

# I AM: The Way, The Truth, The Life

Today I'm continuing with week 6 of the I AM series. These statements are declarations and revelations of who Jesus is. The goal and purpose of this series is to see who Jesus says He is. We established in the beginning of the series that Jesus cannot lie, He is truth, therefore everything He says is true.

It is necessary to know Jesus if we are to be like Jesus. We have to know the goal. We have to know what we are aiming for. If you aim at nothing, you will hit it every time! But we don't want to accomplish the goal of nothing.

My desire is to each and every day, become more like Jesus. I am a representative of Him, therefore I have to know who He is and what He wants in order to accurately represent Him.

Let's dig into the Word and see what this sixth declaration of our Lord is....

Turn to John chapter 14

PRAY

Jesus has just had finished serving the Last Supper. He washed the feet of the disciples. He told them of His coming death which would provide a complete atonement for the sin of men.

He told them that one of them (Judas) would betray Him. He told Peter that he would deny his Lord 3 times. And He tells them that He will be leaving and they could not come where He was going.

So right after all of these bombshells, that is where we pick up with today's text. Jesus says:

## **John 14:1 (ESV)**

1 "Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me.

Jesus tells His disciples all of these big things and then says, "and don't let your hearts be troubled"

They are probably thinking, "Oh, thanks Jesus...you are leaving, that guy is ratting you out, that one is going to deny you, and we are just supposed to be ok?"

Some of you have probably been in a situation like this before. You spend all of your time growing close to someone only to have them up and leave. It's hard, it hurts. I can imagine how they felt!

But when Jesus says "Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me." He is

trying to get their focus on the good that will come out of this “trial” they are facing.

Notice that Jesus doesn’t say “Don’t let your minds be troubled” He uses the heart. The heart is center the of spiritual life. Just as you would say the heart of a town, the heart of a country, etc.

The heart is the seat of affections and passions, including love, joy, greif, enmity, courage, pleasure.

**Psalm 7:10 (ESV)**

My shield is with God, who saves the upright in heart.

**Joshua 24:23 (ESV)**

He said, “Then put away the foreign gods that are among you, and incline your heart to the Lord, the God of Israel.”

Incline your affections and passions to Jesus!

The word used for troubled in John 14:1 means to make restless, to stir up, to render anxious or distressed.

When Jesus says “Don’t let your hearts be troubled”, He is saying “Don’t let your affections and passions become restless or distressed”.

Often times we get this way in life. Our affections and passions are to be toward Jesus but as soon as trouble enters the picture, we become restless, anxious, or distressed. Then our focus is no longer on Jesus! He is the one that gives us direction and protection.

The reason we often get ourselves in this situation is due to a lack of trust. This is what Jesus is trying to relay with “Believe in God; believe also in me.” Trust God. Don’t be troubled...

When it comes to trusting the Lord we are like the man who fell over a cliff and caught himself on a branch half way down. He looked up, he looked down, but he could see no one. He looked up again and could see no one. So at the top of his voice he yelled, "Is anyone there?" He got no answer. So again he yelled, "Is anyone there?" Still no answer. So he yelled out a third time, "Is anyone there?" All of a sudden he heard a voice say, "I'm here," and he looked up and said, "Who are you?" The voice said, "I'm the Lord." The man said, "Oh, Lord, help me." The Lord said, "Do you trust me?" The man said, "Yes, Lord, I trust you." Then the Lord said, "Okay, let go of the branch." The man looked down and saw a drop of several hundred feet, looked up and said, "Is anyone else there?"

We can be a lot like that person but what Christ is pleading is, "Don't be disturbed, just trust me."

Sometimes it does not make sense. Sometimes is seems like holding onto that branch, that one

thing that we can see, it becomes the most important thing, it's what we put our trust in. Sometimes Jesus just wants us to let go....trust HIM!

### **John 14:2-4 (ESV)**

2 In my Father's house are many rooms. 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, that where I am you may be also. 4 And you know the way to where I am going."

Jesus assures His disciples of their future (well at least 11 of the 12). He starts with saying that in His Father's house there are many rooms (or mansions).

This is an actual place. The Father's house is the place the Father inhabits or dwells. It's where the Father exists....heaven! And in heaven, there are many rooms. Now don't think if you go to heaven we are all kept in little rooms like pets.

