

I am the Way, and the Truth, and the Life

John 14:1-20

Key verse 14:6: “Jesus said to him, ‘I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.’”

Have you ever felt alone and anxious in your life? While being alone in your dorm or apartment, have you ever felt lost or abandoned? Have you ever felt depressed and hopeless when you lost someone close to you? This is where Jesus’ disciples were in this passage. When Jesus told them that he was going away, they might have felt disappointed and abandoned. They couldn’t understand why Jesus had to leave them. Just like the disciples, we do not understand everything that God is doing in our lives. In the midst of their troubles, Jesus proclaims that he is **the way, the truth, and the life to the Father’s house**. He promises that his disciples can live a new and powerful life through prayer, greater works, and the help of the Holy Spirit. May we personally hear Jesus’ proclamation and promises through today’s message and live an eternal and powerful life here and now and forever.

Part I. My Father’s House

To understand Jesus’ words to his disciples, we need to consider what he had told them previously in chapter 13. During the Last Supper, Jesus predicted Judas Iscariot’s betrayal, Peter’s denial, and his impending death. It was not easy for the disciples to accept any of these things. His disciples had given up their jobs and families to follow Jesus for three and a half years. They had seen the power of God like never before through Jesus. Jesus was their master, teacher, protector, guide, and father. They had placed their future in him. He was everything to them. All of a sudden, however, Jesus told them that he would leave them very soon. How do you think the disciples felt?

Let us read verse 1a: **“Let not your hearts be troubled.”** Jesus deeply understands that their hearts are about to be troubled. He is shepherding their hearts. The disciples are shaken to the core. Troubles can deeply disturb our hearts and emotions. When was the last time you felt that your heart was troubled? When I heard the news of the two recent powerful earthquakes in Venezuela, my heart felt troubled. I worried about the safety of my family and the members of Venezuela UBF. When I saw young children crying out at the loss of their parents, my heart was broken. In this world, our hearts can easily be troubled by natural disasters, financial crises, global wars, and violence. Perhaps the most unbearable trouble is separation from someone we have deeply trusted and depended on. That is what Jesus’ disciples were about to experience. Yet Jesus says, “Let not your hearts be troubled.” How is this possible?

Let us read verse 1b: **“Believe in God; believe also in me.”** What does it mean to believe in God and Jesus? We human beings want to understand what is happening now and what will happen in the future. We want to see the big picture before taking the next step. We tend to trust

ourselves—our abilities, judgment, knowledge, and money. We may even ChatGPT, or our cars more than other people!

We Christians can also misunderstand faith. We may think that believing in God means expecting God to do what we cannot do or what we want him to do. When God does not meet our expectations, we can easily become disappointed in him. But to believe in God and Jesus means to **trust them even when we do not understand**. The disciples did not understand what God was doing through Jesus, especially through his upcoming death. Faith was not knowing everything. It was trusting God.

The Lord God said to Isaiah: **“For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts...so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose”** (Isa. 55:9-11). Faith is believing that God’s will will be accomplished even when we cannot understand his ways. It is not blind faith. It is trusting God and Jesus.

Jesus, however, does not leave his disciples completely unaware of what God is doing. Look at verses 2 and 3: **“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? 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.”**

Who is the God in whom Jesus tells his disciples to believe? Jesus calls him **“my Father.”** God the Father has prepared a wonderful place where his people can dwell with him. Some of us may have painful memories of our earthly fathers. But God the Father, who sent his Son Jesus to bring us back to his house, is a good Father. He is the father in the parable of the prodigal son (Lk 15), longing for his lost son to come home.

Who, then, is Jesus? He is the Son of God. He is the One who goes to the Father’s house, prepares a place for his disciples, and brings them home to dwell with him forever. Therefore, when our hearts are troubled, Jesus gives us **a destination: the Father’s house**.

On earth, we have countless reasons to be troubled. But when we trust God and Jesus, we know where we are ultimately going. This earth is not our eternal home. We are going to the Father’s house. Do you believe Jesus’ promise that he is preparing a place for you? Do you long to be in the Father’s house one day?

Jesus tells his disciples in verse 4, **“And you know the way to where I am going.”** But Thomas asks in verse 5: **“Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?”** Thomas cannot understand how Jesus’ death could lead to the Father’s house. He cannot understand how the cross could be Jesus’ way to God. His question is also our question: **“How can we know the way?”**

Part II. The Way

Let us look at verse 6, our key verse: **“Jesus said to him, ‘I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.’”** Jesus proclaims that he is **the Way to the Father**.

