

Session 5 Jesus is the Way, the Truth, and the Life (Jn. 14:4-6)

I. REVIEW: JESUS' COMMAND NOT TO ALLOW TROUBLE TO DOMINATE OUR HEART

A. Jesus commanded the disciples not to let trouble dominate their hearts (Jn. 14:1). John 14:1 is not a salvation appeal to become born again. Many in Israel, including the Pharisees, believed in the *God of Moses* without having seen His form (Jn. 5:37). They had *faith in an invisible God*.

¹***“Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God [a fact], believe also in Me [a command]...***

²⁷***My peace I give to you... Let not your heart be troubled...***” (Jn. 14:1, 27)

B. Jesus declared 4 core truths in John 14:2-3 in which they were to embrace in believing in Him.

²***In My Father's house are many mansions...I go to prepare a place for you...³I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also.*** (Jn. 14:2-3)

1. ***Truth #1—My Father's house:*** The Father's house is the New Jerusalem. The redeemed will live together with Him forever in His immediate presence as part of His family.
2. ***Truth #2—I am going to prepare a place for you:*** Jesus went to the cross to prepare our place in the Father's house. He secured the way for us to enjoy the Father's house forever.
3. ***Truth #3—I will come for you:*** He will come to His people *physically* at the end of this age, while He comes to them *spiritually* in this age by the indwelling Spirit (14:23).
4. ***Truth #4—That where I am, there you may be:*** Here, Jesus gave one of the reasons for going to the cross. He desires His people to be with Him even more than they desire to be with Him.

II. THOMAS' QUESTION ABOUT THE WAY TO THE FATHER (JN. 14:4-6)

A. Jesus told them that they should know where He was going because He had just told them—the Father's house. Earlier, He told them He would return to the Father (Jn. 7:33).

⁴***“And where I go you know, and the way you know.”*** ⁵***Thomas said to Him, “Lord, we do not know where You are going, and how can we know the way?”*** (Jn. 14:4-5)

B. ***Where I go you know:*** Jesus told them on at least three occasions that He would be killed (Mt. 16:21-23; 17:22-23; 20:17-19). However, they had a strong bias or presupposition that the Messiah could not be killed by His enemies. Jesus was alerting them that they had strong personal biases that hindered their ability to understand that He would die on the cross to prepare a place for them.

C. Today, there are many in the body of Christ who have strong biases or presuppositions in their views of various truths such as the deity of Jesus, the authority of Scripture, grace, judgment, salvation, sexual purity, the end times, Israel, and more. We must be committed to receive Jesus' teachings, even when they are challenging. The propensity of human heart is to read Scripture according to our biases. It takes intentionality to receive what Jesus says and to base our lives on it.

26But everyone who hears these sayings of Mine, and does not do them, will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand; 27and the rain descended, the floods came...great was its fall. (Mt. 7:26-27)

D. ***We do not know where***: Thomas spoke for the others in saying, “We do not know where You are going” (14:5). Thomas’ question expressed the confusion that he and the others had about Jesus’ destination. Here, Jesus also addressed Peter’s question concerning where He was going (13:36). They were not sure what going to “the Father’s house” implied—a new temple? (Mt. 24:2). Without knowing where Jesus was going, Thomas was saying that he did not know the way to get there.

21“I am going away...where I go you cannot come...” 27He spoke to them of the Father. (Jn. 8:21, 27)

E. Thomas asked for clarity on the destination and how He and they would get there. Thomas was saying, “We don’t know what happens to us if You leave for a while. We don’t have a map with directions to get to the Father.” How can they know the way if they did not know the destination?

F. Jesus clarified “where” He was going—to the Father’s presence (13:1; 14:6; 14:28; 16:16-17, 28). The only “way” that they could go to the Father was through Jesus. Relating to the Father empowers us to overcome a troubled heart—this is another reason to trust Jesus and not let trouble dominate our heart. This is Jesus’ sixth “I am” statement (6:48; 8:12; 10:9, 11; 11:25; 15:1).

I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me. (Jn. 14:6)

III. JESUS IS THE WAY (JN. 14:6A)

A. Jesus went to the cross to prepare or fully secure our place in the Father’s house forever (14:2).

2“...I go to prepare a place for you...3I will come again and receive you to Myself...” (Jn. 14:2-3)

B. Many think Christ died as a martyr. They do not understand the purpose of His death as set forth in Romans 3:25-26 and 2 Corinthians 5:21. Jesus became sin and paid the debt of our sin before God. Jesus’ death made a way for us to relate to the Father by paying the debt of our sin on the cross. By His death, Jesus removed all obstacles keeping us from being accepted by the Father. He died as a righteous sacrifice for our sin. In God’s court of justice, He cannot overlook sin. He paid for it to remove it so that His people could live in His presence. Because He is loving, He found a way to pay for the sin to satisfy His justice and to make people righteous and holy as a free gift.

C. ***I will come again***: We don’t need to know “how” to get to heaven when we die. Jesus comes for us (14:3)—for some He comes personally; to others He sends angels to escort the redeemed to God in His name. At His second coming, the body of Christ will be raptured. Don’t worry about what will happen at death. Jesus will come back for you. When His people die, He sees to it that they are escorted into His Father’s presence. Millions of believers who died over 2,000 years were escorted to the Father’s presence by Jesus or by angels. Some have had death encounters; they tell story that Jesus stood at their deathbed. Most have an angel escort them as ambassador of Jesus.

