

April 3, 2020

## A Portrait of Love - Part 10

John 8:56-58, “Your father Abraham rejoiced at the thought of seeing my day; he saw it and was glad.” “You are not yet fifty years old,” they said to Him, “and you have seen Abraham!” “Very truly I tell you,” Jesus answered, “before Abraham was born, I Am!”

This is another “I Am” statement found in the book of John. The Pharisees were questioning Jesus but what they heard was not what they were expecting. In this proclamation, Jesus was not using a metaphor about being the door or the light, instead He was declaring Who He is! Look at exactly what Jesus is saying. Abraham was, but I AM. Now the Jews understood that name. It was the name God had told Moses to use when he spoke with the Israelites. Why should they listen to Him? On whose authority would he be speaking? And so Moses asked God. The Lord replied in Ex. 3:13-14: Moses said to God, “Suppose I go to the Israelites and say to them, ‘The God of your fathers has sent me to you,’ and they ask me, ‘What is his name?’ Then what shall I tell them?” God said to Moses, “I AM WHO I AM. This is what you are to say to the Israelites: ‘I AM has sent me to you.’” What a remarkable testimony to the eternal existence of God, and now Jesus has made the very same declaration of God using His name, I AM. Jesus was trying to tell the Jews, that when you are praying to God; when you are worshipping Him; when you are giving of your tithe; when you are serving one another; you are doing it to Me because I AM He! Now get this statement - EVERYTHING about God is found in Jesus because they are one in the same. John had begun his gospel with this very declaration - John 1:1-5; 14, “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through Him all things were made; without Him nothing was made that has been made. In Him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen His glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.” Jesus is the visible image of the invisible God.

What does that mean for us? Everything! All of God was wrapped up in human form and displayed through Jesus Christ. What is God like? Look at Jesus. He is I AM!

Dear Father, thank You for showing Yourself in a way we could see You; through Jesus. Everything about You, we can understand by looking to Jesus. Thank You for sending Him to us so that we could know everything we needed about You. And the greatest thing we could possibly see is the portrait of love as Jesus laid down His own life for us. Thank You Jesus! In Jesus Name, Amen