

*Valley Bible Church – Sermon Transcript*

**"I Am The Way"**

**John 14:4-6**

**Part Two**

Ninety-two percent of Americans believe in heaven and nearly all of those who believe in heaven are somewhat confident that they will actually end up there.

This is an amazing thing. What is this telling us? This is telling us that most Americans believe that the way to heaven is broad and that almost anyone who is drawing breath and has a heartbeat will eventually get there, no matter what.

But what is the truth? Let me read for you the words of Christ in **Matthew 7:13-14**. "**Enter by the narrow gate; for the gate is wide, and the way is broad that leads to destruction, and many are those who enter by it. (14) For the gate is small, and the way is narrow that leads to life, and few are those who find it.**"

Obviously Jesus does not believe what the vast majority of Americans believe. How does He describe the gate and the way that leads to heaven? He describes the gate as small and the way as narrow that leads to heaven.

So, in light of the words of Christ, it would seem that it would behoove us to identify this small gate and this narrow way and make sure that we are purposing ourselves to enter by it.

This leads us back to our study of the Gospel of John and Christ's farewell discourse, which starts in **John 13:31** and does not conclude until **John 17:26**.

So, what did we find in the introduction to this discourse in **John 13:31-36**? We found Christ preparing His disciples for His death and eventual separation.

And, how did Jesus do this? He prepared them by sharing three fundamental factors that would very shortly be instrumental in shaping their immediate future. Those three fundamental factors were a new a glory, a new situation, and a new commandment.

How did the disciples, or perhaps better said, how did Peter respond to what Christ shared with them? Peter's response was prideful.

He displayed his pride in **John 13:36**. He flaunted his pride in **John 13:37** and his pride was challenged in **John 13:38**.

So, how was Peter's pride displayed? Peter's pride was displayed in **John 13:36** when He asked Jesus where He was going. This question was not motivated by idle curiosity but rather by a purposed intent not to be left behind. And how was Peter's pride flaunted? His pride was flaunted in **John 13:37** when he, in opposing Christ's plan, in essence said to Christ, "You will not leave us unless it is over my dead body." This prideful outburst on the part of Peter was then challenged in **John 13:38**.

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And how did Christ challenge Peter's prideful outburst? Let me read the verse for you. "**Jesus answered, 'Will you lay down your life for Me? Truly, truly, I say to you, a cock shall not crow, until you deny Me three times.'**"

This response by Jesus was crushing. All the hopes and dreams of His disciples were slipping through their fingers. They had believed that Jesus was in fact the Messiah and that He had come to earth to establish His earthly kingdom, but now He was repeatedly telling them that He was about leave them. Their dream of entering into Christ's earthly kingdom and enjoying fellowship with Him in that kingdom was now turning to ash.

So, in the midst of their confusion and in the midst of their despair, Jesus sought to comfort them. We see this in **John 14:1** when He told His disciples, or better said, when He commanded His disciples, "**Let not your heart be troubled.**"

And how did Jesus seek to help them not to have troubled hearts? In other words, how did Jesus seek to comfort them? Jesus, in seeking to comfort His disciples, wanted them to believe three things (John 14:1-6). So, what were those three things?

First of all, Jesus wanted His disciples to believe that everything was under control and working according to plan (John 14:1). Let us once again read **John 14:1** but this time I will read for you the entire verse. "**Let not your heart be troubled; believe in God, believe also in Me.**" Jesus is calling His disciples to believe that everything He and His Father had been working toward was on schedule in spite of the fact that very shortly they would no longer be able to see Him.

And how would this plan, when it finally worked itself out, impact them. This is spelled out for them in the second thing that He wanted His disciples to believe. Jesus wanted His disciples to believe that one day He was going to return in order to take them to His Father's house (John 14:2-3).

Jesus, in these words, was not vocalizing to His disciples the hope of the nation of Israel, but rather Jesus was vocalizing to His disciples the hope of the church. And it is this hope that He now wanted His disciples to focus on, so that even as their earthly dream of enjoying fellowship with Him in an earthly kingdom was turning to ash, their hearts would not be troubled.

Can we learn from this interaction between Christ and His disciples? Absolutely! When we are facing earthly disappointments, when our earthly dreams are slipping through our fingers, when our earthly dreams are turning to ash, we need to remind ourselves that we, as the disciples of Christ, are simply passing through this world to a better place, or in other word's, to our Fathers' house. And if we by the grace of God are actually able to do this and we are actually able to believe this, then our troubled hearts will invariably find a place of peace.

But this is not all. There is still one more thing that Jesus wanted His disciples to believe as He sought to minister to their troubled hearts. So, what was this third thing?

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Jesus wanted His disciples to believe that they knew the way to His Father's house (John 14:4-6).  
Let us now read **John 14:4. "And you know the way where I am going."**

Jesus had been speaking to them of a future hope in **John 14:2-3**, but Jesus now in **John 14:4** changes His focus from what will be true in the future to what was in fact true in the present.

And what did Christ want them to know was in fact true in the present? He wanted them to know that they already knew the way to His Father's house. So, what did Jesus mean by this? Let us begin by considering what He did not mean.

