

I am the Way the Truth and the Life

In John 14:6, we hear Jesus speak these words to His disciples. He is in the midst of the Last Supper. In the Gospel of John, we read a greater dissertation of what happened at that Last Supper than in the other Gospel accounts. In the other Gospel accounts we read of all the many things that Jesus said and did to those in which He came to save. In the Gospel of John we get a deeper grasp of what Jesus actually was telling the disciples.

The Gospel of John was the last Gospel written. John most likely had heard about and possibly even read the other Gospel accounts. However, in this period of time when John wrote His Gospel we know through historical accounts and records that the time was very different. Most scholars today, believe that John wrote his Gospel account sometime around 80-90 AD while he was in Ephesus.

It was at this latter date that the accounts of Jesus life and ministry were being taken out of proportion and misinterpreted by many false teachers and false prophets. His words were being misconstrued and taken out of context. The next generation, under the auspices of the devil, was taking Jesus words and even what He did to a place where they were never meant to be taken.

If we read many of Paul's later writings as well as Peter's letters and the Letter of Jude, we see that they were imploring the believers to not be taken in by the lies and deceptions of these false prophets and teachers concerning Jesus. In many ways it sounds just like today. Hmm.....

As we go back to John 14:6 we read of a section of the conversation that Jesus was having with His disciples at the Passover which later became known as the Last Supper. We see that in John 13, Jesus had just washed the disciple's feet. We read of the account of Peter's refusal to have Jesus wash his feet. This was another action by Peter which expressed that he still was not getting the full picture of who Jesus was and actually, who he was and why Jesus was washing his feet.

The whole idea of the "foot washing" was to express a heart of humility and true servanthood to mankind. Jesus, the Son of God, came to earth to express and reveal what the heart of God truly was and then to express that to man so that man would learn and then go and do the same.

The next thing we read of in John 13 is when Jesus literally "calls out" Judas. He gives Him an opportunity, which God always does, to relent and change His mind and to not go forth and betray Him. Jesus knows that Judas will betray Him. However, we see that Jesus still gives Judas the opportunity to change his heart, even though Jesus knows that He will not. That is so very important for us to grasp. Judas was going to betray Jesus – but Jesus still gave him an opportunity to change his mind. That is so important for us to grasp and understand. Even though Jesus knows what the individual will do, He still gives that person a second chance to turn from their sinful ways and turn to Him. Judas was too far gone in his ways and under the hand of satan to even take the opportunity given to him by Jesus, Himself, to change his heart.

Judas then leaves the room. Who is left is Jesus' eleven disciples who He now will have His final opportunity to truly speak His heart to. These were the ones who were going to "change the world" and tell the world about Jesus and salvation through Him. They did not know this at that time but Jesus did.

Jesus begins to tell them the truth. He tells them that, very shortly, He will not be with them any longer. Jesus begins to tell them the most important aspect of His ministry and what the most important aspect of their ministry will be. He tells them in John 13:34-35, "*A new commandment I give unto you, that ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another. By this shall all men know that ye are **my disciples**, if ye have love one to another.*"

It is amazing that just after Jesus speaks to His disciples of the way that they should walk in this “new commandment” of love, He immediately is confronted by Peter. Peter was still being Simon. He was not getting the full picture. Jesus tells them that, “*Where He is going, they cannot follow,*” referring to the cross His death, His confrontation in hell with the devil and His ultimate resurrection.

Peter expresses in his own natural understanding that he would follow Jesus and “lay down His life.” Jesus told him very clearly that the day would come when Peter would indeed lay down his life for Jesus but Peter was not ready for that now. We all know what Peter and the rest of the disciples did when Jesus was arrested – they all ran. Jesus told Peter very clearly that he would deny Jesus that very night, three times.

