

Sunday, March 29, 2026 - THE JOURNEY HOME: PART TWO: THE TRUTH – Pastor John Henry Raskin

Key Text: John 14:6

"I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me."

Jesus does not merely teach truth—He is The Truth. In a world of shifting narratives and competing "truths," Jesus alone defines reality, reveals God, exposes our illusions, and leads us home.

- Jesus does not say He *points to* the truth or *contains* truth.
- He declares, "I AM the Truth."
- Truth is not a philosophy, system, or opinion—it is Jesus Himself.

Palm Sunday: Truth Enters the City

- As Jesus enters Jerusalem, the crowd celebrates Him as King.
- They expect a political liberator, not a suffering Savior.
- Jesus arrives humbly on a donkey, fulfilling prophecy and redefining kingship.
- The crowd wants their illusions affirmed; Jesus comes to reveal truth.

Jesus is not the King we expect—He is the King we need.

Our Illusions vs. His Truth

Like the crowd, we often want a Jesus who:

- Blesses our plans
- Endorses our preferences
- Makes life easier and more comfortable

But Jesus is not adjustable or customizable. He reveals truth, even when it confronts us—because truth is what heals.

Why We Need the Truth

- We are prone to self-deception.
- Lies cannot transform, heal, or save.
- Only the Truth can renew the mind, restore the soul, and redirect a life.

When everything claims to be true, confusion follows. Jesus does not offer a truth—He offers Himself.

The Exclusive but Restorative Truth

- Jesus is the only way to the Father—not by human effort, but through His death, resurrection, and ongoing intercession.
- This truth is exclusive, but not restrictive.
- It is restorative, bringing peace with God and freedom from sin and fear.

Truth Revealed at the Cross

The cross shows us:

- The seriousness of sin
- The depth of God's love
- The cost of redemption
- The reality of grace

Jesus is full of grace and truth—never one without the other.

Walking in the Truth

- Walk honestly before God (true confession, no masks).
- Walk with integrity before others (truth in action).
- Speak truth with humility, compassion, courage, and conviction.

The world doesn't need louder or angrier Christians.

It needs followers of Jesus who live out grace and truth.

Final Invitation

Palm Sunday is not a parade—it is a proclamation. Jesus declares:

"I am the truth your soul has been searching for."

Not the truth that crushes—the truth that carries. Not the truth that condemns—the truth that saves.

The Truth is leading us home

THE JOURNEY HOME: PART TWO – THE TRUTH

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

Last week was Passion Sunday.

We began our three-part series entitled “The Journey Home” based on the 6th of Jesus “I Am” statements from 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.

In Part One we encountered Jesus as “The Way” and discovered that there was no road map on our journey,

but a Good Shepherd that would guide us through this dark valley and to our eternal home.

Today is Palm Sunday.

Now we move from the direction of the path to the definition of reality.

Here, today, in Part Two of our series, we will discover Jesus as “The Truth”.

We are living in a time when truth is questioned, redefined, negotiated, and often dismissed altogether.

We hear phrases like, “That may be true for you, but it’s not true for me.”

We are told that truth is fluid, personal, subjective, and constantly evolving.

Yet in the middle of a confused world, Jesus makes one of the clearest and boldest statements ever spoken.

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

Notice what He does not say.

He does not say, “I teach the truth.”

He does not say, “I point to the truth.”

He does not say, “I contain some truth.”

He says, “I AM The Truth.”

Truth that is not a concept.

Truth, that is not a philosophy.

Truth, that is not a religious system.

Truth who is a Person — and His name is Jesus.

Two thousand years ago, it is Passover in Jerusalem and there are thousands of Jewish pilgrims from all the dispersed tribes of Israel known as the diaspora.

They have come to worship in the Temple and observe God’s deliverance of their people from bondage in Egypt.

The air is thick with rumors of Messiah and stories of a teacher who had performed miracles.

Jesus had only recently raised Lazarus from the dead.

The atmosphere was dominated by three conflicting factions:

The Roman Occupation, which was led by Pontius Pilate, the Roman governor.

He usually resided in Caesarea but moved to Jerusalem during Passover specifically to suppress potential riots.

The Romans maintained a visible, heavy military presence at the Antonia Fortress, overlooking the Temple Mount, ready to intervene at the first sign of sedition.

Then there were the Pharisees, the Sadducees, the Sanhedrin:

This aristocratic priestly class, led by the High Priest Caiaphas, managed the Temple.

