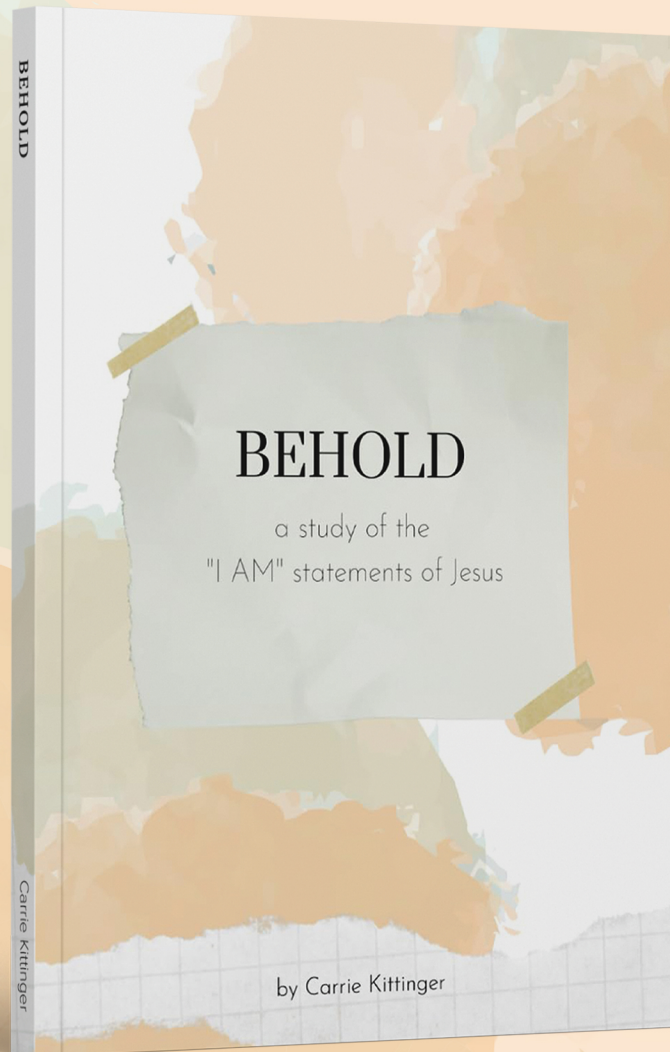
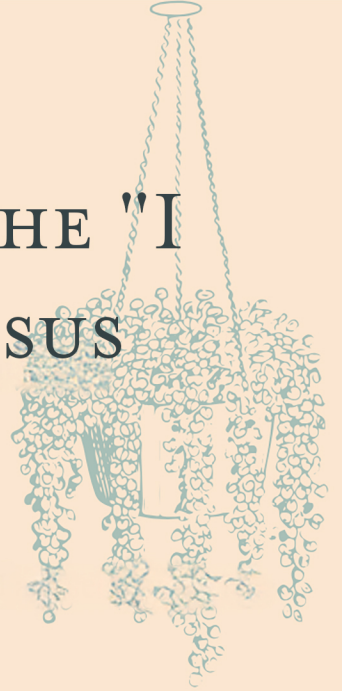



BEHOLD: A STUDY OF THE "I AM" STATEMENTS OF JESUS

an excerpt



Carrie  *Kittinger*



“JESUS SAID TO THEM, ‘I AM THE BREAD OF LIFE; WHOEVER COMES TO ME SHALL NOT HUNGER, AND WHOEVER BELIEVES IN ME SHALL NEVER THIRST.’”

JOHN 6:35

You’ll be reading from John 6 this week where Jesus proclaims in verse 35, “I am the bread of life.” This chapter opens with the feeding of the 5,000 and a great following, but ends with the turning away of many. Jesus’ teaching offended even those who had just witnessed a miracle.

What about you and me? Where do we go when the dust settles after a mountaintop experience with the Lord, and our faith is tested in the valley? It’s often in those moments that offense comes knocking on our door.

Jesus asked His closest disciples whether they would leave him too, and I love Peter’s response in John 6:68-69, “Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life, and we have believed and have come to know, that you are the Holy One of God.”

The key to remaining in belief is found in relationship. May we continue to walk with Jesus through the mountaintop wonders as well as in the shadows of the valley. We need sustenance for the journey, and only Jesus knows exactly what we need. He alone truly satisfies as we feed on Him.

There are many ways to feed on Him: Bible reading and study, prayer, contemplative listening for His voice, worship, praying Scripture, and memorizing Scripture, to name a few.

BEHOLD

Carrie  Kittinger

Your invitation this week is to PARTAKE of Jesus, the bread of life! Partaking of Him is not meant to be a onetime occurrence but a continual coming to Him to be filled and satisfied.

According to Webster's Dictionary, to partake is to take part in or experience something along with others. To have a portion.

Sounds like a dinner party to me!

“He brought me to the banqueting house, and his banner over me was love.” Song of Solomon 2:4

Start off this week of homework by settling a few things in your heart. You are invited. (Yes, YOU!) Your place has been reserved. (Picture a place card with your name on it.) The banquet table has been set. (Visualize the best china and crystal - no paper plates here.) The portions are abundant. (Envision all you can eat, served family style.) The banquet house of Jesus bids you to come and partake!

“Taste and see that the Lord is good; blessed is the one who takes refuge in him.” Psalm 34:8 NIV

“TASTE AND SEE THAT THE LORD IS GOOD; BLESSED IS THE ONE WHO TAKES REFUGE IN HIM.”

PSALM 34:8