

Theme: Jesus is the way, the truth and the life, the only One through whom anyone may come to the Father to find eternal life.

I. Pilgrims Progress - Formalist & Hypocrisy

- A. Read this several times to my kids - great allegory
- B. Read excerpt on Christian, Formalist and hypocrisy
- C. Jesus is not only the Gate - He is the Way
- D. What does this mean? How does it apply?

II. The Background To This Saying

- A. Jesus had told the disciples He was going away
“My children, I will be with you only a little longer. You will look for me, and just as I told the Jews, so I tell you now: Where I am going, you cannot come”....³⁶ Simon Peter asked him, “Lord, where are you going?” Jesus replied, “Where I am going, you cannot follow now, but you will follow later.” John 13:33, 36
 - 1. The night of the Last Supper: “I am going away”
 - 2. “You can not go where I am going”
 - 3. Peter - where are you going?
 - 4. Produces anxiety in disciples - Jesus is leaving??
- B. Jesus predicts even Peter will deny Him
Peter asked, “Lord, why can’t I follow you now? I will lay down my life for you.” ³⁸ Then Jesus answered, “Will you really lay down your life for me? I tell you the truth, before the rooster crows, you will disown me three times! John 13:37–38
 - 1. Peter says He wants to go now - even willing to die!

- 2. Jesus says Peter will deny Him - 3 times that night!
- 3. Produces more anxiety - bold Peter deny Jesus???

III. Jesus Calms The Disciples’ Hearts

- A. Jesus’ words of assurance
Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God; trust also in me. John 14:1
 - 1. Do not let your hearts be troubled - stop being full of turmoil and fear!
 - 2. Circumstances look ominous, but do not look at the circumstances - look to God
 - 3. Believe in God - and believe in me
 - a. Could be either indicative or imperative
 - 1. You already believe in God & in me
 - 2. You already believe in God - now believe in Me
 - 3. Believe in God and believe in me
 - b. I think imperative for both is best
 - c. Jesus calls the disciples away from fear to faith, away from being oriented to their circumstances towards their God and Master
 - d. Jesus reminds them that God is always faithful, so even when things look bleak, they should trust in God.

B. Jesus' words of reorientation and focus

In my Father's house are many rooms; if it were not so, I would have told you. 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. John 14:2-3

1. Jesus reminds them of the ultimate reality - their heavenly home (My Father's house)
2. Jesus assures them that there is more than enough room for all of His people in heaven - no one will be left out
 - a. KJV - mansions - did not mean big fancy house
 - b. The Greek word simply means 'living space'
 - c. His point is that their place in heaven is assured - there is plenty of space for them, and no one can take this away from them
3. If there was not space I would tell you!
 - a. It could either be a statement or a question (see different translations)
 - b. But the point is clear - there is plenty of room for you; otherwise I would have told you there was not enough room
4. I am preparing everything for you
 - a. Might be part of the previous question/statement
 - b. But the point is clear - Jesus is making everything ready for the disciples
 - c. The analogy is like a bridegroom preparing a living space for His bride to be - Jesus is making sure our place is secured and waiting for us

5. I am going away - but I will come get you

- a. Continuing the bridegroom analogy - I will come get you
- b. This is speaking of the 2nd coming of Christ
 1. Does not refer to coming of Spirit or even our death
 2. Speaking of our heavenly home - not our present life
 3. He will return and take us away to be with Him
 4. Looks forward to when Christ returns for His Bride - the Church

6. The focus in all of this is being with Jesus

- a. The glory and joy of heaven is not streets of gold or palatial mansions - it is seeing our Savior and King face to face
- b. The blessed hope which sustains us through our fears and sorrows is that we will be with Jesus - and that is enough!

IV. I AM the Way, the Truth, and the Life

A. Jesus moves the discussion to Himself

- "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?" John 14:4-5
1. Jesus gives them good news - you know the way to heaven
 2. Thomas (and others) - still confused!
 3. They are still thinking of an earthly destination, and thus an earthly route to get there!

4. We need to be reoriented to a heavenly focus consistently, for we are as prone as the disciples to think only in terms of this age and place.

