

**The Word Became Flesh**  
**Week 41**  
**John 14:1-14 (CSB)**  
**“I AM The Way”**

**Introduction**

**We know that all things work together for the good of those who love God, who are called according to His purpose.** **Romans 8:28**

When John wrote his gospel, he wrote it all in one continuous narrative, not in chapter and verse. All these were added later in order to assist the reader with study and memorization. So with this in mind it is unfortunate that there is a break between **Chapters 13 and 14**. For the conversation that seems to begin in **Chapter 14** is a continuation of that in the previous chapter. There was no “break” in the chain of dialog. Peter had just been rebuked by The LORD for making the bold claim that he would never forsake his Master, no matter what. Jesus informed him that he would, in fact, deny Him three times before the next morning!

One can only imagine the astonishment of the disciples when they heard that Peter, who was by far the strongest of the group, would not be able to withstand the peril of the coming hours with his faith and devotion intact! If Peter would not be strong enough to maintain a hold upon his own faith, then what did that say about the rest of them?! Needless to say, they would have been shaken by such a pronouncement from Jesus. We also know from reading the other gospels, that John does not record all of what Jesus said to Peter that evening.

**Simon, Simon, look out. Satan has asked to sift you like wheat. But I have prayed for you that your faith may not fail. And you, when you have turned back, strengthen your brothers.** **Luke 22:31-32**

So you see, it wasn't by his own strength that Peter would become the eventual leader of this group. It was by divine appointment. An appointment secured for him by Christ. It was a reminder for Simon (his name means to hear) to “listen” to the One Who possesses the power to keep us safe. We do not go in our own strength but in His. The only way that this rough and tumble fisherman would ever be able to live up to his name “Peter” (meaning rock), would be for him to first “hear” the truth from Christ. Faith comes by hearing (**Romans 10:17**). And it is only when we listen and learn the truth that we are able to stand firm in the faith. And what is the truth?

**I am able to do ALL things THROUGH CHRIST Who strengthens me.**  
**Philippians 4:13** (emphasis added)

Now, for a moment, I would like for you to put yourself in the shoes (or sandals if you will) of the men seated around the table that evening. They had left everything behind to follow Jesus (**Matthew 19:27**), their means of employment, their loved ones, and all the routine of normal life. And why did they do this? Because they were convinced that this Man, Whom they followed, was The Chosen One, The Messiah. He was the anointed King of Israel whose coming was foretold in *The Old Testament* scriptures.

Just imagine the day that they kissed their wives and children goodbye and left their homes. I am sure that they reminded all of their loved ones, that the road that lay ahead would bring about many challenges and sacrifices, but it would all be worth it in the end. When the day of the triumphal entry into Jerusalem had finally arrived, they must have thought that things were about to get better! “Just look at how the crowds adore Him,” they must have thought. But then their hopes had begun to unravel.

Jesus gathered them together in the upper room. He told them that He was soon to die, and that they would not be able to be with Him any more. He told them that they needed to look out for one another going forward. And then He told them that one of them would betray Him. Is it any wonder that the very next words that He spoke were:

**“Don’t let your heart be troubled.”**

**John 14:1a**

Of course their hearts were troubled (the Greek word means to roll like the sea). The very One, on Whom they had wagered everything, had just announced that He was leaving them. I imagine that they were feeling a little betrayed themselves! But Jesus didn’t just end His words of encouragement with, **“Do not let your hearts be troubled.”** He finished with a declaration of faith.

**“Believe in God; believe also in Me.”**

**John 14:1b**

It was a message for them, and it is a message for us today, as well. When things appear to be coming apart at the seams, remember Who He is! Trust in God, and trust in Christ, for He *IS* God. So the threefold message for us today is simple. *Believe in Me* (For I AM The Way), *Believe in Me* (For I AM The Truth), *Believe in Me* (For I Am The Life).

### **Believe In Me (For I AM The Way) vs.1–7**

**“Don’t let your heart be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. In my Father’s house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I am going to prepare a place for you? If I go away and prepare a place for you, I will come again and take you to myself, so that where I am you may be also. You know the way to where I am going.”**

**“Lord,” Thomas said, “we don’t know where you’re going. How can we know the way?”**

**Jesus told him, “I Am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me. If you know Me, you will also know My Father. From now on you do know Him and have seen Him.”**

Jesus was more concerned about His followers state of mind than He was about His own impending death. He wanted to reassure them that everything that was soon to take place was for their benefit. He had told them, that although they could not follow Him to the place that He was going at the time, that they would, in fact, join Him there one day.

