

07/05/20 Notes

Part of Just Getting Started A series on the Gospel of John
July 4, 2020

Message: The Way

Series: Just Getting Started

Recap: We're in the 21st week of this series on the Gospel of John. Written by one of many Johns in Scripture, this was the disciple who Jesus loved. Matthew, Mark, and Luke are synoptic gospels (they are similar in structure and content) but John is different. He wrote his gospel to the world, to you. John tells the story of Jesus' life, ministry, death, resurrection, and it tells the story that through Jesus, you're Just Getting Started!

Early Christianity

- Early Christians were called THE WAY or the NEW WAY

They lived differently because of their encounter and relationship with Jesus. They not only lived differently, they thought differently. They loved differently. They approached every aspect of life differently.

—Pastor Chad

Today's message isn't centered around the "title" of what Christ followers were called. Instead, it's centered around something Jesus said in John 14 - where Jesus called Himself, "the way."

Jesus and His disciples are in an upper room in Jerusalem. Jesus washed their feet. He served them a meal. He loved them unconditionally, even the two that would betray Him. Peter denied knowing Jesus three times, and Judas would turn Jesus over to the ones who would kill Him. Peter changed his life (repented) and chose Jesus. There's no record of Judas doing that. He killed himself and died a sinner, headed to hell, forever separated from Jesus.

The setting: In the upper room, distraught disciples had just learned of

two betrayals. They heard Jesus tell them He would be leaving, after three years spent with them. Their world is rocked! They're upset, angry, sad, frustrated, fearful, and so many other emotions.

Jesus Comforts the Disciples

John 14:1-4 (NLT)

1 "Don't let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God, and trust also in me.

2 There is more than enough room in my Father's home. If this were not so, would I have told you that I am going to prepare a place for you?

3 When everything is ready, I will come and get you, so that you will always be with me where I am.

4 And you know the way to where I am going."

Some of you are in a RUT right now. A rut is a ridiculous ungodly thought. When you're in a you're your reality is skewed. God knows that. The goal is to keep you out of the rut. The disciples were moaning and groaning, Jesus said, "Get out of the rut!" He encourages them in John 14.

—Pastor Chad

Jesus starts out by saying – don't let your hearts be troubled. DON'T LET... It implies...

- You have a CHOICE

It's your decision. Then He tied the decision to the center of emotion, your center of spirit, your heart. That's where the choice is made, it's where it should be made – not your head – but your heart.

Jesus shares that although He'll be leaving, He's going to prepare a place for them. If you're a believer and a follower of Jesus – then He is preparing a place for you too!

Doubting Thomas

John 14:5-7 (NLT)

5 "No, we don't know, Lord," Thomas said. "We have no idea where you are going, so how can we know the way?"

6 Jesus told him, “I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one can come to the Father except through me.

7 If you had really known me, you would know who my Father is. From now on, you do know him and have seen him!”

If you read between the lines, you see where Jesus was saying – the journey will not always be crystal clear. More times than not, you won’t have all the answers. In fact, you’ll probably have more questions than you do answers. Simply know this – Jesus is the way, the truth, and the life. That’s all that matters. Trust Jesus!

- Jesus is the ONLY way

Philip Weighs In

John 14:8-12 (NLT)

8 Philip said, “Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied.”

9 Jesus replied, “Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and yet you still don’t know who I am? Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father! So why are you asking me to show him to you?

10 Don’t you believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words I speak are not my own, but my Father who lives in me does his work through me.

11 Just believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me. Or at least believe because of the work you have seen me do.

12 “I tell you the truth, anyone who believes in me will do the same works I have done, and even greater works, because I am going to be with the Father.”

Philip was telling Jesus – give me proof!

- Jesus told Philip, just BELIEVE

It’s a belief so strong that it changes your actions – it changes your life! You follow “the way” and your life is different because of it. You live differently. You think differently. You love differently. Every aspect of your life is different.

Connecting Belief to Action

John 14:15 (NLT)

If you love Me, obey My commandments.

- If you love Jesus, ¬OBEY Him

And if you do that...

John 14:16-21 (NLT)

16 ...I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, who will never leave you.

17 He is the Holy Spirit, who leads into all truth. The world cannot receive him, because it isn't looking for him and doesn't recognize him. But you know him, because he lives with you now and later will be in you.

18 No, I will not abandon you as orphans—I will come to you.

19 Soon the world will no longer see me, but you will see me. Since I live, you also will live.

20 When I am raised to life again, you will know that I am in my Father, and you are in me, and I am in you.

21 Those who accept my commandments and obey them are the ones who love me. And because they love me, my Father will love them. And I will love them and reveal myself to each of them.

The moment you invite Jesus into your life – turn your life over to Him – choose Jesus...

- God gives you His HOLY SPIRIT

He's your advocate. He's your comforter. He's your encourager. He's the Holy Spirit of God living inside of you... in your life!

Key: Jesus knows you can't do this journey through life alone. He gives you the Holy Spirit of God AND He gives you a church family.

Jesus is the Only Way

John 14:23-28 (NLT)

23 ...“All who love me will do what I say. My Father will love them, and we will come and make our home with each of them.

24 Anyone who doesn't love me will not obey me. And remember, my words are not my own. What I am telling you is from the Father who sent me.

25 I am telling you these things now while I am still with you.

26 But when the Father sends the Advocate as my representative—that is, the Holy Spirit—he will teach you everything and will remind you of everything I have told you.

27 “I am leaving you with a gift—peace of mind and heart. And the peace I give is a gift the world cannot give. So don’t be troubled or afraid.

28 Remember what I told you: I am going away, but I will come back to you again...”