Their primary goal was maintaining the status quo.

They operated under a fragile "Pax Romana".

If they kept the peace, Rome allowed them to keep their religious autonomy.

Any popular messianic figure was seen as a direct threat to this delicate balance.

And last but not least, there was the crowd.

The crowd was made up of ordinary people and various revolutionary factions.

The common people were heavily taxed and lived under military rule.

Groups like the Zealots were actively looking for a leader to spark a violent revolt against Rome.

Each of these groups held their own agendas and had their own perspectives about who Messiah was and if He would come at all.

Into this volatile and dangerous place and time, the Truth arrives.

John 12:12-15

12 The next day a great multitude that had come to the feast, when they heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem, 13 took branches of palm trees and went out to meet Him, and cried out:

“Hosanna!

‘Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!’

The King of Israel!”

14 Then Jesus, when He had found a young donkey, sat on it; as it is written:

15 “Fear not, daughter of Zion;

Behold, your King is coming,

Sitting on a donkey’s colt.”

The Truth arrives in Jerusalem.

John here quotes scripture written by the Prophet Zechariah over 500 years earlier.

This is one of the Prophecies that the crowd and the Pharisees would recognize as proclaiming the coming Messiah from the line of David.

They were expecting a King that would deliver them from the yoke of Rome.

They were not expecting the truth of Jesus Christ.

As palm branches wave and kingdoms collide, even today, the world must decide whether to cling to its illusions or bow to the King who comes humbly, riding on a donkey.

Today, here in Abundant Life Church, we look back on the truth that is Jesus Christ.

From our privileged vantage point, we know Him as Savior, Shepherd and King.

Today, as we talk about the crowd and their illusions about Who Jesus was,

we are also going to confront our own illusions about this King of Glory who came humbly and riding on a donkey to bring us home through His sacrificial death on a Roman Cross.

The crowds shout “Hosanna!”

They wave palm branches.

They welcome Jesus as King.

But they misunderstand the kind of King He is.

They want a conqueror.

They want a political hero.

But Jesus comes humbly on a donkey’s colt.

Here, on Palm Sunday, the crowd had a script for Jesus.

They wanted Him to fit their agenda.

They wanted Him to fulfill their desires.

But Jesus refused to be shaped by their expectations.

Less than a week later the Cross would reveal the truth that the crowd did not want to hear.

Jesus comes to reveal truth, not to affirm illusions.

Jesus is not the King we expect—He is the King we need.

As we look at the self-serving agenda of the crowd let us remember that the same misunderstanding existed in His disciples.

Earlier in the Gospels of Matthew and Mark, we see Peter rebuking Jesus for saying that He was going to Jerusalem to His death.

They also squabbled amongst themselves about who would be the greatest when Jesus came into His Kingdom which they expected to be an earthly one.

We are no different today. Many Christians are looking for Jesus to take them out of their troubles.

The only human who ever lived without His own self-serving agenda was this man Jesus Who lived and died to do His Father's Will.

May we welcome Him today—not as we imagine Him or want Him to be, but as He truly is.

Jesus still refuses to be shaped by our expectations.

He comes to reveal the truth about us, not to affirm our illusions.

If we are honest with ourselves, we will admit that we often want a Jesus:

-Who blesses our plans.

-Who endorses our preferences.

-Who fits neatly into our pre-conceived worldview.

Who makes our lives easier and more comfortable.

But Jesus is not adjustable.

He is not customizable.

He is not a mascot for our desires.

Jesus **is** The Truth.

We live today in a world that is full of deception and competing agendas that all claim to be the truth.

Many people have a compelling narrative meant to get you to go along with their version of the truth.

Religions that claim to hold the truth.

Political Parties that each claim their own truth.

But competing truths create:

Confusion, anxiety, division and exhaustion.

When everything is “true,” nothing is true.

Jesus doesn't offer “a truth.” He offers Himself as The Truth.

The truth that anchors, steadies, and clarifies in the midst of every storm and trial.

The world asks why do I need The Truth?

Because we are all prone to self-deception.

Jeremiah says the heart is “deceitful above all things.”

We are experts at lying to ourselves.

We say:

“I'm fine.” “I can handle it.” “I don't need help.”

“I'm in control.”

Jesus comes to confront the lies we tell ourselves with the truth that heals us.

The Truth is the soil where transformation grows.

You cannot be transformed by a lie.

You cannot be healed by a lie.

