

*I Am*  
**Before Abraham Was, I Am**  
John 8:48-59

**Question:** Who does Jesus say that he is? And who do we think he is?

**I. The Question that Demands a Context (vs. 48 ~ vs. 30-47)**

**II. The Conversation Concerning the Question of Identity (vs.49-57)**

**III. The Startling Statement that Provides the Answer (58-59)**

*“A man who was merely a man and said the sort of things Jesus said would not be a great moral teacher. He would either be a lunatic – on the level with the man who says he is a poached egg – or else he would be the devil of hell. You must make your choice. Either this man was, and is, the Son of God, or else a madman or something worse. You can shut him up for a fool, you can spit at him and kill him as a demon or you can fall at his feet and call him Lord and God, but let us not come with any patronizing nonsense about his being a great human teacher.” (C. S. Lewis in Mere Christianity pg. 56)*

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**Point to Ponder:** Liar, Lunatic, or Lord? – This is the question essentially posed by Lewis in the quote above – and in reality, any honest appraisal of the claims of Jesus in the gospel would arrive at some similar question. So, what do we say of Jesus? Who does He think he is? What do the priorities and plans of our life reveal of who we think he is?

**Next Week:** Next Sunday we will begin a new sermon series: *Living into God’s Story* by considering Genesis 37:1-11 ‘A Story Born in Dysfunction.’

