

Sunday, March 22, 2026 - THE JOURNEY HOME: PART ONE - THE WAY – Pastor John Henry Raskin

A Three-Part Series Leading up to Resurrection Sunday

*“I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.”*— John 14:6

As we approach Easter, we embark on a three-part journey centered on Jesus’ sixth “I AM” declaration in the Gospel of John. This series traces the movement of Christ’s final days and reveals God’s redemptive heart for humanity.

- Part One – The Way (*Passion Sunday*)
- Part Two – The Truth (*Palm Sunday*)
- Part Three – The Life (*Resurrection Sunday*)

This is not only the story of Jesus’ path to the cross, it is the story of God coming to lead us home.

### Part One: *The Way*

We are all weary travelers—searching for belonging, meaning, and rest. Into our wandering, Jesus speaks words that change everything: *“I am the way.”* He does not give directions or philosophies; He gives Himself. The way home is not a route, it is a relationship.

### The Way Revealed

- Jesus is not a map, but a Person
- Not a method, but a living Savior
- He does not point toward the road—He becomes the road

In Scripture, “The Way” runs like a **scarlet thread** from Genesis to Revelation. What was once a path through the wilderness is now fulfilled in Christ Himself—the Light, the Shepherd, and the Presence of God with us.

### Walking the Way

Following Jesus as *The Way* means walking with Him toward the cross—not as spectators, but as disciples.

The way of Jesus is the way of:

- Humility instead of pride
- Obedience instead of convenience
- Forgiveness instead of resentment
- Surrender instead of control
- Love instead of self-protection

This path is costly, but it is the only way that leads to life. The cross is not a tragic detour, it is the road home.

### The Journey Still Unfolding

- The Way leads us to the cross
- The Truth confronts the illusions of the world
- The Life rises victorious from the empty tomb

This journey begins in surrender, passes through sacrifice, and ends in the arms of the Father.

Welcome to The Journey. Welcome Home.

## THE JOURNEY HOME - PART ONE: THE WAY

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Last week we concluded our six-week “Intentional Series” landing on the power of Intentional Praise.

We learned how when we praise God by His name, Jesus, the moment troubles arise, it unleashes the power of God to destroy the strongholds of the enemy in the spiritual realm.

We saw how the breaking of these strongholds affects our emotional, mental and even physical states to bring clarity, wholeness and healing.

As we are now approaching Easter, as it is most often called, we are going to embark today on a three-part series which will conclude on Resurrection Sunday.

The Series is called “The Journey Home” and it focuses on the sixth of Jesus’ “I AM” declarations in the Gospel of John.

### **John 14:6**

**Jesus said to him, “I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.**

For the next three weeks we will expand on each of these three illuminating statements that Jesus made regarding who He is.

This week we will reflect upon Jesus as The Way.

Next week we will explore Jesus as The Truth.

And finally on Easter Sunday we will discover the resurrected Jesus as The Life.

The title for the series, “The Journey Home”, derives from the context for the scripture which we just read.

Hear the word of the Lord...

### **John 14:1-6**

**“Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me. 2 In My Father’s house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. 3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also. 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?”**

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

If we think about our lives and especially the times in our lives when we have been most troubled, a common thread that we may find is a feeling of being alone in a place that is not ours.

Have you ever felt that you were out of place, not really belonging in your family, amongst your friends, at work or maybe even at church?

If you have ever felt like that, you are not alone.

Most people have searched for direction in their lives, hoping to reach a place that feels like home.

I know that in my life, before I received Jesus, I struck out in my own direction numerous times and in a multitude of ways, reinventing myself to try to fit in, and trying desperately to navigate the twists and turns of life.

Occasionally, I found myself in attractive places with nice things and titles that the world would see as success.

But I always felt a longing for a place where I could really know I belonged.

If you are like me, perhaps you can relate...

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We are all weary travelers.

Wanderers with dust on our feet and questions in our souls.

We are pilgrims searching for meaning, for direction,  
for a place where the ache finally quiets and our hearts can find rest.

We are all, in one way or another, trying to find our way home.

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And into our wandering, into our wondering,

into our weary, restless longing,

Jesus steps forward and speaks one sentence that changes everything:

“I am the way, the truth, and the life.”

