

“I AM” The Way, and the Truth, and the Life
John 14:1-11

Context

Jesus is meeting with His disciples to celebrate the Passover one final time. This would become known as the last supper. Jesus knows that in just a matter of hours He would be betrayed by one of His own disciples and would be delivered into the hands of the Jews to be accused, tried, and ultimately crucified. The disciples were still hoping that Jesus was going to deliver the kingdom of Israel out of Rome and back into sole Jewish control. He has been telling them and here tells them again that He is going to leave them. This causes quite a stir amongst them so Jesus begins in chapter 14 with encouragement, comfort, and affirmation.

For complete context read the entirety of John 13.

v. 1

Believe in God, believe also in Me

- Jesus sees that His announcement that He is leaving them has caused quite a bit of confusion.
- They still did not understand that He was going to die but rather thought He was just leaving them for a time.
- I can hear the low murmur of whispers amongst the disciples as He announced His impending departure.
- Jesus comforts them with a bold statement.
- He tells them to believe in God but also to believe in Him.
- He once again equates Himself with God the Father.
- This would have been considered blasphemy.

- The disciples didn't struggle with this so much because He had told them repeatedly who He is.
- He is telling them that if they believe and trust in God the Father that they should also believe in Him because He and the Father are one.
- This is evidenced later in the passage.

v. 2-3

My Father's House

- Here Jesus tells His disciples that He is going to prepare a place for them.
- He says that the place in which He is preparing is a place known as His Father's house.
- He tells them that His Father's house has many rooms.
- The place that Jesus is referring to is Heaven.

Rooms

- The Greek word used here is *Mone*.
- The word *Mone* means rooms, dwelling places, or abiding places.
- The word mansion is found in certain translations but the understanding of the word is incorrect.
- We look at the word mansion today and think of a massive house with luxury and grandeur.
- The KJV Bible was written in Elizabethan English and the word mansion would've simply meant a place to stay.
- Many times we mistakenly believe that Heaven is full of mansions when the picture that Jesus paints here is one of a giant house with many rooms.
- A palace if you will.

- Jesus tells them that He is going somewhere to prepare a place for them that they can all be together.
- The place that Jesus is referring to is Heaven.
- He tells them that if such a place did not exist He would not have told them that it did.
- We base our hope of a glorious afterlife in the promise made by Jesus here that there is such a place.

Where I am you may be also

- The goal of salvation is not to gain Heaven but to gain Christ.
- The disciples were only dismayed about one thing and that is that Jesus was going to leave them.
- The goal for Heaven is not so that there's no sin, pain, heartache, etc.
- The point is that Jesus is there and He has prepared a place for us that where He is we may be also.

v. 4-5

Thomas' Grief

- Jesus is clearly talking about Heaven but the disciples are clearly misunderstanding.
- He is telling them that they already know the way to where He is going and He says that because He has already taught them this.
- In verse 5 it becomes clear that the disciples are confused and dismayed.
- Thomas says to Jesus that they actually don't know where He is going and if they don't know where He is going then they won't know how to find Him.
- This is a clear picture of the love that the disciples have for Jesus.

v. 6-7

I AM the Way, and the Truth, and the Life

- Jesus continues with His talk of Heaven and tells them that He is Way to where He is going.
- Jesus clearly doesn't leave any room for any other religions, gods, messiahs, etc.
- In a world of inclusivity, Heaven is very exclusive.
- Only those who know Christ and who are known by Him will inherit eternal life.

Ego Eimi

- There are two ways to say the phrase "I am" in the Greek language.
- The first is the word *Ego*.
- This is where we get the English word *ego* which is our personality or personal identity.
- The other way to say I am in Greek is the word *Eimi*.
- To us this seems redundant that Jesus would say "I AM, I AM".
- This is not a translation error or Jesus misspeaking. It is direct and intentional.
- The only other time that this phrasing is seen is in the Greek Septuagint, which is the Greek Old Testament.
- Exodus 3:14
- Jesus is declaring His divinity with this statement.
- Jesus is declaring His Heavenly origin with this statement.
- Jesus is declaring His authority with this statement.

Jesus and the Father

- Seeing this, it naturally follows that Jesus is divine in His nature and one with the Father.
- The Trinity is still at play here.
- The Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are distinct yet one.
- This paradox is a fundamental truth of who God is.

The Way

- The Greek word for the way is *hodos*.
- Hodos literally means a way, a path, a road, a traveler's way, or a journey.
- It is also translated metaphorically as a course of conduct or way of thinking and acting.
- Jesus is extremely exclusive with this statement.
- He tells us that He is not simply "A" way to the Father.
- He says that He is "THE" way to the Father.
- This echoes His divinity but also obliterates all other religious philosophies and ideologies.
- Jesus clearly communicates the fact that other religions are false including Judaism.

