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## Week 5 ~ Jesus is the Way, the Truth, and the Life

There has always been a desire in the heart of man to see God...

<sup>12</sup> One day Moses said to the LORD, “You have been telling me, ‘Take these people up to the Promised Land.’ But you haven’t told me whom you will send with me. You have told me, ‘I know you by name, and I look favorably on you.’” <sup>13</sup> If it is true that you look favorably on me, let me know your ways so I may understand you more fully and continue to enjoy your favor. And remember that this nation is your very own people.”

<sup>14</sup> The LORD replied, “I will personally go with you, Moses, and I will give you rest—everything will be fine for you.”

<sup>15</sup> Then Moses said, “If you don’t personally go with us, don’t make us leave this place. <sup>16</sup> How will anyone know that you look favorably on me—on me and on your people—if you don’t go with us? For your presence among us sets your people and me apart from all other people on the earth.”

<sup>17</sup> The LORD replied to Moses, “I will indeed do what you have asked, for I look favorably on you, and I know you by name.”

<sup>18</sup> Moses responded, “Then show me your glorious presence.” (Ex 33:12-18 NLT-SE)

Jesus’ death and resurrection are imminent. On that final night together, Jesus begins to prepare His disciples for the difficult times that lie ahead. They are face-to-face with the Messiah, their Savior. Jesus is about to make known to them the very thing Moses requested of God in Exodus 33, **TO ENCOUNTER GOD!**

**The backstory to John 14:** This is the night that Jesus would be betrayed by one of His disciples and begin His journey to the Cross. He spends the whole evening with His disciples, preparing them for what is about to unfold. The disciples appear to be both bewildered and discouraged.

The cumulative weight of these revelations likely left them empty and without hope. In these final hour with His friends, Jesus responds to their perceived defeat with these words of encouragement and exhortation...

**Today’s Text:** John 14:1-14 *The Passion Translation*

<sup>1</sup> “Don’t worry or surrender to fear. You’ve believed in God; now trust and believe in Me also. <sup>2</sup> My Father’s kingdom is like a house with many dwelling places. If it were otherwise,

**I would tell you plainly, because I'm leaving soon to go and prepare a place for you to rest. <sup>3</sup> And when everything is ready, I will come back and take you with Me so that you will be where I am. <sup>4</sup> And you already know the Way to the place where I'm going."**

- **Trust and believe in Me...** Jesus isn't just telling them to stop being afraid. Their fear is real. He is exhorting them that, in spite of the fear that is pressing in on them, there is still reason for hope. They believed what He said about the latest love the Father had for them. Now He is challenging them to believe in what He is saying about Himself and trust that He would see them through everything that was coming.
- **I will come back...** He was not referring to His coming Resurrection or to a believer's death, but to a future time referred to as "the Rapture," when Christ would return for His lovesick bride and they would be with Him forever.
- <sup>13</sup> And now, dear brothers and sisters, we want you to know what will happen to the believers who have died so you will not grieve like people who have no hope. <sup>14</sup> For since we believe that Jesus died and was raised to life again, we also believe that when Jesus returns, God will bring back with him the believers who have died. <sup>15</sup> We tell you this directly from the Lord: We who are still living when the Lord returns will not meet him ahead of those who have died. <sup>16</sup> **For the Lord himself will come down from heaven** with a commanding shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trumpet call of God. First, the Christians who have died will rise from their graves. <sup>17</sup> Then, together with them, **we who are still alive and remain on the earth will be caught up in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. Then we will be with the Lord forever.** <sup>18</sup> So encourage each other with these words. (1 Th 4:13-18 NLT-SE)
- Father, I want these whom you have given me **to be with me where I am.** Then they can see all the glory you gave me because you loved me even before the world began! (John 17:24 NLT-SE)

**<sup>5</sup> Thomas said to Him, "Master, we don't know where You're going, so how could we know the way there?"**

- **We don't know...** This statement reveals just how disoriented the disciples had become over the course of the evening. Earlier, Peter had asked Jesus the same question (13:36). The disciples had all the information they needed, but would never really understand what was happening until His death and resurrection and the advent of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost.

**<sup>6</sup> Jesus explained, "I am the way, I am the truth, and I am the life. No one comes next to the Father except through faith in Me. To know Me is to know My Father too. <sup>7</sup> And from now on you will realize that you have seen Him and experienced Him."**

- **I am...** What a revelation! This is the sixth of seven "I am" statements that are recorded in the gospel of John. Here are all of them...
  - 1). **The Bread of Life...** <sup>47</sup> "I tell you the truth, anyone who believes has eternal life. <sup>48</sup> Yes, **I am the bread of life!** <sup>49</sup> Your ancestors ate manna in the wilderness, but they all died. <sup>50</sup> Anyone who eats the bread from heaven, however, will never die. <sup>51</sup> I am the living bread that came down from heaven. Anyone who eats this bread will live forever; and this bread, which I will offer so the world may live, is my flesh." (John 6:47-51 NLT-SE)