Jesus continues to speak to the disciples very clearly about what was to come and most succinctly about who He truly was. He tells them about the many “mansions” that are in His Father’s house and that is where they shall ultimately dwell – with Him. Jesus tells them that each of them “*knows the way.*” To that Thomas asks, “*Lord, we know not whither thou goest; and how can we know the way?*”

That is where we get to John 14:6. Jesus very clearly states that He is “*the way.*” He goes further in His statement as He tells them, “*I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.*” What was Jesus saying to His disciples, as well as to us today, as we read this short little scripture verse?

As we read, Jesus answers Thomas’ question by first stating that He was and is “the way.” This term comes from the Greek word “*hod-os*’.” It literally means to be “a travelled way; a road; a journey. It is also used metaphorically as a course of conduct or a way of thinking, feeling or deciding.” What did Jesus mean by stating this?

As mentioned, Thomas had asked the question concerning “...how can they know the way,” after Jesus mentioned to the disciples that they already know “the way.” What Jesus was telling them was that if they would continue to believe in Him they would be on the “road” to the Father. They simply needed to continue to believe in Him, even after all the things that were about to happen took place. Jesus is the only “way” to the Father. He is the only “way” to having a true relationship with the Father.

Jesus’ followers are to follow His role model and manner of behavior – the same role model and manner of behavior that He had walked in while He was on the earth. It is truly making Jesus the absolute, supreme and final authority in your life. When an individual does and follows after and lives that lifestyle, then they would be able to follow Jesus - to the Father. This includes each and every one of His believers, today.

We as His believers are to “travel down” the road in which Jesus walked as He was on this earth. We are to live after His role-model, His course of conduct and His way of thinking - just as He lived and did. I know that may seem like a tall order – but is it, really. If we are truly His, then as He promised, He will send us the Holy Spirit to lead and guide us in that type of lifestyle.

Jesus also told His disciples in His answer that He was not only “the way” but He was also “the truth.” What did He mean by that? The first thing we must understand is the truth and what Jesus is referring to when He tell us He Himself is the truth. Everything that Jesus is, every action and every word spoken by Jesus was, is and will always be God’s absolute, supreme and final authority in and for any and every situation.

It may seem as though we heard this definition before – the absolute, supreme and final authority. Well yes we have heard it before. It is the Biblical definition of the term “Lord.” Isn’t that interesting that the term “Lord” and the term referring to His “truth” are the same. Well it is. Jesus is “Lord of all.” Therefore, every word He has spoken and every word He speaks and declares has and always will carry the same authority – God’s authority.

Every single word spoken by God is stamped with the authority that is manifested in and through Jesus. Every Single word given to us in the scriptures is stamped with the authority that is manifested in and through Jesus. Why, simply because Jesus and the Word are one and the same. Jesus is the physical and spiritual manifestation of the Word of God. (John 1:1) If Jesus now dwells within the believer then His Word must now be in, and dwell in, every “true believer.” The key is when I say “true believer.”

There have been many, and still continue to be and will be until Jesus comes again, those who say they are speaking as God’s mouthpiece and are speaking His Word. The true “litmus” test to make sure if they are truly speaking God’s Word is His Word itself. The truth is truly to be found within the scriptures and not simply in a man’s own thoughts and ideas. The New Testament is filled with warnings and cautions about hearing, listening and believing in false teachers and false prophets. The world has been, and still is, full of those types of individuals. Peter, Paul, Jude and John all warn the true believer of these kinds of people.

We must remember that the only infallible truth and only true truth is found within the writings of the Bible – Old and New Testaments. The only true Truth is Jesus. He tells us this in John 14:6 as He states for His true disciples to hear as He declares unequivocally, “I am... the truth...”

Jesus continues on with this statement in John 14:6 as He declares that He is not only “the way;” He is not only “the truth;” He declares that He is - “the life.” The Greek word is “zōē.” The word “life” used in this context refers to the “God kind” of living which is filled with God’s life – both essential and ethically. It refers to the life given by God to His people. It actually refers to “eternal life” that is only found in and given by God – the Father, Jesus and the Holy Spirit.

