

**Who Do You Say That I AM**  
**John 14:1-20**  
**"I AM The Way, The Truth, and The Life"**

**Introduction**

On the night before He went to the cross, Jesus observed The Passover Seder with His disciples. At the supper table that evening, He told them that one of them would soon betray Him (**John 13:18**). We, having the benefit of hindsight, know full well that he was speaking of Judas Iscariot, but the disciples at the time were confused as to the identity of the betrayer (**13:28-29**). I wonder if Peter thought that he himself might be the betrayer, since Jesus told Peter that before the sunrise he would deny his Lord, three times (**13:38**). Even after Judas left the room and went to complete his cowardly task, there was still much confusion around the table. Jesus had told them that **"...when it does occur (His betrayal), you may believe that I AM" (13:19)**. What was he saying? He was telling the eleven disciples that once Judas had betrayed Him, the rest of them would see once and for all that He was God. They would be witnesses to his death, burial, and resurrection, leaving no doubt to any of them just who He was, The Great I AM in the flesh.

He told them that He would soon be going away, and where he was going, they could not follow. How this must have grieved them terribly, for they had each dedicated the past three years of their lives to following Him wherever he went. He had become their very reason for living. They had forsaken all to follow Him (**Matthew 19:27**), and now He was saying goodbye. How could this be? How could He abandon them now, after all that they had been through with Him? They were devastated. He told them, **"Do not let your heart be troubled. Believe in God. Believe also in Me. In My Father's house are many dwelling places; if it were not so, I would have told you; I go to prepare a place for you. 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" (14:1-3)**. How many times have we, as preachers, quoted that verse at a funeral to give hope and encouragement to loved ones who are left behind to grieve! Jesus has prepared a place for each of His followers. Death is NOT the end, it is only the beginning! Because He rose, we will rise.

Jesus went on to tell His followers that night, **"You know the way where I am going" (vs.4)**. Leave it to Thomas, the "show me" disciple, who said, **"Lord, we do not know where You are going, how do we know the way" (vs. 5)?** Sometimes I think that Jesus chose Thomas as a disciple because He knew that ol' Tom would ask the questions that all of us want to ask, but are afraid to say out loud. Jesus responded in that matter of fact tone to which they had all grown so accustomed. **"I AM The WAY, The TRUTH, and The LIFE; no one comes to The Father but through ME" (vs. 6)**.

**THE WAY**

I love to travel. To me, one of the greatest adventures that I can imagine is to get to go someplace that I've never been. Back when I was on the road playing music, our band went all over the United States. One of the best parts was that I rarely had to drive. There were other guys in the group who were responsible for getting us to the next town where we played. One thing I learned doing all that traveling; if you're not driving, then you really don't have to pay attention to how to get there. You just get to sit back and enjoy the ride. Whoever is doing the driving is responsible for all the details, and directions. In short, your driver is your way there. Thomas wanted to know just where Jesus was going and how to get there, but Jesus was in essence saying, "Don't worry about how to get there, you wouldn't understand it if I told you. Just trust Me, and I will get you there. I AM your way!"

Notice that Jesus said, **I AM "THE" Way**. He didn't say I am "A" Way. Pretty dogmatic of Him huh? I mean, what about all those other religions that claim to be a way to God. Think about that for a moment. There's Buddhism, Hinduism, Islam, New Age Religion, Scientology, Mormonism, and every other cult that you can possibly think of. Some poor misguided souls have even turned to Satan as an object of worship. So many "ways" and yet, Jesus claims to be the ONLY way. He said, **"No one comes to the Father, but by Me."** In this series, we have been studying the seven I AM statements of Jesus. The fact is that Jesus IS God, that's why He spoke of Himself as the "I AM" so many times. He is The Great I AM. Who better to know than God which way is the right one? This is why he told His disciples that soon after He was betrayed they would see for themselves that He was "I AM". When he told them to **"trust in God, and also trust in Him" (vs 1)**, He was letting them know, that He and God were the

same. He is just as much God, as God is God. That being said, if God says that Christ is THE WAY, then it stands to reason, that all other religions are counterfeit. There is only one way to God, and His Name is Jesus. He IS our way. We have no need to try and find our way to God, for He has found us and will see to it that we arrive at our destination when it is time. Just trust in Him and sit back and enjoy the "ride", He's got this!

Did you know that the early Christians were not called Christians at all? They called themselves, "Followers of The Way" (**Acts 22:4**). You see, after His resurrection, ALL of his disciples finally got it. They had seen him do many great things, but when He died and rose again, they completely understood that He was indeed The Way, just like He had promised would happen after He was betrayed and put to death by the Romans on Mount Calvary. Nothing like coming back from the dead to prove that you know your way around the afterlife!

One of my favorite "Jesus sayings" can be found in **John 1:45-51**, when the disciple Nathaniel became a follower of Jesus. Phillip had brought Nathaniel to meet Jesus, telling him that He was The Messiah (**John 1:45**). Nathaniel had been skeptical that anyone from Nazareth could claim such authority (**vs.46**), but upon meeting Jesus in person, He became immediately convinced that He was The One. Jesus had astonished Nathaniel, when He told him, **"Before Phillip called you, when you were sitting under the fig tree, I saw you" (vs 48)**. You see, he knew who Nathaniel was, and all that he had done, before they had ever met face to face! This was enough to make a believer out of Nathaniel. Jesus told him that this was nothing, and that one day he would witness **"Heaven open, and the angels of God ascending and descending on the Son of Man" (vs. 51)**. Nathaniel, being a "true Israelite" (**vs. 47**) would have understood exactly what Jesus was saying, but us Gentiles might need a little help with that. Israel was the name that God had given to the patriarch Jacob, after he wrestled all night with The Angel of The LORD at the brook of Jabbok (**Genesis 32:22-28**). Israel means "he struggles with God". Jacob had a very famous dream of a ladder that extended from heaven to earth. He saw angels ascending and descending upon that ladder, but He didn't fully comprehend the dream's meaning, He just knew that he had had an encounter with God (**Genesis 28:12-16**). Jesus IS the fulfillment of that dream! He IS Jacob's ladder. He is the stairway to Heaven that reached down to Israel. He is THE WAY to God!

