

## JESUS IS GOD, HE IS MY FRIEND

### The I AM Series #11

March 15<sup>th</sup>, 2026

**TEXT:** John 18:1-9

**CONSIDER THIS:** Christian, the God who controls the universe is the **I AM**. He is a promise maker and a promise keeper. And He calls you friend. It is good to be a Christian!

#### I. CHRISTIAN, THE I AM LOVES YOU

**KEY:** We often think of love as being an emotion or a particular feeling you might have for someone else. But true biblical love, while it includes emotion, is fundamentally a way of acting sacrificially towards someone else.

A) John 13:1 is a beautiful summary of why Jesus, the **I AM**, came to earth:

*Now before the Feast of the Passover, when Jesus knew that His hour had come to depart out of this world to the Father, having loved His own who were in the world, He loved them to the end. (John 13:1)*

B) The **I AM** is the eternal self-existing God (Exodus 3:14). In order to save those He loved He had to accept the humiliation of human existence as a man. See Philippians 2:5-8.

Christian, you are the reason He did this.

C) The "**I AM** the good shepherd" will control everything that is about to happen, including His own death (John 10:17-18). Christian, this was for you (John 10:11).

D) Read John 12:27-33 and Luke 22:1-6 TOGETHER. The decisive hour draws near, the hour when He shows how much He loves us.

#### II. JESUS IS THE I AM, AND HE IS MY FRIEND

A) See John 18:1. Having finished the Passover meal and given vital teaching to His disciples (which has been handed down to us), Jesus led them down into the ravine outside the temple wall, crossing the brook Kidron and headed to the Mount of Olives.

A drain ran from the temple altar down to the Kidron ravine to drain away the blood of sacrifices. At this time of year more than two hundred thousand lambs were slain. So when Jesus and His band cross the Kidron, it was red with the blood of sacrifice.

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- B) There, in the garden called Gethsemane, Jesus prayed in agony (Luke 22:44) and awaited the arrival of the betrayer, Judas.
- C) Judas arrived with perhaps as many as 600 Roman soldiers carrying swords, and many Jews carrying clubs (John 18:2-3). In the darkness they were carrying lanterns and torches as they sought “**I AM** the light of the world”

### III. “**I AM**”

*“Whom do you seek?” They answered Him, “Jesus of Nazareth.” Jesus said to them, “**I AM**” He.”*  
John 18:4-5

- A) Unlike His earlier use of **I AM** (the bread of life, the light of the world, the gate, the good shepherd, the resurrection and the life, the true vine) which were statements of **declaration** and **invitation**, this time there is no invitation included... this is pure **proclamation**

*When Jesus said to them, I AM He, they drew back and fell to the ground.*  
John 18:6

- B) Peter, emboldened, draws a sword (Matthew 26:51-56). With a single word Jesus could have summoned twelve legions (72,000) angels. But nothing was going to stop God from keeping His promises (“scripture will be fulfilled”). The **I AM** intended to go to the cross in order to save those He loved (John 13:1).

**NOTE:** In John 18:8 Jesus doesn’t ask for his friends to be let go, He simply states it, and 600 soldiers obey. Christian, behold your friend!

- C) Now read Philippians 2:9-11. Someday every knee will bow and every tongue confess, “Jesus Christ is Lord, the **I AM** is God.” When will this happen? Perhaps at the final point of human history, at the Great White Throne Judgement (Revelation 20:11-15).

How magnificent is the “Name.” See Revelation 19:11-13, 16. These truths exceed our capacity to fully comprehend the majesty of these names but now look at Revelation 2:17. In the Roman world, a white stone with the name of a victorious athlete’s name inscribed on it served as his entrance ticket to a grand awards banquet.

Christian, the **I AM** is God and He calls you friend. It is good to be a Christian!