

I Am the Way the Truth and the Life
John 14

The Big Reveal is a technique that makes an important point in a story:

EX: Empire Strikes Back; Gen- Joseph with his brothers...

Jesus: John 6; 8;10, 11 (Bread, light, door/good shepherd, Resurrection and Life) and now it continues in the life and ministry of Jesus in chapter 14

Gotta love the disciples. They are not always the quickest on the uptake, especially Peter and Thomas.

Remember him from chapter 11 – Let's go die with Lazarus too.

Later he has his most famous "doubting" moment, but here in chapter 14 he sets up another BIG REVEAL for Jesus. John 14:1-6

1 "Do not let your heart be troubled; believe in God, believe also in Me. 2 In My Father's house are many dwelling places; if it were not so, I would have told you; for I go to prepare a place for you. 3 If I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself, that where I am, there you may be also. 4 And you know the way where I am going."

5 Thomas said to Him, "Lord, we do not know where You are going, how do 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 but through Me."**

Jesus was humble, but not modest. He knew who he was and what he was about.

Context

The Upper Room Discourse and final words with disciples

In the context of this discourse the disciples are troubled. How do we know that? Because Jesus says, "Let not your hearts be troubled."

He has been speaking to them about his departure, betrayal, and Peter's denial. He is talking about going away, but he'll come back and they can be where He is. v. 5-6 Big Reveal with Thomas as the straight man.

v. 1-6

Verse 1 is a command and exhortation to watch over our hearts. Let's not jump over this as we consider the big statement in v. 6

The two verses go together.

What we believe about Jesus will determine whether our hearts are troubled.

If Jesus is not the Bread, the Light, the Door, The Shepherd, The Resurrection, The Way, the Truth and the Life, then we have reason for our hearts to be troubled.

In these I AM statements, Jesus is giving us truth and an antidote to a troubled anxious heart.

The antidote is a person as we know, embrace, and experience Him by faith.

The trajectory of our lives is set by our answer to the question Jesus asked Martha last week – Do you believe this?

We need to ask ourselves that in the face of what troubles us.

WAY, TRUTH, LIFE – each of these is rich in terms of biblical revelation AND they relate to some big needs that we have in a fallen world.

PRESENCE, PERSPECTIVE, and PURPOSE

THE WAY speaks of God's Presence with us.

Jesus is not just 'a road'; he is THE ROAD / Way and he is with us as we go along the way.

THIS IS GROUND ZERO OF WHAT PEOPLE HAVE AGAINST Christianity – v. 6
"IT'S SO EXCLUSIVE."

If you're going to reject Jesus, then make sure that this is the reason.

Most people are pretty positive about Jesus, until this comes up. They can handle the Bread, Light, Door, Shepherd, Resurrection and Life stuff, but this just grates on the ears of "enlightened open minded" 21st century hearers.

We may not like this claim, but if Jesus has any credibility at all then we should give it some serious consideration. If you are struggling with Jesus or are having conversations with people struggling with Jesus, this is probably a sticking point.

I remember my pastor in college trying to pull the "just as there are many roads from Athens to Macon so there are many roads to God" idea but he got some pushback from Jesus, and some of us in the class.

It sounds so exclusive, right – "no one can come to the father but through me".

All religious systems are exclusive; they all teach their version of salvation.

Even atheists are exclusive. Have you noticed how they have become increasingly hostile and exclusive? They don't want any public expression of religion.

Some would approach it like this, "You say that Jesus is the only way to God, but I believe that ANY GOOD person can be saved."

That sounds inclusive, but look again... ANY GOOD person...

That is very exclusive. It keeps me out; it keeps you out; it keeps all people out because the Bible tells us that no one is good. We're all rebels against God. We're all lawbreakers; we break God's law and we break our own laws.

So where is the hope for us? IN Jesus; IN THE GOSPEL.

Jesus was and is GOOD when we couldn't be. That's why He is THE WAY.

JESUS SHOWS THAT THE WAY IS A PERSON.

Jesus is the way to reconciliation with the Father - Col 1:19-22

For it was the *Father's* good pleasure for all the fullness to dwell in Him, ²⁰and through Him to reconcile all things to Himself, having made peace through the blood of His cross; through Him, *I* say, whether things on earth or things in heaven.

²¹And although you were formerly alienated and hostile in mind, *engaged* in evil deeds, ²²yet He has now reconciled you in His fleshly body through death, in order to present you before Him holy and blameless and beyond reproach

Jesus is the way to freedom from the penalty of sin: Rom 6:23

. ²³For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Jesus is THE WAY from the power of sin

Therefore if anyone is in Christ, *he is a new creature*; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come. 2 Cor 5:17

Charles Spurgeon

Whenever I feel that I have sinned and desire to overcome that sin for the future, the devil at the same time comes to me and whispers, "How can you be a pardoned person and accepted with God while you still sin in this way?"

