

John 14:1-6

The Way, the Truth and the Life

Image Church // Follow Me // Week 5

Introduction

Good morning Image Family, hope you're doing well! Hey Big shout out to all the ladies that came out to **Coffee & Conversations** on Friday- had a great turnout- I'm excited about all that the ladies have going on!

Well this morning we're wrapping up our series called **Follow Me**, where we've been looking at who Jesus is and why He's worth following...

So, if you have your Bible go ahead and turn to John Chapter 11

I don't know about you but one of my favorite things, *outside of deer hunting of course*, is **staying in a hotel!**

Now for some of you that travel all the time you're like: "*Seriously?!? It's really not that great man.*"

- I get it, for everyone that travels... they don't love it, but for the people that don't travel they love it and think it's awesome... *well I don't travel a lot so don't ruin this for me...*

I actually have a system when I go to hotels:

- I always get the bed by the window: because it is by the air conditioner
- I always establish my space on the desk area and neatly organize my stuff on it...

Well, years ago I had the chance to do a wedding for one of my really close friends that was drafted as the **#2 overall** in the **MLB draft**.

So, as the wedding got closer they reached out and said: "Hey everything is good to go for your travel and for where you're going to be staying, so you're good to go, looking forward to seeing you!"

Wedding weekend comes, my flight lands, I get a rental car and I head to the address they gave me for the hotel...

I am almost there and I see what looks like a mansion out in front of me that my GPS is taking me to... I am wondering, did they give me the right address??

I follow the signs when I get there that leads me right to the front doors of this place... The grounds are amazing and everything is perfectly manicured... *I am still wondering if I am in the right place...*

I can't even get the car turned off and I have **3 guys walking out to my car**, one of them opens my door for me and the other other one is already in my trunk getting my bag...

I'm like: "*Na man I can get that, he says: Oh no sir I will get this for you...*"

The 3rd guy gets the door for me... So, **escorted with 3 guys** I walk up to the front desk... *Are you Mr. McKee...* Yes? Great, we have your room all ready for you- this gentleman will take you to your room...

I am still taking in this lobby... **we pass a library**... and we're walking down the hall and I am looking at the pictures that are on the wall of people that have stayed here...

I lose count after about the 5th president that I see along with all the other incredibly famous people...

We get to "my room" and the guy not only opens the door for me but takes my stuff and sets it on the luggage rack for me and then asks if I need anything...

Meanwhile, I am just standing there looking at the room **because it's bigger than my apartment that I was living in...**

- **Describe it...**

It was incredible to experience something like that... not to mention, **Diamond Rio** was the band for their wedding!!

Here's the deal, maybe you have experienced something like that, stayed in a really awesome place, maybe you haven't...

****Here's the reality that I want to hold up for you, no matter how nice the accommodations are, no matter how awesome the experience is, Jesus offers us something better...***

- He's got better accommodations and He offers a better experience than anything in this life could ever provide!

I think for many this is an overlooked and often forgotten truth...

Let me give you a little bit of context around **John 14** so that we can be on the same page with what's going on here...

Remember last week, I told you that the **resurrection of Lazarus** in **John 11** was the beginning of Jesus' funeral procession?

Well at the end of **chapter 11** the religious leaders put together a plan to Kill Jesus...

And then in **John 12** you have the Triumphant entry, Churches remember "*Palm Sunday*" happens the week before *Good Friday* and *Easter*...

Well, right after that in **John 13**, Jesus would predict his death, and then 3 major things happen:

- In **John 13:21-30**: Jesus would identify that there was a **traitor** among the disciples...

- Then in **John 13:33**: Jesus announces that He's going to be with them only a little while longer and then He's leaving and where He is going they cannot come...
- And then classic Peter, He's like what do you mean?
- Why can't I come- I will lay down my life for you!
- And Jesus in **John 13:38** is like oh really?!? Turns out that you're actually going to deny me 3 times before the rooster crows... *That got Peter quiet...*

Well, as you can imagine all this info would have been very troubling for the disciples...

How many of you have been troubled before?!?

- *Some of y'all are like this morning... I get it!*
- There is hope...

BTW: do you notice a pattern yet of Jesus meeting people in the midst of their heartache and hardship?!?

- Some of you have been going through some stuff and you need to know that Jesus meets you there with hope...

OK, let's jump in and see the hope that Jesus points to...