Judaism

- Judaism has the old covenant as well as the prophets, commandments, relationship with the Father, etc.
- They missed the fact that all of those things point to the coming and revelation of Jesus.
- They rejected the Messiah and therefore it is considered a false religion.
- Jesus makes this point to a group of Jews.
- He is telling them that He is the One that they've been looking for.
- No longer do the sacrifices, rituals, feasts, etc. count for anything.

The Destination

- Thomas and the other disciples were so concerned about where Jesus was going because if they didn't know where to find Him they wouldn't know how to get there.
- They assume wrongly that Jesus is going to an earthly location to continue His ministry.
- We now know that Jesus is talking about Heaven.
- He tells them of His Father's house.
- He tells them that there are many rooms in His Father's house.
- Jesus is going back to the Father.
- Jesus tells them that He is going back there to prepare a place for them so that they can be with Him forever.
- Heaven is not the goal.
- Heaven is the destination but the goal is to be with Christ forever.
- We will be with Him together in the presence of the Father.

The Truth

- Again, Jesus is very exclusive with His language.
- The Greek word for truth is *Aletheia*.
- It means the reality lying at the basis of an appearance.
- Jesus is the only true reality.
- In modern day we have this phenomenon where people want to share "their truth".
- People are encouraged all the time to share what their truth is even if it contradicts someone else's truth.
- This is problematic.
- What happens when MY truth and YOUR truth collide? Which one wins?

Subjective vs Objective

- Subjective truth is the idea that truth can change with circumstances.
- Objective truth is the idea that truth remains the same no matter the circumstances.
- Today's world is all about subjective truth.
- So much so that the very institutions of science are under fire.
- There are claims that mathematics is racist.
- The basics of biology are being ignored.
- We can change our gender at will and there are an unknown number of them.
- Men can compete against women in athletic contests if they identify as a woman.
- There is an unprecedented assault on the truth.
- The reality is the objective truth governs our world.
- It cannot be shaped or shifted to satisfy the whims of sinful man.
- Jesus here makes an objective truth claim: I AM the truth.
- If He is the truth then there is no other truth.
- Everything that He says is truth.
- Everything that He has created is truth.
- Everything else outside of that would be falsehood.
- This gives more credence to His claim that He is the way.

The Life

- The Greek word used here is *Zoe*.
- It CAN mean physical life but it is more properly translated as natural or spiritual life.
- The essence of something.
- The Greek word *Bios* is usually reserved for physical life.

- Jesus is telling His disciples here that He is the essence of God.
- Jesus is explaining that He is eternal life itself.
- This claim is in keeping with His previous two claims that He is the Way and the Truth.
- He would have to be both of the first two claims in order for the final claim to be valid.

Essence

- The word essence means “the permanent element of being”.
- Jesus is of the SAME essence of the Father and Holy Spirit.
- His claim is that He is the only essence that leads to eternal life.

Homoousios vs Homoiousios

- Homoousios means “same substance”.
- Homoiousios means “like substance”.
- This very debate raged at the Council of Nicaea in 325 AD.
- Nicholas of Myra was a proponent of Jesus being of same substance with God the Father while Arius was a proponent of Jesus being of like substance.
- Jesus being of the same substance with the Father is orthodox while Jesus being of like substance with the Father is a heresy known as Arianism.

What does this affect?

- If Christ claims to be the life then that must inform all of our being.
- As believers we have been given a new heart.
- As believers we still have our sinful flesh but we have also been given a new nature.
- If Jesus truly is the life then we believers have that life living inside of us.
- 1 Corinthians 6:19-20
- If our body is the literal temple of the Holy Spirit then our lives need to reflect that.

Life Now and Later

- Since we Christians we have the indwelling of the Holy Spirit, the way that we order our lives, the way that we engage with others, the way that we take care of ourselves, the way that we pursue holiness, the way that we view the culture around us, and the way that we view the future should all be in accordance with who He is.
- Jesus isn't merely talking about physical existence with His claim, He is talking about all of our being both present and future.
- Here on earth we have the responsibility to be salt and light.
- Matthew 5:13-16
- It is assumed by Christ that His followers will do these things.
- We will preserve the culture.
- We will take care of the earth.
- We will further the Kingdom of God by sharing the Gospel.
- There is no mandate that the church roll over and let the culture run roughshod.
- There is no passage that tells us that we must be doormats.
- We serve THE living God!
- This life that Jesus is referring to is not only limited to the here and now.
- In the future we will experience the fullness of His glory in the new Heaven and new Earth.
- All things past, present, and future are predicated on Him being the life.

Carnal Christianity vs Biblical Christianity

- One of these is real and the other is not.
- A carnal Christian is often referring to someone who claims Christ but shows no visible fruit.
- Matthew 7:15-20
- We are told by Jesus Himself that we will know people by their fruit.
- Biblical Christianity is that salvation changes the whole essence of the person.
- Everything that they do, think, say, believe, etc. stems from knowing Christ.
- Of course, no one is perfect, but there will be real, tangible evidence of conversion from someone who truly knows Christ.
- This is the practical side of His claim to be the life.
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