## **THE TRUTH**

Phillip was still a little confused after Jesus said that He was going to The Father. He must have decided that if he couldn't see where Jesus was going, then surely Jesus could show them a glimpse of The Father in His glory. After all, God had once let Moses see Him from behind, although not face to face, for he couldn't have survive that (**Exodus 33:19-23**). Surely then, Jesus could do this for them at the very least, to help strengthen their faith for such a time as this? He asked Jesus to show them the Father, and then they would be satisfied with that (**vs. 8**). Jesus must have been saddened by this statement, just as He was saddened at the lack of faith that He had seen only a week prior at the tomb of Lazarus. What would it take for His followers to see Him for who He truly was? He answered Philip saying, **"Do you still not know me? He who has seen Me HAS seen The Father" (vs. 9)**. Jesus and The Father are One. Jesus told His disciples that night to **"Believe Me that I AM in The Father and The Father is in Me; otherwise, believe because of the works themselves" (vs. 11)**.

You see, for three long years, they had spent every waking moment with Jesus. They had seen Him feed multitudes, walk on water, heal the sick, and raise the dead. Just the week before, they had seen Him call Lazarus back to life after being in the tomb for four days! Jesus had proved that He was God by the things that He had done among them. Why could they still not see? If He had claimed to be God, and yet had done nothing to back it up, then that would be one thing, but He had proven time, and again that he was telling the TRUTH. The miracles backed up all of His claims. He had lived a perfectly sinless life in their presence for three whole years. Who can do that except God? His life backs up His truth, because He IS the TRUTH.

As we have stated previously, there are many religions in this old world. How then, can we know which is the truth? Simple. Examine each one carefully, and see which religious leader backed up his words with his deeds. Only Jesus has proven that He has the power over life and death. Mohammed never resurrected a soul. Neither did Bhudda, nor any other false prophet. Jesus Christ will always pass

the truth test. The Bible says in **Revelation 3:14** that Jesus is the “amen”, which is simply just another way of saying that He is the truth. Never underestimate Him and never doubt His authority. He is the only one who has ever proven Himself. He is calling us into a relationship with absolute truth. There is a tremendous difference between other religions and Christianity. Christianity is a calling to a personal relationship with The Truth, while all others are just about following the dead rules of a lifeless idol. Jesus is The Truth, and He is calling us to know The Truth and to be set free (**John 8:32**). We serve a risen Christ, not some long dead spiritual guru, and THAT my friends, is The TRUTH! Who do you say that He is?

## **THE LIFE**

Jesus is not just the only WAY to God, and the absolute TRUTH, but he is The LIFE as well. When Adam and Eve sinned in the garden, the spirit of man was separated from the Spirit of God. Jesus came to die on a cross so that our spirits could be made one with God’s Spirit once more. After all, life apart from God isn’t really life at all. It was God who breathed life into man and made him a living soul. Apart from God, life has no meaning. God created each of us with a purpose in mind. Jesus died so that we could be reconnected to God and find our purpose. This is the very meaning of life. He wanted the disciples to understand that it was actually a good thing that He was going away, for He would be sending the comforter (**vs. 16**) to live within them. The “Comforter” is none other than the Holy Spirit, Who, thanks to the cross of Calvary, now indwells every Believer and connects them to the Father. This is the life that God always intended for His children to have. It is abundant life (**John 10:10**), a life lived in connection with God who guides us and provides for our every need. The only way we can experience this kind of living is to place our faith in Jesus. Anything less is just an empty existence.

Think of your life B.C. (before Christ). How have things changed since you invited Jesus to become your LORD? When we were living in darkness, we thought only of ourselves. But, since Christ has saved us from the bondage of sin, the comforter has moved in and changed our very nature. We no longer live as animals, thinking only to serve our own selfish lusts. Now, we feel connected to something much greater. We have purpose and direction. I don’t know about you, but I no longer try to follow The LORD’S commands just because it’s “the right thing to do”, but rather I follow them because The Holy Spirit has changed my wants and desires so that I long to live according to God’s will. This is what Jesus meant when He told his disciples at supper that night, **“If you love me, you will obey my commands” (vs. 15)**. He wasn’t saying “Obey My commands to PROVE your love for Me”, but rather He was saying, “If you love Me, then I will be in you, just as I am in God (**vs. 20**). And, if I am IN you, it WILL be your hearts desire to obey MY commands.” Did you catch that? Abundant life is a life where Jesus is in us, so that we become one with Him, just as He and The Father are one! No other religion offers this type of relationship, and that is why all other religions are just a sham. The only way that we can have true abundant life is to put our complete trust in Jesus and commit to follow Him for the rest of our days! When we do that, we will be forever changed from the inside out (**Romans 12:2; 2 Corinthians 5:17**). This is the reason the Christ told His disciples that they would do **“greater things than He did and that whatever they asked for in His Name would be granted” (vs. 12-14)**. When Jesus is IN us, we think like Jesus, and when we think like Jesus, we will pray like Jesus. When we pray like Jesus, the answer will always be YES! He will accomplish great things through us, because that has always been His plan for our lives. This is what it means to truly live. Jesus is LIFE! Being connected to Christ is living. He is The WAY, The TRUTH and The LIFE. He Is the Great I AM.

Who do you say that He is?

And ALL of God’s people said... TRUTH!!!