

The Story
JESUS, THE SON OF GOD
John 12:12-15
April 6, 2014

INTRODUCTION

a. When asked to introduce yourself how do you respond?

1. My name is Robin Crouch
2. I am a follower of Jesus Christ
3. I am married to Becky
4. I am father to Sarah and Bethany
5. I am grandfather to Grayce, Briar and Jase
6. I am a graduate of Marshall University and Southern Baptist Seminary
7. I am pastor of First Baptist Church, Charlotte

b. We introduce ourselves with “I am” statements

c. In *The Story* today we come to the time in Jesus’ life where the people begin to recognize who Jesus is.

1. I know it is a week early but today we are using the Triumphant Entry into Jerusalem on what we call Palm Sunday as a backdrop to understanding just Who Jesus is.

2. Next week we will look at Thursday and Friday of what we call Holy Week.

d. Jerusalem is packed with people as many make the pilgrimage to celebrate the Passover in Jerusalem. The buzz begins that Jesus is coming

1. The people have heard about his miracles – He is coming from raising Lazarus from the dead - the people are looking for a Messiah and now here comes Jesus

2. Read **John 12:12-15 (NIV)** - *The next day the great crowd that had come for the Feast heard that Jesus was on his way to Jerusalem. They took palm branches and went out to meet him, shouting, "Hosanna!" "Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!" "Blessed is the King of Israel!" Jesus found a young donkey and sat upon it, as it is written, "Do not be afraid, O Daughter of Zion; see, your king is coming, seated on a donkey's colt."*

e. It is the start of a full week where Jesus reveals who He is and why He came

1. On Monday He Curses the fig tree and cleanses the Temple

a. The resolve of the Pharisees to get rid of Jesus stiffens

2. On Tuesday He debates and embarrasses the Pharisees and Sadducees

3. Nothing is recorded in Scripture on Wednesday

4. On Thursday Jesus celebrates the Passover with the disciples, prays in the Garden and is betrayed by Judas and Arrested - That night He begins the journey through seven trials that end on Friday with a Scourging and His Death by Crucifixion and burial in a borrowed grave

5. We will get to Thursday and Friday next week in the message

f. That is the rest of the story but let’s go back a little take a look at how Jesus described or identified himself

I. HOW DID JESUS IDENTIFY HIMSELF

a. John in his biography of Jesus, the gospel of John, gives us several “I am” statements from Jesus’ own lips

b. It is as if Jesus was introducing himself like we would so how did he describe himself? **He said, “I Am...”**

1. The Bread of Life (John 6:35)

a. Jesus knew that most people were not as concerned with the supernatural world as with the natural world and therefore sink down to the animal level. Animals can eat, drink, sleep and be contented; but man cannot!

b. Jesus knew that man cannot live without bread and that he cannot live by bread alone. Life is more than a mere physical existence. Man has spiritual longings, which cannot be satisfied by purely physical gratification.

c. Jesus offers them spiritual food – He offers them Himself

d. In claiming to be the **Bread of Life** he refers to

1. **His source and being** – Where he comes from and what He is

2. **His purpose and work** – What He achieves and what He bestows

e. “The Bread of Life” means the bread which contains life in itself and which is therefore able to give life to the world

f. He is the Bread that “**came down from heaven**” and also the bread that **gives to us eternal life**

2. **The Light of the World** (John 8:12)

a. He is the Light that illumines everything – He dispels the darkness and exposes things as they really are. For instance:

b. **He reveals sin** and its darkness deepens against the brightness of the light

c. **He reveals God** showing us His truth, power, wisdom, love and forgiveness.

d. **He reveals our brothers and sisters and our enemies**

e. **He reveals himself and the purpose of His mission** in the world

f. He is the light that gives life

3. **The Door or Gate** (John 10:9)

a. This brought to mind a familiar picture for the people – **A Sheepfold** and the gate or door

1. There was but **one entrance to the fold** – one door, one gate

2. We have a fold, some sheep, an entrance – but the shepherd is the door – He would lie across it at night and sheep could not get out or wolves in without crossing over his body

b. Jesus was declaring that there is only **ONE DOOR into God’s family and HE IS IT** and look what he says is found there if we enter in:

1. **A home of Refuge or Safety** – a secure place

2. **A home of Freedom**

a. We are no longer locked out but are free to come and go as we need. Not in and out of the kingdom of God but in and out of the door

b. The idea is that the door is no longer locked and we need not knock again because we are home.