Ὁδός (*hodos*), “the way,” can mean road, journey, or path. Jesus is saying he himself is the only means by which we come to the Father. But why do we need a way to the Father? The Bible says that God is holy while we are sinners. There is a great separation between the holy God and sinful humanity. This separation is too great for us to overcome by our own efforts. No amount of good works, morality, religious activity, or human effort can bring us into the presence of the holy God.

So how does Jesus become the Way? We remember the curtain in the temple that separated the Holy Place from the Most Holy Place. The curtain represented the separation between sinful humanity and God's holy presence. Do you remember what happened to the curtain when Jesus shed his blood and died on the cross? It was torn from top to bottom. Hebrews teaches that Jesus opened a new and living way for us to approach God through his own sacrifice. Hebrews 10:19-20 says: **“Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the holy places by the blood of Jesus, by the new and living way that he opened for us through the curtain, that is, through his flesh...”** Jesus' death opened the way to God.

People have created their own ways to try to get to heaven. Some try to live a perfect life by following religious rules, doing good deeds, and living up to moral standards. Others believe that everyone will go to heaven because God is love. But Jesus proclaims that **he is the only Way to the Father**. We do not save ourselves by doing enough good works. We receive Jesus' sacrifice on our behalf and trust him as the Way God has provided.

Our culture tells us to tolerate and respect other people's choices and religions. The claim that Jesus is the Way can therefore seem too exclusive. Yet God's invitation through Jesus is wonderfully broad. Listen to John 3:16: **“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.”** God loved *the whole world* and gave his Son for everyone. He invites *whoever* believes in Jesus to have eternal life. Are you a “whoever believes”? Jesus is the only Way, but God's invitation through Jesus is extended to everyone.

And this matters not only for how we come to God, but also for how we live each day. Sometimes we want Jesus to show us the whole path before we take the next step. We want to know where we are going and how everything will work out. But Jesus does not say, “I will show you the way.” He says, **“I am the way.”** So faith does not mean that we always know what comes next. **It means that we know whom we are following.**

If Jesus is the Way, then we need to ask: Why is Jesus qualified to be the Way? This leads us to the second part of Jesus' proclamation.

Part III. The Truth

Again, verse 6 says: **“I am the way and the truth and the life.”** Jesus declares that he is the Truth.

We live in a culture where truth can seem relative. People speak of “their own truth,” and the idea of absolute truth is often rejected. But God is the Creator of all things. Because he created everything, all things find their true identity and purpose in him. God is the eternal source of truth.

If God is the Truth, how can Jesus also claim to be the Truth? Because Jesus is God the Son, and he perfectly reveals the Father. The Apostle John says: **“All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made”** (Jn 1:3). And: **“No one has ever seen God; God the only Son, who is at the Father's side, he has made him known”** (Jn 1:18).

Jesus reveals the Father because he is one with the Father. Look at verse 7: **“If you had known me, you would have known my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him.”** To know Jesus is to know the Father.

Philip, however, still asks Jesus to show him the Father. Jesus says in verse 9: **“Have I been with you so long, and you still do not know me, Philip? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father.”** Philip had seen Jesus teaching the word of God, driving out demons, and healing the sick for three and a half years. Yet he still did not fully understand who Jesus was. Jesus patiently helps him understand that whoever has seen him has seen the Father.

Look at verse 10: **“Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me?”** Jesus speaks the Father's words and does the Father's works because he is in the Father and the Father is in him.

Therefore, Jesus is not merely someone who teaches us the truth. **Jesus himself is the Truth because he reveals the Father.** This is why the Way and the Truth belong together. If Jesus were not the Truth, he could not be the Way.

The separation between the holy God and sinners cannot be overcome by human means. If Jesus were merely a man, he could not become the Way to God. But Jesus is the perfect man and perfect God. He is the Lamb of God, the perfect sacrifice for our sins. Because Jesus is the Truth, he can be the Way.

This matters because we are surrounded by many voices telling us what is true and what will make us happy. Sometimes we are not even sure what to believe anymore. Jesus says, “I am the truth.” When we know Jesus, we know the Father. We begin to see God, ourselves, and our lives more clearly. And when other voices confuse us, we can come back to Jesus and his word.

And when we know Jesus as the Way and the Truth, there is a great blessing. Jesus says in John 8:31-32: **“If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.”** Do you want true freedom? Come to Jesus. Know Jesus, and the Truth will set you free.

