



Pastor Rafael Aristy, July 31, 2022

I AM the Way, the Truth, and the Life - John 14:1-6

The Background

- The setting for where Jesus makes this statement is in His final Passover (the Last Supper)
- He has washed His disciples' feet. He displays what it means to be a servant leader. This is an example for them to follow (us too!)
- He has given them some marching orders concerning how to act towards one another...

John 13:34 "A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. **35** By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."

This is God's desire for the believer. That we LOVE one another!

- We follow Jesus' example in loving one another.
- Disciples of Jesus are marked by this, that we LOVE one another AS HE has loved us
- Not when you feel like it. Not if I LIKE you...not if I AGREE with you...
- The command Jesus gives us is to LOVE one another SACRIFICIALLY

At this time Jesus also gives them some BAD NEWS...

1. One of you will betray me (13:18-30)
2. Oh, btw, I'm leaving y'all (13:31-15)
3. Peter, you will deny me (13:36-38)

This is the setting of John chapter 14...

John 14:1-6 NIV

14 "Do not let your hearts be troubled. You believe in God; believe also in me. **2** My Father's house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you? **3** And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am. **4** You know the way to the place where I am going." **5** Thomas said to him, "Lord, we don't know where you are going, so how can we

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

After the troubling news Jesus delivered to the disciples, He tells them,
1"Do not let your hearts be troubled. You believe in God; believe also in me.

Jesus lets them know He understands how they are feeling (troubled)

- This is encouraging to me because it tells me that Jesus UNDERSTANDS our FEELINGS
- Jesus understands when you feel scared, discouraged, disappointed...And he is there to COMFORT you!

He is also letting them know not to allow themselves to be DISTURBED or ANXIOUS because of the news they just received...

Good News family, do not let your hearts be troubled!

As Jesus sees they're troubled by the news, He calls them to BELIEVE, He is calling them to TRUST! You believe in God; believe also in me.

Have you received some troubling news? Do not let your heart be troubled. BELIEVE in Jesus! Believe He is in control...Believe He has the POWER...Believe he is WITH you and FOR you!

In verses 2 and 3 Jesus begins to talk about 'his father's house'. The only other time he used this expression was in reference to the Temple

John 2:16 NIV To those who sold doves he said, "Get these out of here! Stop turning my Father's house into a market!"

- The cool thing about this is that Jesus was calling the Temple 'my father's house.'
- In the life of the Israelites the Temple was the place where heaven and earth came together.
- Now Jesus is saying I'm going to that place...

2 My Father's house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you? **3** And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am.

Jesus COMFORTS His disciples by telling them there is enough room in His Father's house for ALL of them

- He is going ahead of them to get the place ready and He is coming back to get them- Great NEWS!
- He is letting them know, "Guys, I'm leaving, but it is for your benefit. I'm preparing everything for your arrival. I WILL NOT forget you. I WILL NOT abandon you."
Have you ever been invited somewhere, and you've been incredibly impressed with the level of preparation and attention to details the host has put into it?
- Jesus has prepared a place for you!

He is ALSO including them in His FAMILY...They are now welcomed at the Father's house.

Jesus has included you in HIS FAMILY!!!

Then Jesus gets them ALL confused ⁴*You know the way to the place where I am going.*"

You know that moment when someone says something and you go, "huh?"

- Jesus is evoking a response with this statement.
- This statement is an invitation for the disciples, yet again, to FIND OUT who Jesus is.

⁵*Thomas said to him, "Lord, we don't know where you are going, so how can we know the way?"*

Thomas gets a gold star! He's putting 2 and 2 together.

- Thomas is like- "Lord, you didn't even tell us where you're going...sooo, how can we know where the place is? Remember Lord, Peter asked you and all you said was that "*where I'm going you cannot follow*"

- Sometimes it's ok to question God (Don't get it twisted...keyword is *sometimes*)
- Thomas asked, "*how can we know the way?*"
- This shows an eagerness to follow the Good Shepherd
- This shows a desire by Thomas of going to the "Father's house," he's just confused on how to get there
- Because of Thomas' question..

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

Jesus ANSWERS the question!

These IAM statements have one thing in common. They are all A PERSON!

The person of JESUS!

The WAY is not a PATH, but a person...JESUS!

The TRUTH is not a CONCEPT/FACT, but a person...JESUS!

The LIFE is not a STATE OF BEING, but a person...Who is this person?
JESUS!

There's only *ONE* who lived, died, and resurrected, to *pay the price* of our sin and carry our suffering.

The WAY

This statement has been the cause of CONTROVERSY for a couple of centuries now.