Room or mansion in Greek is *mone* (moe-nay), it means any place of residence; a house; a habitation.

There is one other place in the bible where this word is used. John 14:23 when Jesus is promising the Holy Spirit....

### **John 14:23 (ESV)**

Jesus answered him, "If anyone loves me, he will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him.

The same way that the Holy Spirit dwells in believers, we will dwell with God in heaven. Just as the heart must be prepared for the Holy Spirit, Jesus is preparing a place for you!

In the Father's house, there are many rooms. Have you ever been in a situation where you decided not to go somewhere because there might not be enough room? This isn't the case with God. Come to Jesus, there is plenty of room for you in heaven!

Jesus said in v3 that He is preparing this place for you and He WILL come back for you. There will be a day....

### **Revelation 1:7 (ESV)**

7 Behold, he is coming with the clouds, and every eye will see him, even those who pierced him, and all tribes of the earth will wail on account of him. Even so. Amen.

### **1 Thessalonians 4:16-17 (ESV)**

16 For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a cry of command, with the voice of an archangel, and with the sound of the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise

first. 17 Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will always be with the Lord.

I long for that day! THAT should help keep your heart from being troubled. Trust Jesus, He has a great plan for your life on this earth as well as eternally with Him!

### **John 14:5 (ESV)**

5 Thomas said to him, "Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?"

Here we go....Doubting Thomas.....

You know, I think Thomas actually gets a bad rap. I have to believe that Thomas was a pretty good dude. After all, Jesus chose him to be one of the twelve, right? And yes I know that Jesus also chose Judas, but that was not by mistake.....it was all part of His plan, someone had to betray Him so that we could be saved!

But Thomas was honest. "This doesn't make sense, I don't get it, what are we supposed to do?"

How many of you have been in a group and didn't understand something but just carried on like you did because you didn't want to be embarrassed, or look stupid? I know I have done it before.

How many have done this same thing with God? You don't understand but instead of asking (like He doesn't know if you don't understand), you just hope you figure it out? I know I have done it before.

How many times have you been anxious, frustrated, or troubled at heart because of confusion around you? How many times have you felt overwhelmed by your circumstances feeling fearful and alone without answers?

I can imagine that Thomas and the others were going through similar feelings with their best friend about to leave.

When Thomas asked this question, he probably wasn't the only one thinking it but no one wanted to be the idiot asking questions. Thomas probably didn't care if he looked like an idiot or if he got a bad rap, pretty much forever. Thomas wanted to know, "Lord, I don't understand, what do we have to do to be with you? How do we get where you are going?"

Thomas knows that Jesus is from heaven, therefore, obviously knows the way to get there. He's the perfect person to ask!

Think about when you are lost and you need directions. This still happens today, even with GPS and smart phones....When I'm lost, I always try to find someone that is from there. I don't ask a

random person at the gas station without first asking “Are you from around here?”

You want to know that the person you are receiving directions from actually knows how to get where you want to go. Jesus is from heaven, don't you think He knows how to get there? Thomas thought so...

Look at Jesus' response

**John 14:6 (ESV)**

6 Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

WOW! What a bold statement. But if you have the truth and it's a matter of life or death, you had better be bold!

*THE WAY -*

When Jesus says, "I am the way" He is saying, if you want to get to heaven you have to go through Him. The way, means the road. Jesus is the road. A couple weeks ago we read where He declared “I am the door (or gate)”. Here by saying “I am the way” He is saying “I am the road.”

**Matthew 7:14 (ESV)**

14 For the gate is narrow and the way is hard that leads to life, and those who find it are few.

Just as the gate or door is as narrow as one man, Jesus, so is the road. The path to eternal life is as narrow as one man. That is why it's hard! Die to self, crucify the flesh, deny yourself...it's hard! You have you keep your focus on Jesus or you stumble off the narrow path!

Salvation is in A Person. It is not in a schedule of going to church, it's not in a system of good deeds, it's not in communion or baptism. Salvation is in A Person. You can not trust **something** to get you to heaven. You must trust **Someone**. JESUS!

Jesus does not just show the way; He IS the way. He is the ONLY way to God.

Many people today, believe that there are multiple paths to God. Maybe you are one of those people. Studies in comparative religion have concluded that there is an “essence” to all religions.