John 14:1-6

*Here's how Jesus starts off in **verse 1**: "Don't let your heart be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me."*

So Jesus says don't be troubled... **Believe** in God and **believe in me**... *Or trust God and trust me....*

Now Jesus is specifically speaking to the current state of the disciples, but the same truth He gives them is true for us too...

When our hearts are troubled, the answer is trust- that **the ability to overcome and endure trouble comes through anchoring our trust in the right place...**

This is where it gets hard...

Here's the reality: we are all trusting in something... The question is what?

- Most of us trust ourselves...
- Jesus doesn't say try harder... work harder, he says believe...
- Believe that I am enough and that I am working...
- And that's hard- we just have to own that- but it's the reality that Jesus calls us into and I would say He has some ground to stand on- He gave His life to work things out eternally so you can bank on the fact that He's working in your circumstances...

Now, Jesus is going to continue- remember He's talking to His disciples, addressing their troubled hearts in light of His departure and the things that are coming... He's going to show that He's working during troubling times- and He's going to show them what He's going to be doing...

Verse 2: In my Father's house are many rooms; if not, I would have told you. I am going away to prepare a place for you. **3** If I go away and prepare a place for you, I will come again and take you to myself, so that where I am you may be also. **4** You know the way to where I am going."

Jesus was going to prepare a place

So, here's the setup of where we're going this morning... This was true for them then, and this is true for us now...

Jesus is our dwelling place so that we can be with God

The focus here is not about a place but a person... *Jesus doesn't say that He will take them to heaven, but that He will take us to Himself...*

Jesus isn't reserving them a hotel for a few nights, He is preparing a place for them to **remain** with Him forever...

Verse 5 "Lord," Thomas said, "we don't know where you're going. How can we know the way?"

Thomas asks the question that all of the disciples were thinking... Where are you actually going, Jesus, and how do we get there???

BTW: Notice he was *thinking about a path, but it's really about a person...*

- Christianity isn't about a path that you walk but a person that you believe in!

Jesus lays this out in **verse 6:**

6 Jesus told him, "**I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.**"

Jesus makes a massive claim here with three parts. This is where I want to camp this morning. There are three things I want you to see about Jesus.

First:

1. Jesus is the Way

He's not a way- he is **THE** way...

- Exclusively inclusive...
 - *Flesh out...*

As **the way**, He's not a model to emulate, He's the bridge that we walk on...

- He doesn't help you find the destination, He is the destination...

Example:

Gospel

Not long after this very conversation, Jesus would walk a path in our place... one that would lead to His death...

The perfect that would be slain for the guilty... We deserved the cross because of our sin, Jesus took it in our place...

Hebrews 10:20

19 ... we have boldness to enter the sanctuary through the blood of Jesus—**20** he has inaugurated for us [or opened for us] a new and living way through the curtain (that is, through his flesh)—**21** and since we have a great high priest over the house of God, **22** let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith

We do not need a high priest because Jesus is our High Priest!

He has **sat Down at the right hand of the Father**...

Apply:

He is the way so that means that you can stop working...

- Push against religiosity... You cannot work your way there, HE is the WAY!!!

At the heart of Christianity is not pillars to follow, but a person to know and enjoy.¹

¹ David Mathis: <https://www.desiringgod.org/articles/the-most-controversial-claim-jesus-made>

He is the way so you can stop looking to find it and start resting in him... push against other ways to God...
He is not a way, he is the way

Example: If you tell me, "I am going to Florida" but then I see you on find my friends or life360 for you android people in the room, going north on 75... No matter how much you tell me you are headed to Florida, it just doesn't change the reality that you are headed to Tennessee.

which means that for some of you, you are saying you know the way, but your life screams that you don't

Let's look at the third thing that we need to see here and that is:

2. Jesus is the Truth

One Scholar says: "Jesus is the truth, because he embodies the supreme revelation of God—he himself 'narrates' God, says and does exclusively what the Father gives him to say and do, indeed he is properly called 'God'. He is God's gracious self-disclosure, his 'Word', made flesh" (1:1, 18; 20:28) (5:19ff; 8:29) (1:18) (1:14).²

Jesus is truth, because Jesus is God... Everything that it means to be true, everything that it means to be right **He IS**...

² Carson, D. A. (1991). *The Gospel according to John* (p. 491).

And **He came** so that we could know truth, so that those who believe could have access to God! That was God's plan all along that is revealed to us in the Word of God!!