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Not a map to study.

Not a philosophy to debate.

Not a path we must clear on our own.

But a Person— a Savior— a Shepherd— a King

who does not point to a direction home  
but becomes the road that leads us there.

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This is The Journey Home.

A journey that begins with the Way—  
as Jesus walks the long, loving road  
toward a cross He does not deserve  
for people who could never earn it.

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A journey that moves through the Truth—  
as palm branches wave and kingdoms collide,  
and the world must decide whether to cling to its illusions  
or bow to the King who comes humble and riding on a donkey.

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A journey that rises into The Life  
as a stone rolls away,  
and death loses its grip,  
as a garden echoes with the sound of a Savior  
calling His children by name.

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This is not just the story of Jesus' final days.

This is the story of God coming to find us.

God refusing to leave us lost.

God making a way where there was no way.

God telling the truth that sets us free.

God giving life that death cannot steal.

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This is the journey home—  
the journey every heart was made for.

A journey that begins at the cross,  
passes through an empty tomb,  
and ends in the arms of the Father.

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So come with me on this journey.  
Come with your doubts and your dreams.  
Come with your wounds and your worship.  
Come with your questions, your fears, your longing for more.

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Because the One Who **is** the Way will lead you.  
The One Who **is** the Truth, will steady you. .

The One Who **is** the Life, will raise you.  
Welcome to the journey.  
Welcome home.

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Now let's talk about the first of Jesus claims to sovereignty, Jesus as  
The Way.

This Sunday is traditionally known as Passion Sunday.

It is a time when believers all over the world are focusing their hearts and minds on Jesus' preparation to sacrifice and suffer on behalf of a cruel and uncaring world of sinners.

This is where our journey home begins...

### **John 14:5**

**Thomas said to Him, “Lord, we do not know where You are going, and how can we know the way?”**

We live in a world full of competing “ways”:

- The way of self-promotion
- The way of achievement
- The way of pleasure
- The way of self-invention
- The way of control
- The way of empty religion

Every path promises life. Every path promises peace.

But every path apart from Christ—only leads to exhaustion and eventually, death.

The disciples feel lost. We often feel the same.

Like us, Thomas says, “Lord, we don't know the way.”

Jesus says, “You know Me—and that is enough.”

Passion Sunday invites us to walk with Jesus toward the cross.

Not as spectators.

Not as admirers.

But as followers.

Because He **is** the way that carries us when we cannot walk.

The way that forgives us when we wander.

The way that leads us home.

There are moments in life when the road ahead feels unclear. When the future feels foggy. When our hearts feel troubled.

Jesus speaks into a moment just like that.

The disciples are anxious, confused, and afraid.

Jesus has told them He is going away. He has spoken of betrayal, denial, and death.

Their world is shaking.

And into that moment, Jesus says:

**“Do not let your hearts be troubled. You believe in God; believe also in Me... I am the way.”**

Jesus doesn't hand them directions. He gives them Himself.

Not a map. Not a method. Not a philosophy. A Person.

He says, “I am the way.”

The way is not a route. The way is a relationship.

To deepen our understanding of The Way, we should look at Jesus' declaration not merely as a Biblical New Testament invitation, but as the living fulfillment of a "scarlet thread" that runs from Genesis to Revelation.

In the Old Testament, the "Way" was often a literal path through the wilderness; in the New Testament, "The Way" becomes a living Person.

Here are some scriptures from the Psalms to illuminate this journey.

### **Psalm 119:105**

**Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.**

The Gospel of John illuminates Jesus as the living Word of God.

He was there at the very moment of Creation and was the light that God spoke into existence.

The Gospel tells us that Jesus is the true Light which, coming into the world, enlightens every man.

Jesus was the Shekinah Glory, the column of cloud by day and the pillar of fire by night, that led the Israelites through the desert and protected them from their enemies.

They would not move unless the Pillar of Fire moved and they followed wherever it led and camped whenever and wherever it rested.

We need to be obedient like that.

Jesus was and is literally the Word that is a lamp unto our feet when we walk in obedience to His guidance.

A "lamp" in the ancient world wasn't a floodlight; it was a small clay dish that only illuminated the very next step.