IV. JESUS IS THE TRUTH (JN. 14:6B)

- A. Jesus' life revealed the truth about the Father's personality and how He relates to His people. He knows the truth about God, human beings, angels, demons, and the future and past of every person, city, nation. He knows the full truth about you, both negative and positive (1 Cor. 4:2).
- B. In the presence of Jesus, the truth is manifested because "He is the truth"—thus truth becomes openly manifested to all who come to the light of His presence.

V. JESUS IS THE LIFE (JN. 14:6C)

- A. Jesus is the life that enables us to relate to the Father and to experience the supernatural realm. Jesus alone is life, and He alone has the power to impart divine life (Jn. 1:4; 5:26; 11:25; 1 Jn. 5:20). Jesus elaborated on being the "life source" to our union with the Father in John 15:1-11.

⁶I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me. (Jn. 14:6)

- B. There are three words for "life" in the Greek—*bios*, *psuché*, and *zoé*. *Bios* refers to the physical life of the body (Lk. 8:14). The English word, biology, comes from *bios*. *Psuché* is translated as *soul* and refers to one's psychological life—the mind, emotion, and will (Mt. 16:25). The English word psychology comes from *psuché*. *Zoé* refers to the uncreated supernatural life of God.

- C. Jesus is our life—the source of supernatural power, and of our greatest pleasures, and rewards, etc.

⁴In Him was life [zoé], and the life was the light of men. ⁵And the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it [overcome it; ESV, NIV]. (Jn. 1:4-5)

- D. In Jesus is found the fullness of our blessing forever and the total end of all our pain and trouble. Thank you, Jesus, that soon every area of my life will be brought to fullness of blessing in You.

⁴God will wipe away every tear...there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain...⁵He who sat on the throne said, "Behold, I make all things new..." (Rev. 21:4-5)

1. The Lord has planned indescribably glorious things for His people (1 Cor. 2:9).

⁹...Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, nor have entered into the heart of man the things which God has prepared for those who love Him. (1 Cor. 2:9)

³⁴"Then the King [Jesus] will say..., 'Come, you blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world...' (Mt. 25:34)

2. Many say, "I can't take it anymore." We must resist that lie and not let trouble dominate our heart. There is no temptation greater than our ability to endure it in the grace of God.

¹³...God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it. (1 Cor. 10:13)

E. *Jesus can be our “holy daydream”*: Thoughts of Jesus and conversation with Him can be the place “we escape” in our mind (the sweet place we go to in our mind)—He can be our “great getaway!”
This is not a retreat from real life, but a retreat from fear, lust, and anxiety by living in His presence.

F. In the midst of the fears, lust, shame, manipulating, and scheming in the human heart—there is a sweet escape from that into “the Spirit of life and peace” (Rom. 8:6). It is our inheritance to love Jesus with “all our mind.” Our mind is empowered when it is engaged with the Spirit.

⁵For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit. ⁶For to be carnally minded is death, but to be spiritually minded is life and peace. (Rom. 8:5-6)

VI. JESUS IS THE ONLY WAY TO THE FATHER AND TO RECEIVE SALVATION (JN. 14:6D)

A. Jesus claimed to be the only way of salvation. This was a major teaching throughout His ministry. One of the most detested and resisted truths in the Bible is that Jesus is the only way of salvation. Don’t be seduced with arguments by those who assume they are more loving and wiser than God.

B. Jesus is the only “way” to know God because He alone embodies and tells the “truth” about God and man and about what is needed to be saved and reconciled to God (Acts 4:12; 1 Tim. 2:5).

¹²...nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name...by which we must be saved. (Acts 4:12)

⁵There is one God and one Mediator between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus. (1 Tim. 2:5)

C. To come to the Father “through” the Son means we believe in Jesus—what He said about who He is and what He would do on the cross for sinners as the only hope for forgiveness of sins.

D. Many teach lies about there being various ways to God. In truth, we don’t deserve *any* pathway to God, much less one. It is only because of Jesus’ death on the cross that anyone can enter heaven. The innocent One became guilty so that the guilty ones might become as innocent (2 Cor. 5:21).

²¹For He made Him [Jesus] who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him. (2 Cor. 5:21)

¹⁸And if it is with difficulty that the righteous is saved, what will become of the godless man...? (1 Pet. 4:18)

VII. JESUS AS LORD, LUNATIC, OR LIAR—CS LEWIS’ ARGUMENT

- A. Lewis popularized the argument against those who claim that they reject Jesus as God but admire Him as a good moral teacher. Lewis wrote, *“I am trying to prevent anyone saying the really foolish thing that people often say about Him: ‘I’m ready to accept Jesus as a great moral teacher, but I don’t accept His claim to be God.’ A man who was merely a man and said the sort of things Jesus said would not be a great moral teacher... You can shut Him up for a fool, you can spit at Him as a demon; or you can fall at His feet and call Him Lord but let us not come with any patronizing nonsense about His being a great teacher.”*
- B. He pointed out that Jesus claimed to be God. So, His claim is either true or false. If it is true, then He is God. If the claim is false, then either He said it knowing it was false, in which case He is a liar, or He said it not knowing it was false, in which case He was insane. We are left with only three logical options: He is either a lunatic, a liar, or God. A great moral teacher would not, by definition, lie, and certainly not tell a lie of such magnitude as to claim to be God when He wasn’t.
- C. To say Jesus was a lunatic is also a stretch, since His teaching appears to be the quintessence of sanity—and a great moral teacher is, by definition, sane. So, if He was not a lunatic nor a liar, the only other logically possible conclusion is that He is God. Logic forces those who don’t believe He is God to reject the idea that He was a great moral teacher. Among the three possibilities, a great moral teacher is not one of them. It is possible to hold that Jesus was dishonest or insane. But for the vast majority of people, these are not acceptable options.