Jesus is making the statement, "*YOU WANNA GO TO THE FATHER'S HOUSE? YOU HAVE TO COME WITH ME.*"

There's NO OTHER way!

Jesus said, *No one comes to the Father except through me*

What audacity! It seems like arrogance to say He is the ONLY way. Shouldn't there be choices? '*Jesus, we like our choices.*' We should get to PICK what we want and who we want. NOPE!

There's only ONE who lived, died, and resurrected, to PAID the PRICE of our sin and carried our suffering.

- In our culture and society, it is preposterous that there would be only ONE WAY
- In our culture and society EXCLUSIVITY is frowned upon...It is outdated, it is maddening

That's what Christianity is. It is UNIQUE and EXCLUSIVE. There's only ONE way...Jesus!
AND is EXCLUSIBLY for those who surrendered their lives to Him...PERIOD

The world has tried all other ways. Religions. Enlightenment. Self-help. That has not gotten us anywhere.

Most of you know Jesus as the WAY

- You were lost, with NO IDEA where you were going.
- You couldn't find your own way, groping your way through darkness. Banging against things along the way.

There's ONLY one RIGHT WAY, His name is Jesus. Sin is US wanting to do things OUR way

First century Christians were called THE WAY!

Acts 9:1-2 NIV 1 Meanwhile, Saul was still breathing out murderous threats against the Lord's disciples. He went to the high priest 2 and asked him for letters to the synagogues in Damascus, so that if he found any there who belonged to the Way, whether men or women, he might take them as prisoners to Jerusalem.

They followed the WAY...The way of Jesus! *How many are glad Jesus is the WAY?!*

If you find yourself LOST today, Jesus is the way!

The TRUTH

Jesus is also the embodiment of truth! He is the picture of God's covenant faithfulness

John 1:17 For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.

All of God's promises and prophecies were fulfilled in Jesus.

Jesus is the revelation of God's faithfulness in our lives. He will do what He said he will do.

Jesus is TRUTH - **He is your truth**

- You think, "I'm not enough"...that's not true, Jesus is your truth. He says you're enough!
- You think, "I'm not loved"...that's NOT true, Jesus is your truth. He says I love you!
- You think, "There's no hope"...that's NOT true, Jesus is your truth. He says I give you hope!
- You think, "I'm a failure"...that's NOT true, Jesus is your truth. He says I'll pick you up!

Say with me, "Jesus is truth. He is MY truth!"

Satan is the FATHER of lies. He can NOT tell the truth.

John 8:44 NIV You belong to your father, the devil, and you want to carry out your father's desires. He was a murderer from the beginning, *not holding to the truth, for there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks his native language, for he is a liar and the father of lies.*

The devil is a LIAR!

The LIFE

Jesus is the giver of life!

Before I knew and believed this reality, I was living but I didn't have LIFE.

Life comes when you get to the place where you trust and believe Jesus is the ONLY way, that He is the embodiment of TRUTH and will NOT lead you astray.

- Life comes when you realize God's purpose for your life.
- Life comes when you embark of the journey of discovering WHO you are in Him AND you are GOOD with it!
- You're not me, and I'm not you.

God made you who you ARE for a reason, for a purpose. Be the BEST you possible!

Satan doesn't want you to be who God created you to be and to LIVE the LIFE he has predestined for you to LIVE.

John 10:10 NAS The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I came so that they would have life and have it abundantly.

NIV I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.

Abundant life is for me to have *access to* and *possess* all that Christ purchased for me. Peace, hope, love, eternal life...

You have an enemy who DOESN'T want you to live the FULL life Jesus purchased for you.

- The enemy wants to bring death to you: Spiritual, physical, emotional, and relational DEATH
- On the contrary, Jesus came that you may have spiritual, physical, emotional, and relational LIFE

When we think of abundant life we may think of monetary wealth, possessions, or power. That's an earthly perspective an abundant life is.

- It may include some of those things BUT it's much more

To me, ABUNDANT life is for me to have ACCESS and POSSESS ALL Christ purchased for me

- It is PEACE, JOY, HOPE, LOVE...
- It is ETERNAL LIFE...It is relationship with my heavenly Father through HOLY SPIRIT

Jesus is LIFE!

Without "the WAY" there's no direction

Without "the TRUTH" there's no reality

Without "the LIFE" there's no living

Questions to consider:

- What is Jesus speaking to you today as you hear this?
- Did you learn something new about God?
- Are there ways in your life in which the voice of the LIAR is louder the voice of the One who is TRUTH?
- Are you living in ABUNDANT life? What could abundant mean for you, apart from material things?