**Jesus answered. “Where I am going you cannot follow Me now, but you will follow Me later.”**

**John 13:36b**

He expounded upon this by saying that He had to go away to prepare a place for them. This “place” would be an addition to His own Father’s house. It was customary in those days for a groom to build onto his Father’s house in order to provide a place for his bride to live when they were married. The disciples would have been very familiar with this concept. Jesus wasn’t simply going away and leaving them forever. He was going to prepare rooms for them in His Father’s house.

Many have mistakenly translated this passage to say **“In My Father’s house are many mansions.”** This is not a correct translation. And sadly some self-righteous people have used this passage to preach that the most spiritual of the believers will have mansions in heaven. While the rest of

us poor wretched followers of Christ will have to settle for run down shacks (I suppose)! But this is not how the Scriptures describe heaven. In fact, John, the same John that wrote this gospel, would much later, on the Isle of Patmos be given a vision of exactly what Jesus was speaking of here. And he described this in **Revelation Chapter 21**.

**Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. I also saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared like a bride adorned for her husband.** **Revelation 21:1-2**

John goes on to describe a city that is fifteen hundred miles long, fifteen hundred miles wide, and fifteen hundred miles high. A massive bejeweled “apartment complex”, if you will, that will encompass more than two million square miles of space! So no, not separate mansions for each of us, but rooms prepared for us within this incredible holy city. This is the place that Christ is building for us. And John also tells us that Christ Himself will be the source of light and power for this incredible place.

**The city does not need the sun or the moon to shine on it, because the glory of God illuminates it, and its lamp is The Lamb.** **Revelation 21:23**

Jesus went on to assure His disciples that they **“knew the way to the place where He was going.”** To which Thomas, the most timid and fearful of all the disciples replied, **“We do not know where You’re going. How can we know the way?”** I am so thankful that Thomas asked this question. For the answer he received is one of the most powerful in all of Scripture. It is the sixth “I AM” of Jesus given in John’s gospel.

**Jesus told him, “I AM the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me. If you know Me, you will also know My Father.** **John 14:6-7a**

What Thomas wanted was a road map. What he was given instead was a Person. The Person of Jesus Christ. To know Him... is to know the way! This is why Jesus said to them, **“Believe in God, believe also in ME!”** When we place our faith in Christ, we automatically know the way to heaven. Faith in Him is all the transportation we need. Like most of you, I own a car. I have complete confidence that my car has the ability to take me to my house after the service today. But my car can’t get me home, if I refuse to get in it! Jesus has the complete ability and authority to take you to heaven. But you won’t ever get there unless you are in Him! And to be in Him is to believe that He is God, and to surrender over to Him full authority over your life. Just like my car, you have to get in Jesus to get home.

**Therefore, if anyone is IN CHRIST, he is a new creation; the old has passed away, and see, the new has come!** **2 Corinthians 5:17**

Believe in Jesus. Put your complete trust in Him, and you too will know “The Way”. Did you know what they called the church in the first century? They were called, “Followers of The Way” (**Acts 9:1-2; 19:9,23; 22:4; 24:14**). Do you believe in Jesus? If you really do, then you will follow Him. And if you are following Him, then you know The way! I love what it says about Christ in *Hebrews*.

**Let us run with endurance the race that lies before us, keeping our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of our faith. For the joy that lay before Him, He endured the cross, despising its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.** **Hebrews 12:1b-2**

Do you know what a “pioneer” does? He blazes a trail for others to follow. That is what Jesus did for us on the cross. To follow Him is to become a follower of “The Way.”

**Believe In Me (For I AM The Truth) vs. 8-11**

**“Lord,” said Philip. “show us the Father, and that’s enough for us.”**

**Jesus said to him. “Have I been among you all this time and you do not know Me, Philip? The one who has seen Me has seen the Father. How can you say, ‘Show us the Father’? Don’t you believe that I Am in the Father and the Father is in Me? The words I speak to you I do not speak on my own. The Father Who lives in Me does His works. Believe Me that I Am in the Father and the Father is in Me. Otherwise, believe because of the works themselves.”**

After Jesus told His disciples that everything that was about to happen would be the best thing for them, and that they needed to have faith in Him, He said, **“If you know Me, then you also know My Father.”** Then Philip, another one of the “quiet ones” of the group asked Jesus to show them the Father. Obviously, He was thinking about all of the times in *The Old Testament*, when God revealed a vision of His glory to men such as Moses, Isaiah, and others. Jesus’ answer was both a rebuke and a statement of absolute truth.

