Lent 2024 – I AM: the Way, the Truth & the Life Suzy Bates March 24, 2024

Reflection & Discussion Questions

The I AM statements are the self portrait of Jesus

When we understand the true picture of Jesus, it changes everything about us.

*How have the pictures you've seen of Jesus over the past several weeks drawn you closer to him?

Jesus declares, "I am the way the truth, and the life"

Read and discuss John 14:1-7(NIV)

- **14** "Do not let your hearts be troubled. You believe in God; believe also in me. ² My Father's house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you? ³ And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am. ⁴ You know the way to the place where I am going."
- ⁵ Thomas said to him, "Lord, we don't know where you are going, so how can we know the way?"
- ⁶ Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. ⁷ If you really know me, you will know my Father as well. From now on, you do know him and have seen him."
- *What does this passage say about the picture Jesus paints of himself?
- *How do you identify with Thomas' question?
- *When have you found yourself desperate for a more detailed plan or mapped out path?

Jesus cried out, even while knowing what was coming

Read and discuss Matthew 27:46 and Psalm 22:1 (NIV).

- ⁴⁶ About three in the afternoon Jesus cried out in a loud voice, "Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?" (which means "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?").
- ' My God, my God, why have you forsaken me? Why are you so far from saving me, so far from my cries of anguish?
- *What can we learn from Jesus in this moment?
- *What are the hard questions that are troubling you?

The correct painting of Jesus shows he is the only way, truth, and life to us

We are forced to walk closely with Jesus, one step at a time to see his path.

- "This is the being, the very self of God, reaching to us, dwelling within us, embracing us, transforming us, and enabling us." Jesse Middendorf
- *If he is all of these things, what is keeping you from trusting this is true?
- *What does it mean for Jesus not to primarily give directions? What does this mean for how we interact with him?
- *How is the Holy Spirit inviting you to lean into the truth that Jesus is the way, the truth, and the life?