



Today we begin a new study we're calling: "Jesus: the Way, the Truth and the Life" I'm so excited over the next five weeks that we'll see Jesus as the way, the truth and the life. Today, we'll see why He's THE WAY. You're turning to John 14. As you're turning...let me share this to bring us up to speed...

What an amazing turn of events we've seen in that upper room in Jerusalem, the night before Jesus' death. Jaw-dropping events had taken place. Jesus had taken the role of a household servant and washed His disciples' feet...a task that one of them should have done. They were all shocked, humiliated. Mainly because they had been arguing about who was the greatest. They had been fighting, yet again, about prominence...status...position. No...none of them were willing to stoop and wash feet. These men were still self-absorbed.

You see, if you think about it...on that Thursday evening in that upper room...Jesus was signing off. And that's why it was such a difficult meal, a last supper. They're humiliated...confused...Judas has suddenly left...there's talk of betrayal...Jesus says, "Where I'm going, you can't come." Even though, for 3 years, He's said, "Follow me." Now they can't??!

Jesus, then, implicated their leader...Peter...saying: "You're going to deny my three times before morning." Can you feel it? All of their hopes for what Jesus would bring...His Kingdom...the joys of reigning with Him...all of those dreams disintegrating right before their eyes. And Church, they're scared, confused and in shock and that's why they needed comforting. Watch it now...

John 14:1-6

¹ "Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God;^[a] believe also in me. ² In my Father's house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you?^[b] ³ And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also. ⁴ And you know the way to where I am going."^[c] ⁵ Thomas said to him, "Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?" ⁶ Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."

What a week it had been...no wonder their hearts were troubled. Everything had started well on Sunday...the Triumphal Entry into Jerusalem, but boy, did it go downhill after that! Jesus goes to the

Temple on Monday and cleans it out...He goes back on Tuesday and hammers the Pharisees...further alienating all the leaders. The hostility and anger toward Jesus was rising to a fever-pitch! We know there was a bounty of Jesus' head, and that's why He was moving around in Jerusalem carefully now...eating a meal in a borrowed room.

For the Apostles, everything was discombobulated. Nothing made sense; thus, anxiety, fear, doubt...crept in and they were overwhelmed. The idea of Jesus leaving them was absolutely unbearable. After all, they had forsaken all to follow Jesus...and now He's going to leave them? What's going to happen to them? Isn't that a fair question to ask at this point? Isn't that the question we always ask when there is fear and upheaval, turmoil and we're overwhelmed? What's going to happen to me? I'm scared, Lord!

But, Jesus knew what was going to happen, didn't He? Jesus knew He had to die...and yet, He knew He would rise again...BUT, they didn't comprehend that, not yet. You see, what was getting ready to happen to them was literally going to feel like spiraling out of control...like falling headlong into a black hole...hopeless...helpless... What's going to happen to me? Then Jesus said these words:

John 14:1a

¹ "Let not your hearts be troubled."

Jesus felt their pain. We learned a few Sundays ago, that Jesus, Himself, was "greatly troubled in His spirit." He knew trouble. He knew pain, and He felt theirs and He wanted to protect them and care for them. Because that's His nature. Jesus cares. He always cares. So, Jesus said: LET NOT your hearts be troubled. Brothers and sisters, you and I have to tell our hearts... "**Do not be troubled**." Does that mean we won't FEEL troubled? No...we're still going to **feel troubled** at times...but, it's not about what we feel that matters, it's what we know. What we know must drive our emotions or our emotions will drive us. Church, we know that Jesus cares and He told His disciples, in essence: "I've got this...let not your hearts be troubled."

But I get it...our hearts are prone to wander, to worry, to fret. We're prone to doubt. We're prone to go to the "worst-case scenario"...and of course...Satan has a hand in all of this as well...just like he put into the mind of Judas to betray Jesus. Satan...the Accuser, our Adversary, our Enemy...he's a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour. But, Jesus says NO, "LET NOT your hearts be troubled..." See the whole verse again...

John 14:1

¹ "Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God;^[a] believe also in me."

Church, get this now: we can literally read that verse this way: "Stop letting your hearts be troubled. You believe in God, believe also in me...stop worrying...stop agonizing...stop and look to me!" Isn't that what He had been saying for three years to His disciples! "Come unto me all you who labor and are heavy laden and I'll give you rest." Stop being troubled.

I watch that scene play out in my mind in that upper room and I think...in some ways it was actually easier for the Apostles, than it is for us today. Why? Because they were looking Jesus "square in the face." To some degree, we're like the OT saints...we've not seen Jesus, we've not lived with Jesus, and this is why I believe the Apostle Peter said:

1 Peter 1:8-9

⁸ Though you have not seen him, you love him. Though you do not now see him, you believe in him and rejoice with joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory, ⁹ obtaining the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

Are you saved? You are if you believe in Jesus and you have surrendered your life to Him...confessing and repenting of your sin...choosing to follow Him. And yes, church, all of that takes faith...faith to believe the Words of Jesus, even though, right now we can't see Him. We still believe Him and trust Him...trusting His words.

