

Week 30

Jesus is the Way

Before we begin our study lets look again at the context of our current lesson. We have been discussing the events of the Last Supper. Please keep in your mind that all the events of John 13-17 occurred in one night.

Last week we discussed Jesus washing the feet of the disciples, His love evident in His actions as He washed the feet of Judas, who would betray Him to the death and Peter who would deny Him.

Then Jesus talked about the New Commandment to love one another as He loves us. We also talked about Jesus glorifying God in the act of His suffering and death and then His prediction of Judas betrayal and Peter's denial.

Surprisingly then He told the disciples, as well as us His followers, that they should not let their hearts be troubled. What do you need to know or believe in order to avoid a troubled heart? He subsequently gave us many promises and truths which will help avoid a troubled heart and I have made a list of them, we began with the first one; if we believe in the Father then believe also in Jesus, secondly, Jesus' promise that His Father's house is a permanent dwelling place with plenty of room for us. The KJV translates this as mansions, which has a connotation for us in our time, which is inaccurate, it would be more accurate to say abodes, because it comes from the same root word as abide. Mansion makes me think of some enormous home but this is not what is meant, simply means a dwelling place with emphasis on permanence. Third, He was going to prepare a place for us-that is a special place for each one of us and fourth He promised to come and get us and take us there at the appointed time. The special part of this is we will be where He is.

Friends His going, that is, His crucifixion, death, burial and resurrection was the way He provided for us to get to heaven, but also He has provided a way for us to live in relationship to God. If you accept by faith His sacrificial death for your sin, then you have accepted the way He made for you. This eternal life begins the minute you believe.

John 14:4

The fifth reason to not let your heart be troubled.

John 14:5-6

Friends our destination, heaven, begins with a person. Jesus is the Way to the Father, He is the Truth or reality of all God's promises and Jesus is the Life as He joins His divine life to ours, making eternal life with the Father possible for us.

Have you ever been called narrow minded because you insist that Jesus is the Way and the only Way? You can always point out that you did not invent that idea, Jesus Himself made that claim and He didn't leave any room for other plans. It isn't a question of tolerance or diversity but whether we want to accept what Jesus said.

Perhaps you have heard some of these reasons for rejecting Jesus claim to be the Way?

1. Satisfaction with your own way
2. Happy with doing nothing, you can find your own way without help from Jesus
3. Do you deny your sin and therefore don't believe you need a Way or a Savior?
4. You believed there are many paths besides Jesus to get to God. Perhaps you haven't even chosen another way, you just don't like Jesus claim to exclusivity. There are no paths, there is one Way.

This is not narrow-minded, it is as broad as the whole world, and no one is excluded who will come. Rather than be upset at how limited Jesus is when He says He is "THE WAY" we should be saying "thank you God for providing a way to get to you".

What does it mean to say that Jesus is the Way?

Jesus is both God and man, He knows our human experience from birth to death and He knows what we need. He is our Way, not just an example. He is our guide with dependable directions and powerful protection. Our personal relationship to Jesus links us to God. We should follow Jesus guidance and trust Him to do for us all we need and what we cannot do for ourselves.

Jesus is the Truth; Jesus is our source of knowledge of the Father, His answers, teaching and commands were right. There was never any dishonesty, falsehood or lying in His life. He is the reality of all God promised. We should believe in Him and do what He taught.

No matter how loudly people shout that there is no truth, Jesus claim to be the Truth can never be shouted down.

Jesus is the life. He gives us life now and eternally, your eternal life begins the minute you accept by faith what He has done for you and surrender your life to Him. There is no source of life but Him. What other religious leader promised eternal life? And then provided the way Himself? Receive the life Jesus offers and allow it to work itself out in daily experience.

Jesus exclusive claim is unmistakable. Will you accept it or are you like a person drowning and insisting on several options for rescue besides the lifeboat provided?

Jesus Himself has said, there is no way to the Father except by Him. God is a Father only to those who believe in Jesus. Consider John 1:12 "But as many as received Him (Jesus) to them He gave the right to become children of God, even those who believe in His name".

Acts 4:12 referring to Jesus, says "there is salvation in no one else; for there is no other Name given among men by which we can be saved

John 14:7-9

He has told them He is the Way to the Father and now He is saying He is the visible manifestation of the Father. Instead of being preoccupied with the future, the disciples needed to realize that Jesus was opening the way to the Father right then. It is open to you right now.

