

The Way, the Truth and the Life

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3-24-24

John 14:1-6 (NKJV) “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. ⁷ “If you had known Me, you would have known My Father also; and from now on you know Him and have seen Him.”

Chapter 13 give us the setting for this passage. Jesus is eating the Passover meal with His disciples. This is the last meal he will have with them. John records that Jesus knowing that His hour had come (the cross was near), washed the feet of the disciples and predicted that someone sitting at the table would betray him. Of course, he also makes clear that although they didn’t know it then, the one who would betray them was Judas.

Imagine what the atmosphere was like after Jesus makes this prediction. Everyone must have been distressed.

As soon as Judas leaves the room to make the deal of betrayal with the religious leaders, Jesus makes another announcement.

John 13:31-33 (NLT) “The time has come for the Son of Man to enter into his glory, and God will be glorified because of him. ³² And since God receives glory because of the Son, he will give his own glory to the Son, and he will do so at once. ³³ Dear children, I will be with you only a little longer. And as I told the Jewish leaders, you will search for me, but you can’t come where I am going.

Jesus is predicting His death, burial and ascension and making clear that what He is about to do and undergo would bring glory to the Father. He also tells them that when it come to this journey it would be one that they would not travel. The redemptive cross would be fulfilled by Him alone.

Jesus knew that they would be troubled or distressed by the events that He is announcing and would soon become a reality. He commands them to love one another and reminds them that the way the world would truly know that they are His disciples is by the love they have for each other.

It seems as if though Peter’s mind isn’t truly focused on the last instructions about loving each other. The words that have him worried is Jesus saying, you cannot come where I am going.

John 13:36-38 (NLT) Simon Peter asked, “Lord, where are you going?” And Jesus replied, “You can’t go with me now, but you will follow me later.”

Again, Jesus wants Peter to know that where He is going or what He about to do was destined for Him alone. He would go to the cross, pay the price for the sins of the world, He would go to the grave and conquer death and He would rise from the dead and ascend into heaven where He was before He came.

Peter obviously didn't understand this in the moment. He is thinking that Jesus is going on a trip and he wants to go with him.

John 13:37-38 (NLT) "But why can't I come now, Lord?" he asked. "I'm ready to die for you."

³⁸ Jesus answered, "Die for me? I tell you the truth, Peter before the rooster crows tomorrow morning, you will deny three times that you even know me "But why can't I come now, Lord?" he asked. "I'm ready to die for you."

Just when things couldn't get worse Jesus makes another prediction. Peter would deny that He knew Jesus. Talk about distress and ruining a good supper.

It's after all of this that Jesus says... John 14:1 (NKJV) "Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me.

Jesus points then back to the place of trust. If they were to overcome the distress and the anxiety they were feeling they had to trust Him just as they trusted in God.

For Peter that meant that although he would deny that the Lord, there was still hope as Jesus told him, "You can't go with me now, but you will follow me later."

John 14:2-4 (NLT) There is more than enough room in my Father's home. If this were not so, would I have told you that I am going to prepare a place for you? ³ When everything is ready, I will come and get you, so that you will always be with me where I am. ⁴ And you know the way to where I am going."

Jesus again points to the work He has to do in order to make it possible for them, as well as all who place their faith in Him, to be come to where He is going.

What he was about to do through His death, burial and resurrection would make it possible to have access to the Father's house. He would prepare a place for them and in so doing promised to come back to take them there.

He goes back to where I go you know and the way you know. Peter isn't going to say anything this time. He is still trying to process the prediction of his denying Jesus.

So now it's Thomas's turn.

John 14:5 (NLT) "No, we don't know, Lord," Thomas said. "We have no idea where you are going, so how can we know the way?"

Thomas and all the other disciples are thinking in literal terms. Jesus however, isn't speaking about a physical road he is speaking about the road or means by which to have access to the Father.

John 14:6 (NLT) Jesus told him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one can come to the Father except through me. ⁷ "If you had known Me, you would have known My Father also; and from now on you know Him and have seen Him."

There are three things Jesus claims about Himself

- **Jesus claims to deserve equal faith as God** (The Father and I are one)

John 14:1 (NLT) Don't let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God, and trust also in me.

Jesus is claiming to be on exactly the same level as God when it comes to trusting Him!

John 14:7 (NKJV) "If you had known Me, you would have known My Father also; and from now on you know Him and have seen Him."

John 1:3 (NKJV) In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

- **Jesus claims to be the exclusive way to God**

John 14:6 (NKJV) Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.

This is the sixth of Jesus' seven "I am" statements in John. It's another claim to deity. Jesus is saying that we can only have access to God only through Him.

We must trust Him and the work He did on the cross of Calvary to be the only way to a relationship with God the Father.

Jesus didn't say I know the way, nor I will point the way, he declares "I am the way".

He also claimed to be "The Truth", he didn't say I can teach you truth, although he did that. In context he is saying I am the only true way to salvation.

He also claimed to be The Life. He didn't say I can show you how to get life but rather "I am the life"

John 5:21 (NKJV) For as the Father raises the dead and gives them life, so also the Son gives life to whom he will.

We have eternal life and access to the Father because we not only have we believed in Him, but because we have also believed and placed our trust in His one and only Son.

John 17:3 (NKJV) And this is eternal life, that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent.

Acts 4:12 (AMP) And there is salvation in no one else; for there is no other name under heaven that has been given among people by which we must be saved [for God has provided the world no alternative for salvation]."

Romans 5:1-2 (ESV) Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. ²Through him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God.

- **Jesus claims to be the unique revealer of God**

John 14:7-9 (NLT) If you had really known me, you would know who my Father is. From now on, you do know him and have seen him!" ⁸ Philip said, "Lord, show us the Father,

and we will be satisfied.”⁹ Jesus replied, “Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and yet you still don’t know who I am? Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father! So why are you asking me to show him to you?”

Jesus, while walking in earth, was God the Son incarnate, Emmanuel, the ever-existing One with us.

Matthew 1:23 (NKJV) A virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and you will name him Immanuel, which means, “God is with us.”

Isaiah 9:6 (NKJV) For a child has been born to us, a son has been given to us! On his shoulders he will carry the principality, and his name will be Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father and Prince of Peace.

The writer of the book of Hebrews describes Him beautifully, as the express image of the Father.

Hebrews 1:3a (NLT) The Son radiates God’s own glory and expresses the very character of God, and he sustains everything by the mighty power of his command.

Jesus came to express, show, unveil, manifest, articulate, and demonstrate the will and nature of God. To see Him, therefore, is to see the Father; to know Him is to know the Father.

Jesus the Son of God incarnate, came made the heart of the Father known. He healed, delivered, comforted and rescued people. He came to give his life for the sins of the world. He revealed that the Father is Holy and Just, but He is also Love. That love for the world would be expressed in sacrifice to His Son for a humanity that did not deserve it.

John 3:16-17 (NKJV) For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. ¹⁷ For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.