

before Abraham was
the Bread of Life
the Light of the World
the Door of the Sheep
the Good Shepherd
the Way, the Truth, the Life
the True Vine

I AM

LINK TO
WATCH SERMON



LINK TO LISTEN
TO SERMON



BEFORE ABRAHAM WAS, I AM

Warm-Up Question:

What is something you believed was authentic or trustworthy, only to discover later that it wasn't?

READ: JOHN 8:48-59

I. JESUS ACCORDING TO POPULAR IMAGINATION

- ▶ Who did the religious leaders say Jesus was? How could they be so wrong about who he was?
- ▶ What do you think it means to create a "Jesus according to our imagination"?
- ▶ Are there areas of your life where you are more comfortable with Jesus affirming you than confronting you?
- ▶ What would it look like for Jesus to confront your politics? Your use of money? Your relationships? Your hobbies? Your moral instincts?

II. JESUS ACCORDING TO SCRIPTURE

- ▶ Why is it significant that Jesus doesn't simply claim to be older than Abraham, but says, "Before Abraham was, I am"?
- ▶ What difference does it make that Jesus is not merely a teacher, prophet, or example, but God himself?
- ▶ What is better about the Jesus of Scripture than the Jesus we might create for ourselves?
- ▶ What would it look like this week to let Scripture—not your preferences, feelings, or assumptions—define who Jesus is?

What is one main take-away you want to apply in your life this week?

"A little knowledge of God is worth more than a great deal of knowledge about him." — J.I. Packer

"You must make your choice. Either this man was, and is, the Son of God: or else a madman or something worse." — C.S. Lewis

"If you wish to know God, you must know his Word. If you wish to perceive His power, you must see how He works by his Word. If you wish to know His purpose before it comes to pass, you can only discover it by His Word." — Charles Spurgeon

The religious leaders already had categories, but instead of letting Jesus redefine their categories, they allowed their categories to redefine Jesus. — Russ Whitfield

For Prayer:

- Pray for God to comfort you where you need to be comforted and confront you in the areas where you need to be confronted.



SEVEN RIVERS
CHURCH

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SCRIPTURES USED

John 8:48-59 ⁴⁸ The Jews answered him, "Are we not right in saying that you are a Samaritan and have a demon?" ⁴⁹ Jesus answered, "I do not have a demon, but I honor my Father, and you dishonor me. ⁵⁰ Yet I do not seek my own glory; there is One who seeks it, and he is the judge. ⁵¹ Truly, truly, I say to you, if anyone keeps my word, he will never see death." ⁵² The Jews said to him, "Now we know that you have a demon! Abraham died, as did the prophets, yet you say, 'If anyone keeps my word, he will never taste death.' ⁵³ Are you greater than our father Abraham, who died? And the prophets died! Who do you make yourself out to be?" ⁵⁴ Jesus answered, "If I glorify myself, my glory is nothing. It is my Father who glorifies me, of whom you say, 'He is our God.' ⁵⁵ But you have not known him. I know him. If I were to say that I do not know him, I would be a liar like you, but I do know him and I keep his word. ⁵⁶ Your father Abraham rejoiced that he would see my day. He saw it and was glad." ⁵⁷ So the Jews said to him, "You are not yet fifty years old, and have you seen Abraham?" ⁵⁸ Jesus said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I am." ⁵⁹ So they picked up stones to throw at him, but Jesus hid himself and went out of the temple.

Exodus 3:13-14 ¹³ Then Moses said to God, "If I come to the people of Israel and say to them, 'The God of your fathers has sent me to you,' and they ask me, 'What is his name?' what shall I say to them?" ¹⁴ God said to Moses, "I am who I am." And he said, "Say this to the people of Israel: 'I am has sent me to you.'"