It's the truth of Jesus that Saves us, but it's also that truth that sanctifies us...

Flesh this out practically...

The question for us this morning is, is **do you believe the truth about who Jesus is??** Jesus says **BELIEVE** twice... The way is offered in the truth about who Jesus is!

3. Jesus is the life

I am the life that you need...

My life gives you access to God not yours...

- Stop working...
- It's not contingent on you... It's contingent on Him!

Here's the other thing, as the **life** He gives way to abundant life that lasts for eternity!

...

This is totally counter to what the world tells us... the lie of the world is to pursue things now for the sake of abundant life...

- the right boyfriend
- the right spouse
- the right job
- the perfect career
- money
- sex
- power

It promises that these things will lead to a full life, but the reality is it just leaves you empty and coming back from more... you can never get enough...

This morning there are some of you that are chasing after the things of this world in search of abundant life...

You need to know that Jesus is the way, the truth that leads to the abundant life...

Now, let me be clear, **abundant life doesn't mean that you experience life without suffering or life without pain...** We talked about that last week, we live in a broken world ravaged by sin, disappointment, suffering and death...

Abundant life comes through recognizing the truth about who Jesus is and remembering what's attached to that for you:

- New life
- New identity
- joy
- Peace
- Unconditional love
- Acceptance
- Hope

All of this is offered to those who would believe!!

Thomas à Kempis or **Thomas von Kempen** (A German-Dutch author who wrote the imitation of Christ one of the best known Christian devotions) says:

Follow thou me. I am the way and the truth and the life. Without the way there is no going; without the truth there is no knowing; without the life there is no living. I am the way which thou must follow; the truth which thou must believe; the life for which thou must hope. I am the inviolable way; the infallible truth, the never-ending life. I am the straightest way; the sovereign truth; life true, life blessed...

Conclusion [VAMP]

Jesus is the way the truth and the life that has prepared a place for those who believe forever... What an incredible thing to know and trust in!!

I want to close out by reminding you of the implications of those who do not believe... They do not have a place with God forever...

Here's the deal, if we really believe in the truth of the gospel and the implications it has for those who believe and for those who do not believe, then it should compel us to share the message of hope that we know to be true!!!

Remember John 8:32?

[If you are a disciple, if you are a Jesus-follower then:] 32 "You will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."

If you have been set free by the truth of who Christ is, why would you want others to stay in bondage!?!?

The freedom we've experienced in Christ should drive us to pointing others to the freedom that they too can have in Him!

We should be the fastest growing church in ATL, not because of the music or the preaching...

But **because we want people to know Jesus** and we just keep on being intentional with everyone we come into contact with!

What would it look like if every one of us were living with gospel intentionality to share with others the Way, the Truth and The Life?!? It's my prayer this morning that we would be a Church that believes the implications of the gospel and that we would allow that to compel us to make it known in this city and eventually to the ends of the earth!

I don't know what God is pressing on in your heart today...

- Appeal to those that need to be compelled to be intentional with the people God has put around them

Appeal to the hurting and broken:

For some of you:

- *You're disoriented, and I am the way.*
- *You're confused, and I am the truth.*
- *You're fearful, and I am the life.*

Appeal to the lost: You need to trust in the hope of the gospel so that:

*When He shall come with trumpet sound,
Oh, may I then in Him be found;
Dressed in His righteousness alone,
Faultless stand before the throne.*³

³ Lyrics by Edward Mote

- **Death of an animal**= temporary atonement (making right) for their sin...

Sacrifices were actually God's grace of the people... He could have wiped them out but instead He gave the sacrificial system to temporarily hold off his wrath...

- Because God is perfect and Holy sin cannot go unpunished... the animals took the people's place but only temporarily, that's why they had to do it every so often.

Explain how it happens with a *Lamb*...

And then once a year, the high priest would have to go into a place that was located in the very center of the temple called the Holy of Holies... This place where the presence of God temporarily dwelled... In order to offer a sacrifice on behalf of the nation of Israel...

- HUGE DEAL!!!
- Talk about how this happens: pray cleansing, pray...
- **Curtain: *Rope and bell on the ankle***
- Sprinkle blood on the Mercy seat
- Making a temporary substitute to pay for the sins of the nation of Israel...

This would make atonement for the nation of Israel and it was the only time that there was access to the **presence God**... and it was only momentary and extremely dangerous...

