

WEDNESDAY BIBLE FELLOWSHIP

Christ Church, Crouch End Hill

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No: 78

"I am" sayings of Jesus in John's Gospel (5)

Jesus answered him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life; no one goes to the Father except by me." (John 14:6)

Objective :

To show that "I am the way, the truth, and the life" is Jesus' way of telling people who he is and what he came to do.

Brief expository talk on Jesus as the resurrection and the life.

Read John 13: 31– 14:14

Introduction

Jesus had just finished telling his disciples that he was returning to his father's house. He said he was going there to prepare a place for them, so that they could spend eternity with him. Well Thomas asked Jesus how to get there. He said, "Lord, we do not know where You are going, and how can we know the way?" (v.5)

Jesus gave him not just an answer, but the single greatest statement in all of the Bible about the way to heaven and how to know you are on the way. He said, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me." (v.6)

Ever since the Garden of Eden and the fall of Adam, man has been separated from God, deceived by the devil, and dead in sin. The Lord Jesus is the remedy for all three of those problems. We are separated from God, but Jesus is the way of reconciliation. We have been deceived by the devil, but Jesus is the truth of revelation. We are dead in sin, but Jesus is the life of regeneration.

With this one divine dogmatic declaration, Jesus makes it unmistakably plain that He alone is the way to the Father.

Questions for discussions

1. Have you seen someone's faith grow through times of tension or suffering? What can make crises constructive rather than destructive for those involved in them?

2. What comfort does Jesus offer his disciples? Look at Peter's question in 13:36, Thomas' in 14:5, Philip's in 14:8 and Judas' in 14:22. What problems are the disciples struggling with?

3. Jesus' statement "No one goes to the Father except by me" (v.6) seems to be rather exclusive. How do you understand it? Do you find it easy or difficult to accept? Why? How does it affect your approach to people with other religious faiths?

4. How does John 1:18 relate to what Jesus says in 14:9?

5. What kinds of questions do people ask about life? Does Jesus' statement in 14:6 answer them all? If not, what's missing? If so, in what ways?

6. Do you think the promises Jesus makes in verses 12-14 are "blank cheque promises about prayer? Or are there some conditions attached to them? If so what are they?

7. In troubled times, what promises of God give you hope and courage?

8. If Jesus is the way, do you feel you are on a bumpy dead-end street, or on a four-lane highway? Why? In light of 14:6, how would you respond to someone who says there are many ways to God? - see Hebrews 1:1-3

Conclusion

If you divorce social truth from Jesus, you will have racism. If you divorce economic truth from Jesus, you will have communism. If you divorce cultural truth from Jesus, you will have humanism. If you divorce scientific truth from Jesus, you will have atheism.

Agnosticism doubts truth, rationalism questions truth, infidelity rejects truth, logic dissects truth, education seeks truth, but Jesus said, "I am the truth."

Jesus is not a good way to heaven, He is not a better way to heaven, He's not even the best way to heaven, He is the only way to heaven. If He is not The Way, then He is not a way at all, for He is a liar and a deceiver.

I heard about a man from the city who was out in the country, and he got lost. He saw a farmer sitting on the front porch of his cabin, and he walked up to him and said, "Sir, is this the best way to the city?" The old farmer drawled, "Nope, it's the only way to the city."

Now one of three things are true about you at this moment. You are either on the way to heaven; that is, you are saved and you are showing others how to be saved. Or, you are in the way to heaven, and you are a stumbling block to others who need to be saved, or you are off the way; you are lost and you need to find the way.

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Great Answers but No Help

According to an ancient legend, a man became lost in his travels and wandered into a bed of quicksand.

Confucius saw the man's predicament and said, "It is evident that men should stay out of places such as this."

Next, Buddha observed the situation and said, "Let that man's plight be a lesson to the rest of the world."

Then Mohammed came by and said to the sinking man, "Alas, it is the will of Allah."

Finally, Jesus appeared on the scene and said, "Take my hand, brother. I will save you."

There are many religions in the world—and they all have things about them which are admirable and even true. But only one provides salvation from sin. Jesus said, "I am the way, the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father but by me" (John 14:6). No other religious leader has ever made that claim—because they can't. Only Jesus has the power and the authority under heaven to forgive us our sins and to give us eternal life. "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life" (John 3:16).