Part IV. The Life

Jesus is not only the Way and the Truth. He is also the Life. What kind of life is Jesus talking about? In John 17:3, Jesus says: **“And this is eternal life, that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent.”**

We often spend our lives trying to build a good life. We work, care for our families, pursue our goals, and take care of our responsibilities. These are good things. But even when life looks good on the outside, we can become tired and lose our sense of purpose.

Jesus says, “I am the life.” He offers us more than simply a better life. He offers us life with God, knowing God and walking with him now. Through Jesus, we can have intimate fellowship with God and worship him. Eternal life does not begin only after we die. We can experience this life with God even now.

But what kind of life can Jesus’ disciples live here on earth? Jesus promises that his disciples will do greater works.

Verse 12 says: **“Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever believes in me will also do the works that I do; and greater works than these will he do, because I am going to the Father.”**

When Jesus told his disciples that he would leave them, they may have thought their ministry and their lives with Jesus were coming to an end. But Jesus promises that they will do greater works.

This does not mean that they will become greater than Jesus or accomplish a greater work of salvation. No disciple can die for the sins of the world as Jesus did. Rather, after Jesus’ death, resurrection, and ascension, his disciples will participate in his continuing work through the gospel. They will take the gospel beyond the geographical boundaries of Jesus’ earthly ministry—to Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, and the ends of the earth.

How is such a life possible? Look at verses 13 and 14: **“Whatever you ask in my name, this I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If you ask me anything in my name, I will do it.”**

Jesus does not abandon his disciples when he returns to the Father. He promises to work through their prayers. They can live a life constantly connected to Jesus through prayer. Do you want to live such a life of prayer? Jesus’ departure does not mean abandonment. Even when we cannot see what Jesus is doing, we can pray and trust that he is working.

There is one more aspect of the life Jesus promises. Verses 15-17 say: **“If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever, even the Spirit of truth...You know him, for he dwells with you and will be in you.”**

Jesus does not leave his disciples as orphans. He asks the Father to give them another Helper—the Holy Spirit—to be with them forever. Those who love Jesus will desire to keep his commandments, and the Father gives them the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of Truth and the Helper who dwells in the hearts of Jesus’ disciples.

The Holy Spirit helps us know Jesus as the Way, the Truth, and the Life more personally and deeply in the midst of troubles. He gives us power to participate in Jesus’ work, pray in Jesus’ name, and live according to Jesus’ words.

In this way, Jesus’ disciples can live a life centered on God—a life of faith, prayer, love, obedience, and the power of the Holy Spirit. **This is the life Jesus promises: eternal life with God and a powerful life with God here and now.**

Do you want to live such a life?

I came to know God the Father through Jesus during my college years. I came to this country as a missionary from Venezuela. I pursued a master’s degree so that I could provide for my wife and our two children. While living in what often felt like survival mode, there have been many times when I have felt lost, directionless, lonely, troubled, and anxious.

But Jesus reminds me that this world is not my final home. My eternal destination is the Father’s house. Jesus is my Way to the Father. His torn body and shed blood opened the way for me to approach God. Therefore, I want to follow the way of the cross, approaching God and seeking his grace moment by moment.

Jesus is also the Truth. When I am confused about my life, my future, or myself, I want to know Jesus more deeply and see God through him.

And Jesus promises that I can do greater works. I have often thought that I would never do anything great. I am too busy working and taking care of my family. I have felt a sense of failure and lack of faith. But through this passage, I repent of limiting what God can do through my life. I want to attempt greater things by faith, through prayer, and with the help of the Holy Spirit. May Jesus use me as his servant and missionary in this country.

Through this message, Jesus proclaims that he is the Way, the Truth, and the Life. When our hearts are troubled, Jesus gives us a destination: the Father’s house. He gives us the Way: himself, through his death and resurrection. He gives us the Truth: himself, the One who reveals the Father. And he gives us the Life: eternal life with God now and forever, through prayer and the presence of the Holy Spirit.

So how will we respond? When we are troubled, will we trust Jesus rather than ourselves? When we are confused, will we come to Jesus rather than follow our own way? When Jesus' words challenge us, will we obey him? And when he calls us to pray and participate in his work, will we step out in faith?

May God bless each of us not merely to know these words, but to accept Jesus as the Way, the Truth, and the Life through the way of the cross. May God help us to trust him when we do not understand, obey him when it is difficult, pray in his name, and attempt greater things by the power of the Holy Spirit.