Listen, do you believe Jesus is alive in heaven right now? Do you believe He sees you? Do you believe He's in control of all the universe? Do you believe that He loves and cares for you? See Him with your spiritual eyes...allow His Spirit to speak to you. He's here and you can STOP WORRYING! Stop being troubled. **Would you choose to look at Him, not your circumstances.** That's what He was saying to the Apostles...knowing what they would soon see, would be so terrible.

So, brothers and sisters, we must tell our minds...“stop being troubled”...and we must understand that our feelings will eventually catch up with what we know. You see, we must be building our lives on the foundation of the totally reliable, trustworthy, authoritative Word of God. Many of you are...so many in our church are reading Scripture every day...we're going through the chronological Bible Study. No, it's not easy...but we're athletes in training and it's making us better! If you haven't jumped in get the Bible app and get on board.



I had a man tell me this wk he was challenged from last week's msg to get locked in.

Watch now how Jesus comforts them with more specifics...

John 14:2-3

² In my Father's house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you?^[a] ³ And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also.

Did you know that John uses the word FATHER 53 times in chapters 13-17? That's a lot! **Father.** Jesus always points to the Father. Jesus said that He could do nothing outside of the will of His Father. Nor can we. We can try to go our own way and do our own thing...but, it'll fail if it's not according to the Father's will. That's why Jesus would say (in a matter of minutes...sweating blood, praying in Gethsemane), “not my will, but yours be done.” Are you living in the will of God?

You say, “How do I know the will of God?” You can know!

Romans 12:1-2

¹ I appeal to you therefore, brothers,^[a] by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship.^[b] ² Do not be conformed to this world,^[c] but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.^[d]

You want to know the will of God? #1 You die to yourself...become a living-dead man/ woman...#2 you stop conforming to the world...#3 you renew your mind by getting into the Word of God...it'll sift your thinking and you'll be able to know the will of God, **the will of the Father**.

In John 14:2, Jesus speaks of His Father and says, "In my Father's House..." That's where we're headed...to the Father's house. That's the prepared place, waiting on us in Heaven. Oh, I can't wait. Heaven. You know Heaven is described in Scripture as a Kingdom, as an inheritance, as a country, as a city, but for me...the most exhilarating description of Heaven is that it's home. What is home? Well, it's been said: "It's where you are treated the best and complain the most." Robert Frost says, "Home is the place that, when you arrive there, they have to take you in." ☺

Jesus says that heaven is our home and it's where the Father's house is and in that house are many ***monē*** (Greek). All my life I heard that word translated as: "mansions." But, how can a house have mansions inside of it. A mansion is a stand-alone place...by definition. But, that's how it was translated and the song writers wrote songs in that way. You know: "I've got a mansion just over the hilltop." No, "mansions" is not the best translation of ***monē***. No, it means: "room, or dwelling place, or abode."

So, we say it this way, "In my Father's house are MANY ROOMS." That makes sense... That's like this place...I love this place:



What is that? It's the Biltmore House in Asheville. I'd take a room in the place...wouldn't you... What a mansion/house!!! It took 7 years and \$6 million (that's mind-boggling for 1895) to build that 250-room house. Every time I go there...I walk around with my mouth hanging open. If George Vanderbilt could build that...what do you think, Jesus, the master-carpenter is building for us? The Biltmore House pales in comparison to what Jesus is building...the Father's house.

It's interesting...in ancient times, fathers would build a house and their children were raised in that house. And oftentimes, when the children got married, they would build an addition onto the house; and so, the father's house just kept getting larger and larger and larger...having many rooms.

Can I ask you a question: What kind of house did you grow up in as a kid? Was it nice? Was it not so nice? Let me tell you something...as part of the family of God, you're going to spend eternity with a room in the Father's house, built by Jesus. Now, I don't know what kind of house you grew up in, or are living in even now...but, what's coming is going to blow our minds. Church, we're family and

we're going to be in the Father's house, together forever. Going in and out of the New Jerusalem...eating together...fellowshipping together...the family of God! I can't wait!

I have another question for you...Go back to verse 2. The last part of the verse...

John 14:2b

² If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you?^[b]

Why does He say that? "If it were not so, would I have told you." I'm convinced the answer is because the Apostles are in freefall of panic...they're struggling so much. There's profound despair in that upper room, and so Jesus reminds them that **He tells the truth**. That's all He can tell, because He is the truth. So, whatever He says, we can take it to the bank.

The essence of what Jesus is saying is this, "Guys I'm going home, to my Father...but, I'm building a place for you...I'm coming back to get you one day! Yes, right now...it's rough...it's going to get hard and then I'm leaving...but, I'm telling you this about heaven so that you will not doubt...so, trust me...because I do not lie!" And you see, Church, all of this would become even more clear after the resurrection. Because 40 days after He rose from the dead...He rose up...He ascended into heaven...the place He came from and the place He is now. Watch this...

Acts 1:9-11

⁹ And when he had said these things, as they were looking on, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. ¹⁰ And while they were gazing into heaven as he went, behold, two men stood by them in white robes, ¹¹ and said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into heaven? This Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven."