Phillip was still not satisfied and Jesus gently rebuked Him in saying that he should understand by now who He is. After all they had been together 3 years.
John 14:10-11

Again Jesus stated the unity between the Father and Himself. He gives the disciples, namely Phillip the same argument that He gave the Pharisees. "If you don't believe Me then believe the works or signs." God's power was revealed through Jesus miracles.

It is very interesting to investigate Phillip's service to God in bringing the Gospel to the world as he had been commanded to do. The book of Acts describes several incidents where Phillip faithfully shared the truth about Jesus, there was no doubt what he believed then, he was convinced, obedient and bold.

John 14:12

After Jesus gave the Holy Spirit to the Disciples, they were able to bring the gospel to a much larger group than Jesus, as one individual could do. I believe this means there would be more converts by the Apostles and they would travel much further in the work of evangelism than Jesus did, remember He never left Israel after His infancy, the Disciples traveled out of Palestine, into the world and took the gospel.

John 14:13-15

John wrote this again in 1 John 5:14-15, helping us understand that to pray in Jesus Name is to pray within His will, according to the character and will of God. If we are sincerely following God and seeking His will then our requests will be in

line with what He wants for us, which will always be what we need. When you are able to realize God knows what is best for us, He is good and He is Sovereign then the prayer that never fails is "Thy will be done".

Another way of looking at this is to emphasize the verb "ask". Jesus clearly expects us to ask, which is to pray. We are to bring everything, every concern to Him. Remember the context, Jesus has said we are not to have troubled hearts but to bring everything to Him. Think about Phil 4:6, "Be anxious for nothing but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made know to God and the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus." Again, the emphasis is on avoiding anxiety and praying in faith for Jesus' help.

Jesus told us earlier to love one another but now we are told that we must show our love for Him and then we are told that keeping His commandments is proof of our love for Jesus.

John 14:16-17

Another Helper (Comforter, Counselor) literally another of the same kind as the first, in other words, He would be just like Jesus. He is speaking of the Holy Spirit. The remainder of this chapter is the teaching of Jesus about the Holy Spirit. Thought Jesus would no longer be with them, the Holy Spirit would do just what He did, comfort, counsel, guide and direct them and empower them for the task ahead. In addition to all this, He will never leave us.

Jesus called Him the Spirit of Truth because He reveals the truth about God. Have you experienced the guidance of the Spirit of Truth? Ask Him, remember the promise, and ask. Here is an amazing truth; the world cannot receive the Holy Spirit. Do you understand the implication of this teaching of Jesus? The world includes all who will not receive Jesus as Savior and LORD. By refusing Him, they cannot receive the Spirit of Truth and one thing they miss is the ability to understand God's Word. Remember we are told that Spiritual truth is spiritually discerned or understood, without the Holy Spirit of God, His word, the bible is just a confusing mass of words. Doesn't this tell you a lot about our culture? Refuse Jesus, totally miss out on any revelation of Who He is and What He has done for you.

But here is the hope "you can know Him". The disciple didn't really know Him right then but they would know Him soon because they had been seeking. Any sincere seeker, no matter how sinful, who humbly comes to Jesus and asks, can receive this gift of the Holy Spirit.

Jesus will teach us more about the Holy Spirit in the next chapters.

John 14:18-19

Jesus did come to the disciples after His resurrection and they saw Him and recorded what they saw.

The world (unbelievers) would not see Him, however, many disciples did see him after His resurrection, one of His post resurrection appearances included over 500 people according to 1 Corinthians 15:

Jesus teaching certainly contradicts our culture's attitude about death. Have you noticed how people refuse to face the reality of death? Denial of aging and death is a way of avoiding facing the need for a plan for our eternal future. Friends, the death rate is one per birth. Do you have a plan to deal with this very real event coming in your life? Jesus is the Way, the Truth and the Life.

Do you see that Jesus is the plan for living and the plan for dying; He is life after death for you and for me. In Him is life.

The bible says one day every knee will bow and every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord. Wouldn't it be a good idea for you to bow your knee today and ask Him to save you and to confess He is LORD? Your eternity will be changed forever. There are only two choices about Jesus, yes, I will bow my knee or no I will do it myself. Jesus will not force anyone to go to heaven but everyone will bow his or her knee to Him on a given day that is already marked on the calendar. How sick will you be on that day if you have stubbornly refused His kind offer of forgiveness and life as you fall on your face in submission to the King of Kings?