If I listen to this I drop into despondency, and if I continued in that state I should fall into despair, and should commit sin more frequently than before; but God's grace comes in and says to my soul, "*Thou hast sinned; but did not Christ come to save sinners? Thou art not saved because thou art righteous; for Christ died for the ungodly.*"

And my faith says, "Though I have sinned, I have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous, and though I am guilty yet by grace I am saved and I am a child of God still."

And what then? Why the tears begin to flow and I say, "How could I ever sin against my God who has been so good to me? Now I will overcome that sin," and I get strong to fight with sin through the conviction that I am God's child.

The TRUTH speaks of a Right PERSPECTIVE

In scripture, THE LORD, Yahweh, the Great I AM is abounding in truth... Ex 34:5-6

The LORD descended in the cloud and stood there with him as he called upon the name of the LORD. 6Then the LORD passed by in front of him and proclaimed, "The LORD, the LORD God, compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in lovingkindness and truth;

Leaning on, believing, and renewing our minds with TRUTH is a biblical antidote to our troubled hearts.

Psalm 42

11Why are you in despair, O my soul?
And why have you become disturbed within me?
Hope in God, for I shall yet praise Him,
The help of my countenance and my God.

The Psalmist doesn't wallow in his despair, he reorients his perspective with the truth of who God is- He is our help; He is with us.

In OT the idea of "truth" was found in the Torah- "Thy word is truth"

Ps 15:2 ; 19:9; 25:5; 119:142

Ps 25:5

Lead me in Your truth and teach me,
For You are the God of my salvation;
For You I wait all the day.

In the Gospel we see that Jesus is the truth of God revealed in a person

John 1:14

14And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us, and we saw His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth.

TRUTH IS A PERSON – not just a set of principles or teachings

We encounter this person as the Holy Spirit makes Him known as He is revealed in His Word.

Leaning on and renewing our minds and hearts with the truth of God's Word is the way we grow in grace and faith.

VoV Faith and the World

<https://banneroftruth.org/us/devotional/faith-and-the-world/>

Thy Word is full of promises,
flowers of sweet fragrance,
fruit of refreshing flavor
when culled by faith.

May I be made rich in its riches,
be strong in its power,
be happy in its joy,
abide in its sweetness,
feast on its preciousness,
draw vigor from its manna.
Lord, increase my faith.

Jesus is THE LIFE and He is our life. This relates to our PURPOSE WCF SC #1

For believers, Christ is our life – Col 3

1 Therefore if you have been raised up with Christ, keep seeking the things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. 2 Set your mind on the things above, not on the things that are on earth. 3 For you have died and your life is hidden with Christ in God. 4 When Christ, who is our life, is revealed, then you also will be revealed with Him in glory.

5 Therefore consider the members of your earthly body as dead to immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and greed, which amounts to idolatry.

Jesus, who is our life, gives our lives a new purpose

1 Cor 6:20

For you have been bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body.

He bought us and gave us life by His own blood 1 Peter 1:18ff.

knowing that you were not redeemed with perishable things like silver or gold from your futile way of life inherited from your forefathers, 19 but with precious blood, as of a lamb unblemished and spotless, *the blood* of Christ.

We are no longer to live for ourselves and the values of this world. We are called with the privilege of being God's children and His beloved ambassadors.

APPLY:

Does the horizon of your future only include your circumstances in this life? When you think about "the future" do your thoughts end with your death?

As you plan for the future – i.e. how you will invest your time, talent, and treasure, do you only take into consideration what you can earn, what kids you may have or see grow up, who might befriend you, how or where you will retire, or what you can accomplish in this life now?

Christian, does your envisioned future include a place in the Father's house? Is that something you intentionally bring into your daydreams of and plans for the future?

IF NOT, then you are shortchanging yourself in terms of the Way you live, the Truth you follow and the abundance of Life you will experience HERE AND NOW.

Does knowing that we have a future in Christ, who is our life, make you any less anxious here and now?

We need to remind ourselves of it daily, and we need relationships with others who will remind us

Jesus is the life and apart from him there is no life for he is the one in whom we live and move and have our being. The God who is life is the one who gives life to all things.

This is a great lead in to our theme in VBS.

24“The God who made the world and everything in it is the Lord of heaven and earth and does not live in temples built by human hands. 25 And he is not served by human hands, as if he needed anything. Rather, he himself gives everyone life and breath and everything else. 26 From one man he made all the nations, that they should inhabit the whole earth; and he marked out their appointed times in history and the boundaries of their lands. 27 God did this so that they would seek him and perhaps reach out for him and find him, though he is not far from any one of us. 28 ‘For in him we live and move and have our being.’

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