That's a mini-rapture right there. Jesus raptured into heaven...taken up...snatched up...not by NASA...no jet-pack...just God taking Him up. And you see...when we die...we go up to be with Him...to be absent from the body is to be present with the Lord. When a believer dies, we immediately enter into the presence of the Lord. **NOW LISTEN, We don't get our room yet.** That comes after the Rapture. We don't get our room in the Father's house until after the Rapture...that's when our spirit will be reunited with our glorified bodies...our new bodies...and we'll all go into the New Jerusalem, where the Father's House is, together.

Don't misunderstand where believers (who have died) are right now...they're in heaven...with Jesus, with God...but, the New Heaven and the New Earth and the New Jerusalem, they don't come into existence until after the events of the Rapture, the Tribulation, the 1,000-year Millennial Reign and the Great White Throne Judgment. It's after those events that God brings into existence a New Heaven, New Earth and a **New Jerusalem...that has the Father's House in it.** Then Jesus says this:

John 14:4

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

Jesus categorically says, "You know the way to where I'm going." Like... "You know this." But, Thomas had enough courage and boldness to speak up and ask the question that I think they all had...they're confused about so many things and Thomas says:

John 14:5

⁵ Thomas said to him, "Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?"

Don't you love Thomas' honesty? He's given a bad rap because he would doubt that Jesus was alive, hence the name: "Doubting Thomas." But I think a better title is: "Honest Thomas." He's just flat-out honest. "Lord, I don't get it...I don't know where you're going...nobody here knows where you're going."

Yes, I love Thomas' honesty. He believes what Jesus is telling them, "I'm going away and you can't come with me...you can't follow me." This is really bothering Thomas and he says, "I want to know where you're going so that I can follow you." [BTW...did you notice that Thomas wasn't as presumptuous and knee-jerk as Peter, when Peter said he would lay down his life for Jesus.] Here's what I see in Thomas' question... I DON'T WANT TO MISS THIS! I have followed you and left everything, you are the Messiah and I don't want to get this wrong. Watch Jesus' response:

John 14:6

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

This statement in John 14:6 is, in my opinion, the most profound statement ever uttered. It's a statement that's positive and negative. The positive: "I am the way, and the truth, and the life." The negative: "No one comes to the Father except through me." The positive... Jesus was saying, "I'm it. There's no other way to get to heaven. I'm not A way...I'm THE WAY to God." That's the positive...and that positive reveals the negative... Therefore: "No one comes to the Father except through me." That's the negative.

What's the negative??? Are you listening? All the other world religions (4,300+) are wrong. They're counterfeit. Why? Because Jesus is the ONLY WAY TO GOD...they're wrong. You know... $1 + 1 = 2$ and that's the only right answer to that equation. There's only one way to God and that's through His Son, Jesus. He's it! There's no DEI in Jesus.

You know: "Diversity, Equity and Inclusion." That doesn't work with Jesus, because Jesus is exclusive. He's not open to diverse religions and opinions...His way is totally exclusive. BTW, Christianity actually became known as "the way," after Jesus' ascension, because of its exclusivity. As a matter of fact, six (6) times in the book of Acts Christianity is called "the way." No...all roads DO NOT lead to heaven...only Jesus does. And that's the negative...and I get it...people are offended by that...they don't think it's fair. But, was this fair?



An innocent man...the God/Man...paying our sin-debt! No way!

Listen, it's really simple: Faith in Jesus is the only way to salvation. And this is why we have the Great Commission. We've got to GO share the Good News that Jesus saves and that He's the only way to heaven. Just as a diabetic must have insulin...nothing else will do...the lost human being (and that's all of us from birth), must have Jesus to get to heaven. We must Go share this Good News!

Because if we don't share the Good News...the consequences of that are devastating for people. They will face judgment apart from Christ. Watch...

2 Thessalonians 1:7-9

⁷ and to grant relief to you who are afflicted as well as to us, when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with his mighty angels ⁸ in flaming fire, inflicting vengeance on those who do not know God and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus. ⁹ They will suffer the punishment of eternal destruction, away from^[b] the presence of the Lord and from the glory of his might.

And that's the negative of John 14:6 and it's so gut-wrenchingly sad!!! People who don't follow Jesus will go to eternal destruction. That keeps me awake at night. Do you care about the lost in your life? Are you scared to talk to people in your family about Jesus? Do you understand what awaits them? ETERNAL DESTRUCTION! Oh Lord, give us a burden for the lost...to tell them about the only way to heaven! **I close with this thought:** Thomas à Kempis said this:

“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.” Thomas à Kempis

Church family, the most exhilarating thing I can imagine is the assurance of a heavenly home with Jesus in the Father's House at the end of this life. No, not the Biltmore...



We're headed for a room in the Father's House, that's SO MUCH BETTER. But, until then, until the Lord takes us home, we travel on... We battle in this life and bear up under trials and difficulties, heartaches and pain, just like Jesus, "who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross" (Hebrews 12:2). Therefore, we follow His example and like the Apostle Paul, we proclaim:

Romans 8:18

¹⁸ For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us.
