

“I AM” Seven Times

Session-6: I Am The Way, The Truth, And The Life

Notes

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Introduction

John 14:1-6

1 "Do not let your hearts be troubled. **Believe in God, believe also in me.** 2 In my Father's house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? 3 And if **I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself**, so that where I am, there you may be also. 4 And you know the way to the place where I am going." 5 Thomas said to him, "Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?" 6 Jesus said to him, **"I am the way, and the truth, and the life.** No one comes to the Father except through me.

Analysis of the fourth “I Am” statement:

- ✓ Identity (characteristic): “I am the way, and the truth, and the life.”
- ✓ Our respond: “Believe in God, believe also in me.”
- ✓ What are the results: “I go and prepare a place for you; I will come again and will take you to myself.”

As noted in the previous lesson, in these last three “I Am” statements (Lesson 5, 6, and 7) he is speaking to the disciples and believers, not a mixed audience with nonbelievers.

In John 14 Jesus is teaching his disciples about the ultimate destination of our journey, which is the Father’s House. Jesus tells us in Verse 3 that he is going to prepare a place for them and us in his Father’s house. He further tells us in Verse 4, that we know the way to the place where he is going.

But as the author points out Jesus tells us another “I Am” in response to that question Thomas asked: "Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?"

Thomas is essentially saying: “We don’t know where the Father’s House is and how to get there!”

And Jesus basically answers: “Thomas, I am the only way you can get there. I am all the information you need to get from here to there. Apart from Me there is no other way for you to get to my Father’s house.”

I. Jesus, The Way

The author gives us an analogy to explain the “way”, which we can use but change the name for Florida. When you go from Miami to Orland on the Florida Turnpike, once you get on it, you are on your way to Orlando. You don’t need your GPS because there are no turns or changes in course needed, just pay your toll and follow the road. And sometime later you will be in Orlando.

Jesus is similarly our turnpike, our way to our destination, the Father. We must get on “His Way”. And though we can’t see the destination, and the journey may be long and the path may be bumpy, once we get on the “way” and stay true to that course, we will arrive where we belong, at our Father’s house.

However, just as we travel the turnpike a mile at a time, as the author suggests, we also travel the “Jesus Way” one a day at a time. And using the analogy of the turnpike, we can at times encounter fog or heavy rain when we can’t see the road very well, but if we simply follow the line and keep going, we know we are still moving toward our destination. Similarly, if we use what Jesus Christ on earth told us (The Word) as our line on the road, we will also ultimately reach our destination, our Father in Heaven.

II. Jesus, The Truth

The author suggests that Jesus is the Way **because** he is the Truth, which is the most critical element of the Way. There are so many deviations from the truth in our earthly life that they have become the norm, such as product advertisements, political speeches, and business conduct.

But the Bible emphasizes the essential point that God is the truth, as stated in the following verses:

Isaiah 45:19

I the Lord speak the truth, I declare what is right.

Romans 3:1-4

1 Then what advantage has the Jew? Or what is the value of circumcision? **2** Much, in every way. For in the first place the Jews were entrusted with the oracles of God. **3** What if some were unfaithful? Will their faithlessness nullify the faithfulness of God? **4** By no means! **Although everyone is a liar, let God be proved true, as it is written, "So that you may be justified in your words, and prevail in your judging."**

As well, truth is also essential to the human life on earth as best stated by Jesus:

John 4:23-24

23 But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father seeks such as these to worship him. **24** **God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth."**

And the only way we can attain truth is through accepting the God’s gift of the truth, which is in the form of Jesus Christ. The truth is Jesus Christ and is not attain by us through our own efforts. We must receive the truth from God and believe it – Jesus Christ – as described in the following verses:

John 1:14 & 17

14 And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a **father's only son, full of grace and truth.**

17 The law indeed was given through Moses; **grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.**

Ephesians 4:20-21

20 That is not the way you learned Christ! **21** For surely you have heard about him and were taught in him, **as truth is in Jesus.**

And as the author says, Jesus is therefore the truth (His Word) and there is no higher standard or criterion for truth by which to judge. He is the truth against which everything must be tested.

III. Jesus, The Life

The author again says the Jesus is also the Way **because** he is the Life - the basic, essential principle that distinguishes life itself.

In Genesis we learn that God created life on earth and how he breathed the breath of life into Adam. And in the following verses from the beginning of the Gospel of John, we learn more about life:

John 1:1-4

1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. **2** He was in the beginning with God. **3** All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. **4** What has come into being **4** in him was life, and the life was the light of all people.

Jesus emphasizes “life” in so many of the “I Am” statements. He is the “Light of Life” in the first one we studied; the “Bread of Life” in the third; the Good Shepherd through which we may have “Life Abundantly”; and in this “I Am” he is “The Life”.

Our lives are combined with a contradiction to life itself, that of death. We are, as the author suggests, as much dead as we are alive; we have a temporary manifestation of life which is quickly passing surely leads to death.

However, Jesus is the true life and when we receive Jesus by faith as our Savior and Lord we are transformed from a state of spiritual death into a state of spiritual life, as stated by Jesus in the Gospel of John:

John 5:24-27

24 Very truly, I tell you, anyone who hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life, and does not come under judgment, but has passed from death to life. **25** "Very truly, I tell you, the hour is coming, and is now here, when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God, and those who hear will live. **26** For just as the Father has life in himself, so he has granted the Son also to have life in himself; **27** and he has given him authority to execute judgment, because he is the Son of Man.

And as Paul wrote to the Ephesians:

Ephesians 2:1-7

1 You were dead through the trespasses and sins **2** in which you once lived, following the course of this world, following the ruler of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work among those who are disobedient. **3** All of us once lived among them in the passions of our flesh, following the desires of flesh and senses, and we were by nature children of wrath, like everyone else. **4** But God, who is rich in mercy, out of the great love with which he loved us **5** even when we were dead through our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ —by grace you have been saved— **6** and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, **7** so that in the ages to come he might show the immeasurable *riches* of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.

IV. How Should We Respond?

The simple story to this point of the “I Am” statements, as the author says is:

“You have seen Me the Light, you have entered by Me the Door [Gate], you have eaten Me the Bread, you have committed yourselves to My care as the Good Shepherd, and you have begun to bear fruit by abiding in Me as the Vine; now keep on believing and settle your hearts down to be at peace and not in turmoil.”

In the beginning of the Chapter that leads up to the “I Am statement” Jesus tells us what to do:

“Believe in God, believe also in me.”

And after Philip requests “Lord, show us the Father”, Jesus further tells us:

“Whoever has seen me has seen the Father....Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me.”

And later in the chapter he tells the disciples:

27 “Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid.”

So Thomas really does know the way if he truly knows Jesus. Thomas is thinking in the worldly realm not the spiritual, heavenly realm. There is simply no WAY to be with our Lord God except through Christ. Jesus has given us everything we need to know to find our way; he is the all navigational directions we need; we just need to get on that path of life and follow it to the end, to our Father.

And Philip really does know the Father, because if you know Jesus, you know the Father.

We simply need to realize that knowing Jesus as he has revealed himself to us is what we need to know about how to get to our Father’s house, Heaven.