

A Season of Thanks

Cultivating a Thankful Heart (Part 1)

I AM the good shepherd.

John 10:11-14: "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. The hired hand is not the shepherd who owns the sheep. So when he sees the wolf coming, he abandons the sheep and runs away. Then the wolf attacks the flock and scatters it. The man runs away because he is a hired hand and cares nothing for the sheep. "I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me...."

I AM the resurrection and the life.

John 11:25: Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies."

I AM the way, the truth and the life.

John 14:6: Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."

I AM the true vine.

John 15:1, 5: "I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing."

1. Having a thankful heart is in the _____ of God.

1 Thessalonians 5:12-18

2. We are _____ to not grumble against one another.

James 5:7-9

Three things we must remember

1. What HE has _____.

2. What HE is _____.

3. What HE has _____.

Emmaus Road

...and he opened to us the Scriptures (Luke 24:32)

As I am continually reminding myself of what I am thankful for, I think of God's word. I encouraged you on Sunday to remember what HE has done, what HE is doing and what HE has promised. I also want us to take time to remember who HE is.

My favorite Gospel is the Gospel of John. It is very poetic. Some interpreters have felt that John's aim was to set forth a version of the Christian message that would appeal to Greek thinkers. I suppose I am a thinker. When I am out somewhere in a crowd I often have people come up to me and ask, "Can I help you? You look lost." I simply say, "no, I am just thinking." My wife says I blank out constantly, but I am just thinking and asking the question, what if?

All that to say, I really like John and that he summarized the Christmas story to one sentence. *The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. John 1:14*

John helps us remember who Jesus is. Seven times he uses "I AM" statements to describe the nature or attributes of Jesus. This week I encourage you to take time to look through these seven "I AM" statements to remember who HE is.

There are usually only 5 days of the Emmaus road but here we have 7 statements. To not cause anyone to grumble, I am going to do something different. I am going to let you choose when to do each one (there is no Mon, Tues, ..., just 1, 2, 3...so it's up to you). But, I will give you a little guidance on how to reflect on these statements to remember who HE is.

Find the context of each Scripture. Where was Jesus when he spoke these words? What is going on around him? To whom is he speaking? Does that have any significance?

Find your context. In each spoken statement what does Jesus reveal about himself to you? Do you believe his words to be true? How does your life reflect it is true? Take time to pray and thank Jesus for revealing himself to these people in the context of scripture and to you. Let the truth of who Jesus is fill your heart with thanksgiving.

I AM the bread of life.

John 6:35: Then Jesus declared, "I am the bread of life. He who comes to me will never go hungry, and he who believes in me will never be thirsty. "

John 6:48: I am the bread of life.

I AM the light of the world.

John 8:12: When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."

John 9:5: "While I am in the world, I am the light of the world."

I AM the door.

John 10:7: Therefore Jesus said again, "I tell you the truth, I am the gate for the sheep."