

I AM the Way, the Truth and the Life 5.21.17 #cccsermons

The I AM Claims of Christ Series

At the beginning of **John 13**, Jesus shows true leadership by washing the disciple's feet and then Jesus predicts that Judas will betray Him. Next He tells them He is going away and Peter wants to go with Him, but Jesus tells him that He will deny even knowing Jesus before tomorrow's over.

Today's passage: **John 14:1-19**

¹ *Do not let your hearts be troubled.*

- The disciples were troubled because the man **that they had DROPPED everything to follow** the last three years, keeps telling them that He is dying and leaving them. But because they didn't understand His ways, Jesus goes out of His way to **comfort** them. (see **2 Corinthians 1:3-4**)
- **Even when things seem bleak, know that the God of all COMFORT will get you through it, if you trust in Him!**

¹ *You believe in God; believe also in me.*

- In other words, I know you don't understand, so trust fully in Me. God always has a bigger picture that we need to trust completely. **Our problem is that we spend too much of our time looking BACK, looking AROUND, and looking DOWN, when we need to be looking AHEAD.**

² *My Father's house has many rooms...*

- **Every Jew longed for heaven, but the disciples just didn't long for it right NOW** because they were looking **to receive on earth** because of their faithfulness by His side. (see **Matthew 6:19-20**)

³ *I am going there to prepare a place for you.*

- **Jesus was trying to be clear that He wasn't just going AWAY, but He was going AHEAD.** Jesus had been preparing the disciples three years for this, so that they would have faith and believe. (see **John 14:11**)
- And, Jesus said that He would not leave you alone either because He was leaving *the Holy Spirit to help guide you.* (see **John 14:15-17**)
- God is always prepared and is always preparing us for the future, but we have to **LISTEN** and trust in Him.

I AM the Way: Jesus is the ONLY road to God.

#1 The WORLD'S way says that all roads lead to heaven.

- In other words, the world believes as long as you believe in **SOMETHING** you'll be okay. Isn't it ironic that only Christianity is considered **by most** as intolerant even though all other religions are intolerant of Christians and the Christian faith.

#2 YOUR way is believing that if you are a good enough person on earth, you can earn your way to heaven. (see **Proverbs 14:12** and **Galatians 2:21**)

- Jesus didn't come to teach us how to be good, but came to teach us how we could be in a relationship with God.

#3 GOD'S way is believing only through faith in Christ can you make it into heaven.

- **God's Way is not a plan or a program or a perspective; it is a PERSON.**
- Jesus came to earth to **WARN** us that our way of life will lead to frustration and eternal punishment by fire. Jesus gives us a way out by trusting in Him, but not everyone takes it. (see **1 Timothy 2:5-6**)
- **We have to get out of our own way in order to do anything significant for Jesus.**

I AM the Truth: Jesus is the ACCURATE understanding of God.

- Something can only be right if it's true and it can only be true if it can be **VALIDATED.**
- Unfortunately, today it doesn't matter if you are right or not, the only thing that matters is if you **ACCEPT** me and my beliefs. (SLIDE)
- Yet, according to Jesus, Truth is a **PERSON**, not a religious point of view.
- The Bible is more than just Scriptures, but it is also a history book with verified **TRUTHS.** When Jesus came and lived on earth, Jesus fulfilled over 300 Old Testament prophecies. The odds of one man fulfilling just eight prophecies is 1 in 100,000,000,000,000,000. (10¹⁷). Not only did Jesus fulfill the past, but everything He said about the future He fulfilled also. Paul states as the resurrection of Christ is the single most important truth of all mankind (see **1 Corinthians 15:3-11**).
- Jesus was more than a good teacher and did more than just teach truth, He **VALIDATED** the truth.

I AM the Life: Jesus is the SOURCE of our existence.

- All of mankind is on a search for the meaning of life or for what will make them happy in this life. The problem is, according to the Bible, all sources of life on earth dry up... all but one, life in Christ. (see **Hebrews 9:27** and **1 John 5:12**)

The world has a problem with Jesus because even though they claim He is EXCLUSIVE, Christianity couldn't be more INCLUSIVE.

- Jesus was the most inclusive person that ever lived. He reached out to the poor, the lepers, the outcast, the women, the children...those on the outside of society.
- And, Biblical Christianity is the most **pluralistic, tolerant, embracing of other cultures** religion on earth. An early criticism of Christianity was the observation that they would take **ANYBODY**, slave or free; rich or poor; man or woman; Greek or Barbarian.
- All were accepted, but on the common ground of the truth as revealed in Jesus.

The world has a problem with Jesus because Jesus is the truth and no one today WANTS the truth. Most people don't want to believe because faith in Christ would require that they **CHANGE** their lifestyle. (see **Psalms 14:1**)

The world has a problem with Jesus because you can't EARN salvation, you just have to LIVE OUT your salvation. Be salt (**Matthew 5:13**) and light (**Matthew 5:14-16**). And remember, if the truth isn't spoken in **LOVE**, it makes the speaker obnoxious and the truth repulsive.