**“The one who has seen Me HAS seen The Father.”** (vs. 9b - Emphasis added)

This statement reinforces the Saviors claims that He was “the truth”. For you see, Christ is not merely a manifestation of God. He is God made manifest. This is why He told His disciples. Believe in God. Believe in Me. For they are one and the same.

Many people these days are offended by Jesus claim to be “The Way” (meaning the only way) and The Truth (meaning there is only one truth). Those who take such offense feel that these sayings are far too “dogmatic” to their liking. But truth is always dogmatic. Just try and convince a mathematician that 2+2 does NOT equal 4 and see what they say! Odds are, they will be pretty dogmatic about it. Like it or not, the truth is always “the truth”. And Jesus is The Truth. You can choose not to believe in Him, if you like, but your unbelief will change nothing. John’s entire gospel was written so that you can come to believe in the truth about Jesus. But if you choose not to do so, that is on you. *His* truth will always be *The* truth.

Philip asked to see The Father, but he had already “seen” The Father at work for three years! He saw Jesus perform miracle after miracle. He had heard His teaching and could see that no one ever spoke with such authority. Philip had indeed seen The Father, so there was no excuse for his unbelief.

Today, none of us have even seen Jesus with our own eyes. And yet, we still follow Him, for His Spirit has convinced us that He is The Truth. When The Spirit convinces you of the truth in your heart, you will need no other verification. We don’t have to see Jesus to believe, for we know without a doubt exactly Who He is. After the resurrection, none of the disciples would ever say anything like Thomas and Philip said in that upper room again. The resurrection changed everything for them. They became forever convinced that Jesus was indeed The Truth. Just as those who believe in Jesus now are convinced. In fact, it was Thomas, the doubter, who would fall to his knees after seeing the resurrected Christ and proclaim:

**“My LORD and My God.” John 20:28**

Believe in Jesus today. For He IS the Truth.

**Believe in Me (For I AM The Life (vs.12-14)**

**“Truly I tell you, the one who believes in Me will also do the works that I do. And he will do even greater works than these, because I am going to the Father. Whatever you ask in My name, I will do it so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If you ask Me anything in My name, I will do it.**

Jesus goes on to explain to His disciples that He is The Life. This concept will be further explained in the **Fifteenth Chapter of John**. For Jesus is not only the source of everlasting life, He is also the source of the fruitful life of the believer. He will empower and equip those who believe with everything that they need in order to have an impact for the kingdom in this life.

Jesus told His followers that their works through Him would be even greater than the works that He had done. Now, we know that the disciples were able to go on and perform miracles in Jesus' Name. But this was not primarily what He is referring to in this text. For you see, even as they performed miracles in His Name, they never came close to the many wonders that He had performed as He walked this earth.

No. What Jesus is speaking of here is the tremendous reach in spreading the gospel that Jesus never did. When Jesus walked this earth, He never once preached outside of Palestine. His area was very limited. But after His death and resurrection, The Spirit empowered the followers of Christ to take His message of grace to the entire world! This is what He meant when He told them that they would do “greater works than these”. By the time that Jesus died, he only had a few hundred genuine followers. And today there are churches that are much larger than this all over the world! Even our church here in Greeneville, which is considered to be small compared to many, has reached people all across this nation and in many different countries. Our LORD, who is our “life”, has enabled us, His followers, to do many great things. To Him be the glory!

Jesus goes on to say that when we pray in His Name, we will be given all that we need to accomplish the goals that He has set for us. We needn't worry about having what we need, to do His will. He will see to it that we are supplied. This does NOT mean, as some have interpreted it to say, that this is some kind of “magic formula” that enables us to obtain our own selfish desires. “Just pray, ‘In Jesus Name’ after each request, and God will give you everything you want”, they would say. This is tantamount to blasphemy, based upon the false supposition that it is God Who serves us, and not the other way around. This is a perversion of the truth. To pray in Jesus' Name is to pray in Jesus' will. And we can only know His will by hearing His Word and following after Him. This isn't about “us” at all. It's about Him and doing as He leads. When you ask God for what He already wants, then the answer will always be “yes”.

Jesus is The Life. He will give us eternal life in Him, and He will be the source of our lives in the here and now, if we will put our trust in Him. For as He has told us, **“Believe in God. Believe also in Me. I AM The Way, The Truth, and The Life”**... for all who believe.

And let the ***believer*** say... TRUTH!!!