He was the expected one, the Christ, the Messiah.

CONCLUSION:

1. Jesus, the one who died at Calvary, the one who was raised from the dead, the One who ascended into heaven, the One who sits in glory says today as He said to the woman at the well - I AM HE!
 - The HE of whom the Scriptures speak.
 - The HE, God in the flesh.
 - The He, the Christ, the Messiah, the Salvation of Israel and all who believe on Him.
2. "*...Lo, this is our God; we have waited for Him, and He will save us; this is the LORD, we have waited for Him, we will be glad and rejoice in His salvation...*" *Isaiah 25:9*