Remember, all of the **OT** was set up to show that God is perfect and Holy and man is sinful and wicked, and because of that there is immense **separation** between God and man and there is **no way** that man can access God on his own.

And here's Jesus saying that **He is the Way to God**, that not only can He give access to God, but He can give them a place in God's house for all of eternity!!!

Bullpen:

See they functioned under the sacrificial system:

BUT HOW?!? HOW IS THIS POSSIBLE?!?!

We've been looking at statements that Jesus made about Himself that ultimately keep leading us back to the question: **Do you believe Jesus is who He says He is, and Are you continuing to hold onto the truth about what Jesus offers you in Him?**

We've said this before but ***belief in Jesus isn't a one-time thing it's a constant posture of our lives.***

So that means that understanding who Jesus is, is relevant for everyone, whether you've been a Christian for years or you not a Christian at all.

See, **true transformation** doesn't happen by looking in the mirror and evaluating the areas where we are **weak** and where we are **strong** and then working really hard to be better, it comes through **beholding Jesus**...

That's exactly what we want to do this morning...

Jesus uses the word "**troubled**" here... And it's the same word Jesus used in **John 12:27** when He is talking about His upcoming death, and the same word Jesus uses in **John 13:21** when He tells His disciples that one of them has betrayed Him...

Now keep in mind, these disciples are deeply troubled... They are panicking after everything Jesus said regarding what's about to happen...

Mainly that Jesus was about to leave...

- Explain the gravity of this- they had left everything to follow Him... Etc.

But Jesus tells them, don't let your hearts be troubled, but He doesn't just leave them with this statement, in **verse 2** He fleshes out **why** In **verse 2**, Jesus gives His followers the **reason** for **why** their hearts shouldn't be troubled at His departure...

He tells them that He's going to His Father's House where there is plenty of room, in order to make ready a place for them!

Something I want you to understand is that Jesus didn't have to hurry off and get things situated because He's unprepared...

- *Someone says that they're going to stop by...*

He's not unprepared... This wasn't reactionary... It was all part of God's plan...

Jesus' departure allows God's planned provision to be made complete!

See, the beauty is that this was God's plan all along... The completion of God's plan rested in the work that Jesus was about to do.

And then in **verse 3** *Jesus says:*

3 If I go away and prepare a place for you, I will come again and take you to myself, so that where I am you may be also.

Not only Jesus is going to prepare a place for them... But **Jesus** is going to come back for them and He is going to take them to where He is so that they can be with Him.

Jesus is using very intentional language to point out the **permanence** of where **dwelling place**...

This should be incredibly comforting to His disciples who are overwhelmed and fearful of all that's to come... Remember Jesus starts off at the beginning telling them not to let their hearts be troubled...

You have to hear the **compassion** and **love** in his voice as he is comforting his disciples in the midst of their confusion and uncertainty.

This isn't meant to be some kind of *eschatological innuendo*... dangling info about the end times in front of His followers...

The point that you need to see here is the certainty of **comfort in knowing that there's plenty of room in the Fathers House, and that Jesus has prepared a place for them, where they will be able to be with Him forever!

And listen, if Jesus would go to such great lengths for them, *will He not also do the same for you?*

The same comfort that He offers them know can be the same comfort that you have this morning...

If you are in Christ, there has been *personal provision* made specifically for you in God's House that Jesus has made ready for you!! That's incredibly comforting news!!

[Extra info that may be useful...](#)

Jesus is the way to God, precisely because he is the truth of God (*cf.* notes on 1:14) and the life of God (*cf.* notes on 1:4; 3:15; 11:25). Jesus is the truth, because he embodies the supreme revelation of God—he himself 'narrates' God (1:18), says and does exclusively what the Father gives him to say and do (5:19ff; 8:29), indeed he is properly called 'God' (1:1, 18; 20:28).

He is God's gracious self-disclosure, his 'Word', made flesh (1:14). Jesus is the life (1:4), the one who has 'life in himself' (5:26), 'the resurrection and the life' (11:25), 'the true God and eternal life' (1 Jn. 5:20). Only because he is the truth and the life can Jesus be the way for others to come to God, the way for his disciples to attain the many dwelling-places in the Father's house (vv. 2–3), and therefore the answer to Thomas' question (v. 5).