You cannot be saved by a lie.

Only The Truth can renew your mind.

Only The Truth can restore your soul.

Only The Truth can reshape your heart.

Only The Truth can redirect your life

The world says “but why is your truth the only truth?

Isn't that exclusive? Isn't that restrictive?”

It's true, we should admit, that The Truth is exclusive.

He excludes all other paths to peace with God.

But The Truth is not restrictive.

The Truth is restorative.

The Truth is Himself, deliverance from the power of sin and the fear of death.

Let's look again at what Jesus says in our key verse...

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.

The simple truth is that no one comes to the father except through Jesus.

The nuance of the word “through” which in the Greek is “dia” signifies that Jesus is the exclusive mediator agent and only path to peace with God.

This statement indicates that salvation and access to the Father are only available on account of and by means of Jesus sacrificial death, resurrection and ongoing intercession rather than by anyone’s human effort.

He is the True North, the path Home.

In Scripture, truth is rooted in the very nature of God.

Psalm 119:160 tells us “The entirety of Your word is truth”.

And Numbers 23:19 says this...

Numbers 23:19

**“God is not a man, that He should lie,
Nor a son of man, that He should repent.
Has He said, and will He not do?
Or has He spoken, and will He not make it good?”**

We must remember that Jesus was not a man who became God he was God who became a man.

John 1:14

And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.

Truth put on skin.

Truth walked among us.

Truth ate with sinners.

Truth touched lepers.

Truth wept over Jerusalem.

Truth hung on a cross.

Everything Jesus says is true.

Everything Jesus does is true.

Everything He reveals about God is true.

Jesus tells us the truth about:

- our sin
- our pride
- our brokenness
- our need
- our worth
- our identity

He tells us the truth that hurts, so that He can show us the truth that heals.

The week before Easter is the week of Jesus' suffering and death on the Cross.

The Cross is where truth and love meet.

Jesus reveals the truth about salvation through His work on the Cross.

The Cross shows us:

The truth about the seriousness of sin.

The truth about the depth of God's love.

The truth about the cost of redemption.

The truth about the reality of grace.

This scripture tells us that Jesus was the only begotten of the Father full of Grace AND Truth.

Not truth without grace. Not grace without truth.

Truth is not harsh. Truth is not cold. Truth is not a weapon.

Truth is a Person.

Truth is our friend - gentle, humble, compassionate.

Jesus reveals the truth about God:

When Jesus stood before Pontius Pilate, the Creator of the Universe answering to a Roman Governor that His Kingdom is not of this world...

John 18:37

37 Pilate therefore said to Him, "Are You a king then?"

Jesus answered, "You say rightly that I am a king. For this cause I was born, and for this cause I have come into the world, that I should bear witness to the truth.

Everyone who is of the truth hears My voice."

Pilate answered cynically, "What is truth?"

That is the world's answer. A question. An answer that is not even an answer. That truth is irrelevant, that truth is relative.

The Truth is not relative.

The Truth is reality.

Notice what Jesus says here. “Everyone who is of the truth hears my voice.”

Jesus is God. Jesus is The Truth.

God's Truth is confirmed by the Holy Spirit.

The Holy Spirit is our guide. Our comforter. Our wisdom.

How can we walk in the power of the truth?

Walk in honesty before God.

Truth begins with true confession.

Not shame-filled confession.

Honest confession.

Liberating confession.

“Lord, here I am.” No masks. No pretending. No hiding.”

Then walk in integrity before others.

Integrity is truth in motion.

Integrity is truth with skin on it.

Truth is not just what we believe. Truth is how we act.

Truth is how we live.

The world needs followers of The Truth who walk in integrity.

The world doesn't need louder Christians.

The world doesn't need angrier Christians.

The world that Jesus so loves needs better Christians.

People who speak The Truth with humility, compassion, courage and conviction.

Truth without grace is harsh.

Love without truth is hollow.

Jesus is both Grace and Truth.

We also need to be full of Grace and Truth by the power of His Spirit.

Palm Sunday is not a parade. It is a proclamation.

Jesus rides into Jerusalem to declare:

“I am the truth your soul has been searching for.”

Not the truth that crushes. The truth that carries.

Not the truth that condemns. The truth that sets free.

Not the truth that shames. The truth that saves.

And He invites us—

not to admire the truth,

not to debate the truth,

but to follow The Truth.

Because The Truth is leading us somewhere.

The truth is leading us home.

Let's pray...