When Jesus told His disciples that they knew "the way" to His Father's house, He was neither speaking of His bodily ascension nor their reception to Himself at some future time. He was also not conveying to them that they knew the specific directions to His Father's house, in other words, when to turn right or when to turn left.

So, if what I have just shared with you is true, what then did Jesus mean when He told His disciples they knew the way to His Father's house? When Jesus told His disciples that they knew the way to His Father's house, He was simply telling them that they knew Him. Why did Jesus tell them this?

The reason why He told them that in knowing Him that they knew the way to His Father's house was because He was the means for them to get there.

And why would He want them to know this? He wanted them to know this in order that they might be assured that every thing He had said in **John 14:2-3** would in fact prove to be true.

The fact of this will become clear to us as we continue to examine our text. So, what will happen next in this unfolding conversation between Christ and His disciples? The next thing that happens in the text is that Thomas responds to Christ's statement.

Let us read **John 14:5. "Thomas said to Him, 'Lord, we do not know where You are going, how do we know the way?'"** Obviously Christ's disciples did not have a clue as to what Jesus was trying to communicate to them when He told them that they knew the way to His Father's house in **John 14:4**. In fact, Thomas said, "**Lord, we do not know where You are going, how do we know the way?"**

So, what is Thomas attempting to communicate to Jesus by these words? Is he just simply trying to correct Jesus? No! This is not what is going on here. It is much more than that.

The response of Thomas in John 14:5 should not be viewed so much as an attempt to correct Jesus, but rather as an expression of desperation.

Thomas and the other disciples still believed in Jesus as the Messiah. They still believed that He would in fact establish an earthly kingdom just as the Scriptures had foretold, but how in the world was He going to accomplish this if He in fact was going to be separated from them through death? Their inability to find an adequate answer to that question is what I believe produced the response of Thomas in **John 14:5**.

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It is as if Thomas in **John 14:5** was telling Jesus, you think we know, but really it all seems so dark.

So, how will Jesus respond to this expression of despair on the part of Thomas? Let me read for you the very first words of Jesus in **John 14:6**. What did He say? **"Jesus said to him, 'I am the way, and the truth, and the life.'"**

Jesus responds to the desperation of Thomas in John 14:5 by explaining to him more clearly what He meant earlier when He told them they knew the way.

So, what does He tell them? He told them that He, Himself, was in fact the way, or in other words, the means to His father's house. Isn't that exactly what He told them? He said, **"I am the way."**

So, how could Jesus say this? How could Jesus say to His disciples that He was the way? Jesus could tell them that He was the way to His Father's house because He is the truth of God and the life of God.

Let us, first of all, for a moment consider the fact that He is the truth of God. Jesus is the truth of God because He embodies the supreme revelation of God (John 1:18). Let me read for you **John 1:18**. **"No man has seen God at any time; the only begotten God, who is in the bosom of the Father, He has explained Him."** But He is more than simply the truth of God. He is also the life of God.

Jesus is the life of God because He has life in Himself in the same way as His Father has life in Himself (John 5:26). Let me read for you **John 5:26**. **"For just as the Father has life in Himself, even so He gave to the Son also to have life in Himself."**

After sharing with His disciples that He in fact was the way, and expanding on this thought by also sharing with them that He was also the truth and the life, Jesus goes on to share something else with them that was extremely important for them to hear, which is just as important for us to hear. And what would that be? Let me read for you the rest of **John 14:6**. **"Jesus said to him, 'I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father, but through Me.'"**

Is this statement by Christ confusing? I don't think so. It is extremely clear. After Jesus tells the disciples that He is the way to His Father's house, He makes sure that they know that He is the only way (John 14:6).

Did the disciples of Christ know the way to His Father's house? Yes! They knew the way to His Father's house. They knew the way to His Father's house because they knew Christ.

How did they come to know Christ? They came to know Christ through faith. They came to know Christ by trusting that He and He alone could bring them into His earthly kingdom. They certainly were not looking to anyone else or to themselves to do this.

This is why they committed themselves to follow Him. They truly believed that if they followed Him, He would bring them where they wanted to be, and they were right. But it would not be to His earthly kingdom, at least not initially, but rather to a far better place.

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And what was this far better place? It was to His Father's house. It was to heaven.

Could anyone or anything have gotten them there other than Christ? No! He was the only way! He was the only way then and He is still the only way. Do you believe this? Hopefully your answer is yes. And if you do believe this, then what will you do? You will seek to follow Jesus just as His disciples chose to follow Him.

And what will this practically mean for our lives if we truly follow Him? It means that we will live lives characterized by self-denial and personal sacrifice. Really! Absolutely! What did Jesus share with His disciples in **Matthew 16:24**? This is what He said. **"If anyone wishes to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me."**

Obviously seeking to do the things that He has asked us to do and not doing the things that He has asked us not to do is not an easy life, is it? But is it worth it! Why? It will be worth it because He is the way to heaven, the only way to heaven.

May God give us the grace to understand that those who follow Christ as an expression of their faith in this life will find themselves in heaven in the next life.