- 2). **The Light of the World...** Jesus spoke to the people once more and said, “***I am the light of the world.*** If you follow me, you won’t have to walk in darkness, because you will have the light that leads to life.” (John 8:12 NLT-SE)
- 3). **The Gate...** Yes, ***I am the gate.*** Those who come in through me will be saved. They will come and go freely and will find good pastures. (John 10:9 NLT-SE)
- 4). **The Good Shepherd...** <sup>11</sup> “***I am the good shepherd.*** The good shepherd sacrifices his life for the sheep. <sup>12</sup> A hired hand will run when he sees a wolf coming. He will abandon the sheep because they don’t belong to him and he isn’t their shepherd. And so the wolf attacks them and scatters the flock. <sup>13</sup> The hired hand runs away because he’s working only for the money and doesn’t really care about the sheep. (John 10:11-13 NLT-SE)
- 5). **The Resurrection and the Life...** <sup>25</sup> Jesus told her, “***I am the resurrection and the life.*** Anyone who believes in me will live, even after dying. <sup>26</sup> Everyone who lives in me and believes in me will never ever die. (John 11:25-26 NLT-SE)
- 6). **The Way, the Truth, and the Life...** <sup>6</sup> Jesus told him, “***I am the way, the truth, and the life.*** No one can come to the Father except through me. <sup>7</sup> If you had really known me, you would know who my Father is. From now on, you do know him and have seen him!” (John 14:6-7 NLT-SE)
- 7). **The Vine...** <sup>1</sup> “***I am the true grapevine,*** and my Father is the gardener. <sup>2</sup> He cuts off every branch of mine that doesn’t produce fruit, and he prunes the branches that do bear fruit so they will produce even more. <sup>3</sup> You have already been pruned and purified by the message I have given you. <sup>4</sup> Remain in me, and I will remain in you. For a branch cannot produce fruit if it is severed from the vine, and you cannot be fruitful unless you remain in me. (John 15:1-4 NLT-SE)
- **No one comes next to the Father except through faith in Me...** Not only is Jesus the way to the Father, He is the **ONLY** way! The Father is **full of truth** (1:14) and **full of light** (5:26). Jesus literally embodies the Father in every way. In this verse, Jesus reveals another facet of His relationship with the father, He is our access to the Father as well. Jesus is “**the way**” to the Father. He is the path, the only path, you can take to find relationship with God the Father. He is the only way! (Acts 4:12; 1 Tim 2:5)

Jesus is the only way **TO** the Father, because He is the only one **FROM** the Father.

- <sup>1</sup> In the beginning the Word already existed. The **Word was with God**, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup> He existed in the beginning with God. (John 1:1-2 NLT-SE)
- Then he said, “I tell you the truth, you will all see heaven open and the angels of God going up and down on the Son of Man, the one who is **the stairway between heaven and earth.**” (John 1:51 NLT-SE)
- **Seeing and experiencing the Father...** Jesus is not just the way to God in the future, He also opens the door for us to have a relationship with the Father here and now.

“We cannot love God with all our heart until we know He loves us with  
all His heart. When God wants to empower us to love Him,  
He reveals Himself as One who loves us.” ~ Mike Bickle

- We love Him because (*we understand that*) He first loved us. (1 Jn. 4:19)

<sup>8</sup> Phillip spoke up, “Lord, show us the Father and that will be all that we need!”

<sup>9</sup> Jesus replied, “Phillip, I’ve been with you all this time and you still don’t know who I am? How could you ask Me to show you the Father? For anyone who has looked at Me has seen the Father. <sup>10</sup> Don’t you believe that the Father is living in Me and that I am living in the Father? Even My words are not My own but come from My Father, for He lives in Me and performs His miracles of power through Me. <sup>11</sup> Believe that I live as one with My Father and that My Father lives as one with Me— or at least believe because of the mighty miracles I have done.

- **Anyone who has looked at Me has seen the Father...** What do you know? What do you see? What do you believe? What do you hear? Jesus is asking all these questions here, but more. Jesus is, literally, revealing God the Father to them!
- **Believe because of the mighty miracles I have done...** The disciples had already witnessed Jesus perform a number of extraordinary miracles (5:36; 10:25, 38; 11:47; 12:37; 20:30-31). Now they would see their beloved Rabbi suffer a criminal’s death. These types of events typically cause us to move in one of two directions: They either cause us to move towards the person of Jesus, or away from Him. All miracles are intended to draw us closer, not push us away.

<sup>12</sup> “I tell you this timeless truth: The person who follows Me in faith, believing in Me, will do the same mighty miracles that I do— and even greater miracles than these, because I go to be with My Father! <sup>13</sup> For I will do whatever you ask Me to do when you ask Me in My name. That is how the Son will show what the Father is really like and bring glory to Him. <sup>14</sup> Ask Me anything in My name and I will do it for you!”

- **The person who follows me...believing in me...will do...** Here’s the progression: Follow first, then believe, then do. Many times we get it backwards, wanting people to “do something” that proves that they believe and are ready to follow.
  - So Jesus explained, “I tell you the truth, the Son can do nothing by himself. **He does only what he sees the Father doing.** Whatever the Father does, the Son also does. (John 5:19 NLT-SE)
  - But the people’s minds were hardened, and to this day whenever the old covenant is being read, the same veil covers their minds so they cannot understand the truth. And this **veil can be removed only by believing** in Christ. (2 Cor 3:14 NLT-SE)
  - But the Scriptures declare that we are all prisoners of sin, so **we receive God’s promise of freedom only by believing** in Jesus Christ. (Gal 3:22 NLT-SE)
- **Ask Me anything...** This is no small thing. Not because of the boldness, courage, or wisdom it takes to ask, but the loving response of the one who is being asked.
  - Jesus is revealing that to His disciples “**what the Father is really like.**” How? He pays attention to the Father’s response to the requests of His children.
  - **The key here is “alignment.”** As we align ourselves to the will of the Father, making our requests in Jesus name, and empowered by the Spirit of God, The Father will give us what we ask for and His name will be glorified.