In this context Jesus does not simply blaze a trail, commanding others to take the way that he himself takes; rather, he *is* the way. Nor is it adequate to say that Jesus 'is the Way in the sense that he is the whole background against which action must be performed, the atmosphere in which life must be lived' (Sidebottom, p. 146): that assigns Jesus far too passive a rôle. He is himself the Saviour (4:42), the Lamb of God (1:29, 34), the one who so speaks that those who are in the graves hear his voice and come forth (5:28–29). He so mediates God's truth and God's life that he is the very way to God (cf. de la Potterie, p. 938), the one who alone can say, *No-one comes to the Father except through me.*"

- Sidebottom E. M. Sidebottom, *The Christ of the Fourth Gospel* (SPCK, 1961). de la Potterie I. de la Potterie, *La vérité dans Saint Jean*, 2 vols. (Rome: Biblical Institute Press, 1977).
- Carson, D. A. (1991). [*The Gospel according to John*](#) (p. 491). Leicester, England; Grand Rapids, MI: Inter-Varsity Press; W.B. Eerdmans.

The eternal provisions that Jesus is establishing was the opportunity to **be in the presence of God!** This is not about the palace or the rooms, this is about access to the presence of God!

But here's the crazy part: Jesus is saying this to a group of guys who constantly wavered in their faith, doubted Him, and would deny Him...

What Jesus offers them is absolutely incredible... And what you have to see is that the same thing that He is offering them, He is also offering to you!

That's the reality of what Jesus came to accomplish... but the question is how do we get there?? How can we access the immeasurable, unexplainable presence of God

- Where there is no more tears, there is no death, there is no grief, there is no more pain, where all of the brokenness has passed away???

Revelation 21:3-4 saying this:

3 Then I heard a loud voice from the throne: Look, God's dwelling is with humanity, and he will live with them. They will be his peoples, and God himself will be with them and will be their God. **4** He will wipe away every tear from their eyes. Death will be no more; grief, crying, and pain will be no more, because the previous things have passed away.

The problem is that our culture has minimized what Jesus came and accomplished and what's offered to us

You know what one of the best-selling evangelical books... "*Heaven is for Real*" has sold over 7million copies...

There's more:

- The boy who came back from Heaven... another best seller
- My Journey to heaven what I saw and how it changed my life by Marvin Bestman
- Flight to heaven by Dale Black
- To heaven and back by Mary Neal
- 90 min in heaven by Don Piper
- 9 days in Heaven by Dennis Prince

John MacArthur says:

“Anyone who truly believes the biblical record, it is impossible to resist the conclusion that these modern testimonies with their relentless self-focus, and the relatively scant attention they pay to the glory of God are simply untrue. They are either figments of the human imagination, dreams, hallucinations, false memories, fantasies, and in the worst cases, deliberate lies—or else they are products of demonic deception. We know this with absolute certainty because Scripture definitively says that people do not go to heaven and come back:

‘Who has ascended to heaven and gone down?’ Proverbs 30:4

Answer: “No one has ascended into heaven except he who descended from heaven, the Son of Man.” John 3:13”

Another author says: “All the biblical writers who saw heaven and describe their visions give comparatively sparse details, but they agree perfectly, their visions are all fixated on **the glory of God** which defines heaven and illuminates everything there, [and the Biblical authors] are overwhelmed, chagrined, petrified and put to silence by the sheer **Majesty of God's holiness**. [Which is] Notably missing from all the Biblical accounts, are the frivolous features and juvenile attractions that seem to dominate every account of heaven currently on the bestseller list.”⁴

Isaiah 8:19: **19** When they say to you, “Inquire of the mediums and the spiritists who chirp and mutter,” shouldn't a people inquire of their God? Should they inquire of the dead on behalf of the living?

John Piper says: God's beef with necromancy (practice of communicating with the dead) is that it belittles the sufficiency of his communication. Why would you inquire of the dead to find out what you want to know instead of inquiring of me? And if they say: Well, I have inquired of you and you didn't tell me what I want to know. He would say: Well, that is your problem. I have told you what you need to know. You don't need to know about such and such if I haven't told you. And, in fact, if you go trying to inquire about such and such that I haven't told you, you are dishonoring me. So that is the nature of the argument. And, therefore, I think the prohibition of séances and necromancy applies to this kind of thing and people ought to stop writing those books.

⁴ Reference from David Platt. Secret Church. April 25, 2014. David does not name the author of this quote.