3. **A home of Nurture**

a. A place to be fed and rest

4. **The Good Shepherd** (John 10:11-15)

a. That is a profound statement. We often look at it rather on a surface level, and we miss the intent of the original language, that statement is jammed pack with truth because the Greek construction is very different. It has several definite articles in it and in the Greek it literally would read this way, **“I am the shepherd, the good one...I am the shepherd, the good one.”**

b. There are two Greek words for “good” – one means morally good and the other means total beauty and loveliness, preeminent and excellent in every feature and it is the second word that is used here – It could read, **“I am the shepherd, the excellent preeminent, lovely, beautiful one.”**

c. There is **no other shepherd like Him** – He is greater than even David

d. **As the Good Shepherd Jesus:**

1. Loves his sheep – He cares for them and tends to their wounds and protects them from predators

2. He unites his sheep by calling them to himself

3. He gives his life for his sheep

5. **The Resurrection and the Life** (John 11:25-26)

a. Let me read that statement John 11:25-26 "Jesus said to her, *"I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies; [26] and whoever lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?"*

b. The statement has **two clauses** that are each divided and the division of the second clause corresponds to the division in the first

c. The first clause gives us two names for Christ and the second gives us two facts about His people which correspond to these names

1. **The two Names**

a. **Resurrection** – corresponds to "**He who believes in me will live, even though he dies**"

b. **Life** – corresponds to "**whoever lives and believes in me will never die**"

d. **The words "I AM" covers both names and the words "He who believes in me" covers the two facts**

6. **The Way** (John 14:6)

a. In this statement Jesus sets himself apart from every other religious leader

1. Remember Jesus has already said, "I am the Door" - the exclusive entry to God's home and eternal life

2. Here, He declares, "**I Am the WAY**" or the journey we take to get to God. There is no other entry or way – This is an incredible exclusive statement and offensive to many in our world

3. He is God's way to humankind and humankind's way to God – There is no other way regardless of what we think or wish or hope

4. Jesus called the others who claim to be a way, "Robbers and Thieves"

5. **Remove Christ and there is NO WAY to reach the Father**

6. Is it any wonder then that following Christ as described in the book of Acts is called "the Way"

7. **The Vine** (John 15:5)

a. Jesus has just finished what we call the Last Supper with the disciples in the Upper Room. They are now on their way to the Garden of Gethsemane where the Lord will pray for them and then be betrayed and arrested. Evidently on the way Jesus speaks the words that make up chapters 15 & 16.

b. As Jesus walked with his Disciples, perhaps He reached out and took a vine in His hands and used it to teach an object lesson to His men. His desire is to teach them about the most vital relationship they have in their lives, the one that is with Jesus and His Father

c. These are not frivolous words or unimportant – in a few short hours Jesus will be crucified

d. What was Jesus teaching

1. **He is the source of life and nutrients for the branches and fruit**

2. **Bearing fruit is the sole purpose of the branch** – take away the fruit and the branch has no purpose – It is not a tree that might give shade – it is a vine – small and twisted no purpose but to bear fruit.

3. The branch connects the fruit to the vine

4. The branch is to take life from the vine and pass it through to the fruit – The fruit will not exist if the branch is not connected to the vine

5. The branch cannot bear fruit by itself – apart from the vine it can do nothing and is useless. But in the vine it bears much fruit

c. This is how Jesus identified himself to his disciples and to the people who followed him.

d. **There is one more important question though and Jesus asked it.**

II. JESUS' QUESTION

a. In Luke 9:18 Jesus asks the disciples a generic question, **“Who do the crowds say that I am?”**

1. Too many of us think the answer to this question is enough but it isn't.

b. Jesus follows that question with a pointed one (Luke 9:20), **“Who do you say that I am?”**

1. Here is where the rubber meets the road.

2. How do you answer that question – not generally but specifically

c. **Your answer to that question determines your eternal destiny.** Life here and now and eternity hang in the balance of your answer

d. **Jesus' identity for us is clearly declared in the Lord's Supper**

1. In it He illustrates His death and sacrifice

2. By receiving the bread and cup we are declaring our faith and trust in Jesus as Savior/Lord and identifying our life with His.

SHARE THE BREAD

SHARE THE CUP

Jesus told us who He was

The question is “Who do you say He is”

Bow with me in prayer

8:30 #375 'JESUS CALLS US'

11:00 “JESUS, SON OF GOD”