B. Jesus' bold assertion

Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."
John 14:6

1. Jesus' central assertion - I AM the way
 - a. It is the first thing He says
 - b. It answers Thomas' question about the way
2. Many had taught of the way to truth and life
3. OT (especially wisdom literature) spoke of the way

For the Lord watches over the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked will perish. Psalms 1:6

Teach me your way, O Lord, and I will walk in your truth; give me an undivided heart, that I may fear your name. Psalms 86:11

For these commands are a lamp, this teaching is a light, and the corrections of discipline are the way to life Proverbs 6:23

The highway of the upright avoids evil; he who guards his way guards his life. Proverbs 16:17

4. But Jesus is saying something much greater than this - He is not saying He can guide us to the way; He is saying He IS the way.
5. Jesus is saying that He is the Way - the only Way - to truth, wisdom, righteousness and life

6. Jesus is not claiming to teach the truth - He is the Truth. He is not claiming to point to the revelation of God - He is the Revelation of God.

7. Jesus is not claiming to point the way to life - He is Life itself. He is saying there is no real life apart from Him.

8. Thomas a Kempis summary of this saying:
Follow thou me. I am the way and the truth and the life. Without the way there is no going; without the truth there is no knowing; without the life there is no living. I am the way which thou must follow; the truth which thou must believe; the life for which thou must hope. I am the inviolable way; the infallible truth, the never-ending life. I am the straightest way; the sovereign truth; life true, life blessed, life uncreated.

C. The inevitable consequence of Jesus' bold assertion
Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. [No one comes to the Father except through me.](#)"
John 14:6

1. Jesus is saying He is THE WAY
 - a. He is not showing a way - He is the Way
 - b. He is not A WAY - He is THE WAY

2. Thus, He is the ONLY way to the Father

- a. In many ways this is like the Gate saying
"I tell you the truth, the man who does not enter the sheep pen by the gate, but climbs in by some other way, is a thief and a robber...⁷ Therefore Jesus said again, "I tell you the truth, I am the gate for the sheep...⁹ I am the gate; whoever enters through me will be saved. He will come in and go out, and find pasture. John 10:1, 7, 9
- b. Jesus is the only Gate, the Only Way

- c. But Jesus is also linking Himself more closely with the Father here
 - 1 Trust in God; trust also in me.
 - 7 If you really knew me, you would know my Father as well. From now on, you do know him and have seen him.
 - 9 Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father.
John 14:1, 7, 9
- 3. Jesus claims to be One with the Father so that there is no way to the Father apart from Him. It is impossible to love God apart from Jesus.
- 4. As unpopular as this is today, it is the truth, and it must be our message to a lost world

V. Applying the Word of Jesus Our True God

- A. Do I know Jesus is the Way, the Truth, the Life?
 - 1. This goes against our culture of many ways
 - 2. Especially true in religion - true answers to math or history, but not in religion
 - 3. But this is false - our faith is built on historical knowledge and as such is no different - there are right and wrong answers
 - 4. Jesus is not a way that is right for some, nor are there other ways to the Father - He is THE WAY
 - 5. Have I truly embraced Him as the ONLY WAY to God?
 - 6. This is what it means to trust in Christ - to know He IS THE ONLY WAY

B. Coming to the Table of Life

- 1. We now come to the Table of Life - remembering Christ the True Life
- 2. Do I know Jesus is Life itself? He is not the path to get a better life - He is life!
- 3. Where am I tempted to find life rather than Christ?
- 4. Here we forsake all other false claimants and call out to the way, truth and life - Jesus
- 5. Come and receive Life!

Jesus Is the Way, the Truth, and the Life

John 14:1-6
March 13, 2016
Communion

2 Thessalonians 3:16

Teaching keywords: name of God; salvation and deliverance; heaven, hell, and eternity; evangelism and missions; Lent

Now may the Lord of peace himself give you peace at all times and in every way. The Lord be with all of you. 2 Thessalonians 3:16

“Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God; trust also in me. ² In my Father’s house are many rooms; if it were not so, I would have told you. 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. John 14:1–6