Following "The Way" doesn't mean knowing the five-year plan; it means having enough light for the next obedient step.

Let's look at one of David's Psalms of protection and guidance for further clarity.

### **Psalm 23:1-4**

**The Lord is my shepherd;**

**I shall not want.**

**2 He makes me to lie down in green pastures;**

**He leads me beside the still waters.**

**3 He restores my soul;**

**He leads me in the paths of righteousness**

**For His name's sake.**

**4 Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,**

**I will fear no evil; For You are with me;**

**Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me.**

When David references "Paths of righteousness" he uses the Hebrew word for "paths", Ma'gal.

Ma'gal refers to a well-worn path, or track created by habitual use.

In this case, it implies a safe, established and steady course provided by the Good Shepherd.

His sheep don't find their own way; they follow the tracks left by the Shepherd.

Our "new life" is found in the "old established paths" of Christ's character.

Notice that we follow Him in the "paths of righteousness" for His Name's sake".

His Name is Jesus.

Even when we walk through the darkness of the world, we have the light of the Lamp of Jesus.

Jesus is the Path, the Light and the Shepherd.

**Psalm 16:11a and b**

**You will show me the path of life;  
In Your presence is fullness of joy;**

Note the connection in this scripture between the Path and His Presence.

The Way isn't a destination we reach to find God; God is the environment we walk in.

Now on Passion Sunday Jesus is both The Path and The Presence as He invites us to walk with Him toward The Cross.

When we do, we discover that the way He walks is the way that brings us home.

Jesus says, "I go to prepare a place for you."

The disciples feared what would happen to them when He left them.

But Jesus is assuring them that He is not abandoning them—He is going ahead of them.

The way that Jesus is going to show them is the way of the Cross.

It is the way of self-denial, the way of selfless, reckless love.

It is the only way to see the truth and receive life everlasting.

In the Gospel of Matthew Jesus told His followers then and He urges us now...

## **Matthew 16:24-25**

**24 Then Jesus said to His disciples, “If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me. 25 For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it.**

The way of Jesus is the way of: Humility, Sacrifice. Obedience. Surrender.

The way of Jesus means leaving the broad and easy worldly path and turning intentionally to the narrow, difficult road.

To walk in the way of Jesus means:

- Forgiving when it's easier to resent.
- Serving when it's easier to be served.
- Obeying when it's easier to compromise.
- Trusting when it's easier to control.
- Loving when it's easier to withdraw.

The way of Jesus is costly.

But it is the only way that leads to life.

And as we have learned the past six weeks, the way of Jesus is the way of intentionality.

## **Luke 9:51**

**Now it came to pass, when the time had come for Him to be received up, that He steadfastly set His face to go to Jerusalem, Jesus walks toward the cross with intention.**

He walks toward suffering with purpose.

He walks toward death with love.

Satan told Jesus, the man, that He could have the world if He would only bow down and worship him.

Unlike the first Adam, Jesus refused.

The Last Adam chose to obey His Father and take the cross for you and me.

To follow Jesus as “The Way” means embracing His path:

- Choosing humility instead of pride
- Choosing to forgive instead of taking revenge
- Choosing a life of obedience instead of a life of convenience
- Choosing to surrender instead of taking control
- Choosing to embrace the path of Love instead of hiding behind walls of self-protection

The way of Jesus will cost you something.

But it is the only way that leads to life.

We do have to take up our cross to follow the Way of Jesus, but the cross is not a tragic detour.

It is the road home.

Through His body, the barrier is removed.

Through His blood, the door is opened.

Through His sacrifice, the way is made.

In the Book of Acts the early Christians were called "Followers of the Way".

They were known by their love for one another, for their acts of charity to the poor and the hurting around them.

They were a witness to the Love of God in Christ by their steadfast commitment to a selfless way of life and a courageous lack of fear of persecution.

They were not adherents to a religion.

They were radical, counter-cultural and passionate followers of a Leader who was God become flesh and who now rules and reigns over His Kingdom from the Throne of Grace.

They were people on a journey, people like us, led by the Spirit of God, the Spirit of Christ, the man Jesus who was, Himself, The Way.

Let's pray...