The scriptures are very clear as they tell us in John 10:10 that Jesus came to give His life to all those who truly believe and accept Him as their Savior and Lord. Jesus is eternal life and He gives it to all who believe in Him and who He is – the Son of God. He gives us His life!!! Do we truly grasp that fact the way we should? I don’t believe we do. I don’t believe we ever could fully grasp and walk in the fullness of His life until we are with Him forever in eternity. We take it by faith now, but yet we are to grow continually in His life all the days of our life until we truly receive it - fully – when we are with Him forever and ever.

At the end of John 14:6 we read that no one can truly receive all those things unless they first believe in and receive Jesus as their personal Lord and Savior. We must fully believe that only Jesus is “the way.” We must fully accept that Jesus is “the truth.” We will, one day, fully receive “the life” that only Jesus can give. He states, “...no man cometh unto the Father, **but by me.**” That is the key – no man, no woman, no one, can truly come to the Father except by, in and through total faith and surrender to the Son of God – Jesus.

Jesus and the Father are one. Jesus states it very clearly in John 14:7 as He states, “*If ye had known me, ye should have known my Father also: and from henceforth ye know him, and have seen him.*” As we read the scripture, we find Phillip declares to Jesus something that would have been on all our minds as we heard Jesus say these things. Phillip seems to ask a simple question which seems to be a valid desire as he states to Jesus in John 4:8, “... *show us the Father and it will suffice us (that will be enough.)*”

We see that Jesus was bothered by this statement because it meant that they were not truly hearing or understanding what He was saying to them. He responds by stating, *“Have I been so long time with you, and yet hast thou not known me, Philip? He that **hath seen me hath seen the Father**; and how sayest thou then, Shew us the Father?”* We can almost hear the frustration in Jesus answer. He was telling Phillip, the disciples, as well as all of us today, that we all are missing it. It is so simple.

We must simply believe in Jesus and all that He had said and done. That is the way, the only way that we will know the truth, His truth that will lead us to His life, eternal life. Why ... because no one can come to the Father unless they first believe in the Son, whom He sent to take our place and to take our punishment. In taking our punishment and fulfilling the plan of the Father, Jesus was then able to defeat the devil and rise again from the dead. Through what He did, Jesus gave new “life” – eternal life – to all those who believe on Him. If we “see” (believe in) Jesus then we have “seen” (believed in) the Father.

Sometimes it gets lost in the mix of our “church life” or in our spiritual walk. We must never forget or lose focus that God is the Father; God is Jesus, the Son and that God is the Holy Spirit. There is no one greater than the other. They each are God and they each are individual - yet they are each God – individually and collectively – they are One. That is so very difficult for any person to fully comprehend and fully understand. However, it is vital that we simply believe that it is true because it is true – whether we fully understand or not. It is true no matter if no one believes it. It is true!!!

That is the awesomeness of our faith in God. We can never truly fully explain it. That is where many lose it and simply don’t believe. We are simply told that Jesus is *“...the way, the truth and the life and that no one can come to the Father but by Him.”* When we believe and accept that as fact then the Holy Spirit will come into our lives and renew us and make us born again to now have relationship with God.

That is what Jesus was trying to tell His disciples at this last meal together just before He would be taken away and crucified. They didn’t get it. Jesus knew they didn’t get it because they were thinking in the old way. He knew that once He did what He had to do and return to them that they would receive Him and believe Him and then go and change the world by telling the world about Him.

Is Jesus truly the way, the truth and the life to each of us? If He is, than we will be able to know, be in and have relationship, with the Father. It is only then that we will have eternal life and live for eternity with the Father, Jesus and the Holy Spirit. We must believe that Jesus is in the Father and that the Father is in Jesus. This is my prayer for each and every person that may read this little essay - that you would believe this simple truth and be saved. It doesn’t stop there. Just as Jesus told His disciples after they believed and received Him, we are commanded by Him to go and tell the world that whoever believes, accepts and receives Jesus shall be saved and have eternal life.

Jesus is the way, the truth and the life...no one comes to the Father but by Him.