You have The Mountain Analogy – God is pictured at the peak of the mountain with mankind at the bottom. Yet according to this illustration, all religion is an account of man's effort to move from the base of the mountain to the peak with God.

There are many roads with some going directly to God while other roads wind all over the mountain, eventually reaching the top. The bottom line, is that all religious roads ultimately arrive

at the same place.

I believe that! Each one of these roads ARRIVE at the same place. But that place is not what the world thinks, that place is not eternity WITH God. The place all of these roads lead to is called the White Throne Judgement

### **Revelation 20:11-15 (ESV)**

11 Then I saw a great white throne and him who was seated on it. From his presence earth and sky fled away, and no place was found for them. 12 And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Then another book was opened, which is the book of life. And the dead were judged by what was written in the books, according to what they had done.

13 And the sea gave up the dead who were in it, Death and Hades gave up the dead who were in them, and they were judged, each one of them, according to what they had done. 14 Then Death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. This is the second death, the lake of fire. 15 And if anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.

There may be more than one way up the mountain to get TO God. But there is only ONE way to be WITH God.

### **Acts 4:12 (ESV)**

12 And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.”

### **John 17:3 (ESV)**

3 And this is eternal life, that they know you the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent.

Jesus is the way!

### *THE TRUTH -*

Then Jesus says, "I am the truth", He is saying "I have all the truth necessary for life and living. When you know me, you know what truth really is."

Actual truth is a scarce commodity in our world. People say, "That might be true for you, but it's not for me." The problem is that truth is not determined by whether you agree with it or whether it "works for you".

Truth means conforming to fact or reality. Truth is based on reality not theory and imagination.

In John 18:38 Pilate asks 'What is truth?' and many people today ask the very same question.

The reality of the world in which we live is that for many people 'truth' no longer exists in the absolute sense.

Jesus declares 'I AM the truth.' Jesus is the Truth. He is the truth about God the Father because he and the Father are one (v10). He is the truth about man. He is the truth about sin and its consequences. He is the truth in that he alone has the power to make life meaningful regardless of its ups and downs.

So if Jesus is truth, then apart from Him we find only lies and deceit. If you feed on anything else for your spiritual needs, you will not find the nourishment that your soul needs. He is the Bread of Life!

If you seek another Way to God the Father other than Jesus, it will not be the truth and it will not lead to life but to death. In Christ alone the truth of God is found and the truth of eternal life.

Jesus is boldly stating – I am the truth and everything about Me is true. I am God. I am your Savior. I will arise from the grave. I will prepare a place for you. I will come back for you.

#### *THE LIFE -*

In the last part of this statement when Jesus says, "I am the life" He means life as opposed to death. In other words, when you have Christ, you have life that never ends.

Many religions and people say that Jesus was a good teacher but He was not God. How could He be a good teacher if He claimed to be God but was not? C.S. Lewis said, "He is either Lord, a lunatic, or a liar."

Jesus Himself IS the Life. He is the life because He is not subject to death, but instead made death subject to Him!

Here when Jesus says "I am the Life", He is referring to eternal life.

#### **John 1:3-5 (NKJV)**

3 All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made.  
4 In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. 5 And the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it.

He is the author of life, and He is the redeemer of life.

#### **John 11:25 (NKJV)**

"I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live."

So the Life which Jesus speaks of here is the opposite of death. Death is separation from God

so Jesus, as the Life, speaks of communion with God. Jesus is Life. He is the resurrection life, the firstborn from the dead and offers eternal life to all who come to Him. This Life is not cheap – it came at the cost of His own life on the Cross.

**John 14:6 (ESV)**

6 Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

There is NO other way to the Father, only through Jesus.

Even in the church today people are ignoring or rejecting this truth. We can't offend anyone, we can't hurt people's feelings. I don't buy it. I'm in the business of pleasing one and only one, Jesus. If His word offends, then it offends. But it is what He says it is....truth! If people don't agree with it, it doesn't make it any less true!

Jesus is the way because HE leads us to the Father.

Jesus is truth because He reveals the Way (Himself) to us.

Jesus is the life because outside of Him there is only death.

Buddha is not from heaven, Muhammad is not from heaven, Joseph Smith is not from heaven, Jesus is.