

“Jesus: The Only Way to Heaven”  
(John 14:4-6)

I. Introduction.

A. Orientation.

This morning, we saw  
Jesus comforting His disciples  
Because His departure was near:  
One of His own would betray Him;  
Peter would deny Him;  
He was about to go where they could not;  
And they would be left alone.

In spite of all this,  
He told them not to be troubled.  
Why?  
Because His Father was in control –  
His plan is perfect  
And everything was going  
Just as He intended.

Because Jesus was about to do  
What was necessary to open the door of heaven  
For everyone who would believe in Him –  
Including them.

And because after He left  
He would return for them  
When their work was complete  
And bring them into His Father's house  
Where He would love and cherish them  
As His bride forever.

B. Preview.

Having said this,  
Jesus now makes a statement  
That looks calculated to test His disciples  
To see if they understood  
What He had been teaching them  
For the last 3.5 years:  
“And you know *the way* where I am going” (v. 4).  
In other words,  
“You know the path that leads to my destination.”

After all this time, they should have known.

But apparently, they didn't –

At least not if Thomas was speaking for the whole group:

“Thomas said to Him, ‘Lord, we do not know where You are going, how do we know the way?’” (v. 5).

They didn't seem to understand

That Jesus was speaking about heaven,  
 And not knowing where He was going,  
 They certainly didn't know  
 The path to get there.

What they couldn't quite grasp,  
 Jesus now tells them plainly:

"Jesus said to him, 'I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me'" (v. 6).

This is what we want to consider this evening.

## II. Sermon.

### A. First, Jesus tells us that He is the way.

This is certainly true at a number of levels:

As our Prophet –

As the One sent from God

To reveal Him and His truth –

Jesus has taught us the only way to heaven:

And that is through a perfect life –

"Do this and you will live" (Luke 10:28).

But since no one has lived a perfect life –

Beginning with Adam to the present,

Except for Jesus alone –

The only way is through the Gospel –

Through the substitution

God has provided in His Son –

We'll look at this more in a moment.

He not only taught us the way to heaven,

He showed us that way:

He was a perfect living example

Of how to live a life

Of complete trust and submission to the Father.

Though both of these are true,

What Jesus has in mind here

Is a more intimate application of this phrase:

He not only teaches and shows us the way

He is the way –

The Gospel is all about Him.

He is the One the Father chose

And sent into the world

To obey for us –

To satisfy the righteous requirements of God's Law for us.

He is the One the Father appointed as a sacrifice –

The One who would take

The penalty of our sins on Himself

And fully discharge them on our behalf.

He is the One who would rise again,  
And enter into heaven itself for us  
Through His own blood.

It's only through faith in Him  
That we can receive the blessings of God  
That He has promised in the Covenant of Grace –  
Forgiveness of sins,  
Eternal life,  
Entrance into heaven,  
And an eternal inheritance  
In the New Heavens and the New Earth.  
Jesus is the way.

B. Second, Jesus tells us that He is the truth.

As we just saw,  
He is our Prophet who speaks the truth –  
Who declares to us that He is the way.  
In this, He spoke the truth and was true to His office.

He was also true as our Priest:  
He offered a sacrifice that took away our sins,  
And He stands before the Father  
Continually pleading His righteousness on our behalf.

And He is true as our King –

There has never been

A more faithful and righteous king –

One who rules in truth.

But Jesus means more than this:

He is the Truth.

As John reminded us in the beginning of His Gospel,

Jesus is the Word of God –

The truth that comes from God.

By His Spirit, He gave His people His truth in the OT.

And He is the One who came in time

To reveal that truth perfectly in Himself:

He is the substance,

The reality,

The truth behind

All the OT types and shadows,

Promises and prophecies.

He fulfills them all.

He is ultimate truth behind everything –

The reason for existence itself.

The history of philosophy

Is all about men seeking for ultimate truth –

They wanted to know

What is behind everything they see:

How it came into being,

Why it exists,

What is right and wrong.

Jesus is the answer to all these questions:

He spoke, and everything was created.

He is the One who holds everything up in existence

By His own infinite power.

He created all things to reveal His glory –

Especially the glory of His justice and holiness,

As well as that of His grace.

These are things

That man in his wisdom

Was never able to discover,

But what the Lord was pleased to reveal

Through the Gospel.

Paul writes in 1 Corinthians 1:18-25, “For the word of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. For it is written, ‘I WILL DESTROY THE WISDOM OF THE WISE, AND THE CLEVERNESS OF THE CLEVER I WILL SET ASIDE.’ Where is the wise man? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? For since in the wisdom of God the world through its wisdom did not *come to* know God, God was well-pleased

through the foolishness of the message preached to save those who believe. For indeed Jews ask for signs and Greeks search for wisdom; but we preach Christ crucified, to Jews a stumbling block and to Gentiles foolishness, but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. Because the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men.”

Jesus is the answer –

He is the truth –

Behind all the questions

That have to do with us.

Where did we come from?

He created us.

Why are we here?

For His glory.

Where are we going?

To heaven, if we trust Him.

To hell, if we don't, because of our sins.

Jesus is the truth.

C. Thirdly, Jesus tells us that He is the life.

He is, as we've seen, the Creator all physical life.

Life isn't a necessary property of matter

If it's combined in the right way.

Nothing lives apart from His Spirit.

When the spirit of life leaves the body,

It begins to decompose.



The psalmist writes, “You hide Your face, they are dismayed; You take away their spirit, they expire and return to their dust. You send forth Your Spirit, they are created; and You renew the face of the ground” (104:29-30).

He is the Author of spiritual life.

He’s the One who came to obey and die,

That He might give His Spirit

To make us spiritually alive –

That we might love and trust in Him.

And He is the Giver of eternal life:

He can forgive sins,

Bring us into a relationship with God,

And give us title to His eternal kingdom.

And since it’s His life He gives us,

Jesus is Life itself.

Paul writes, “I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but *Christ lives in me*; and the *life* which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me” (Gal. 2:20).

D. The point behind all of this

Is that Jesus is the only way to God.

He says, “No one comes to the Father but through Me” (John 14:6).

He alone has done the work necessary to save.

He is the truth, the reality,

Behind everything God has promised regarding salvation.

It's only in Christ that we can receive forgiveness and spiritual life.

That makes Him the only door to heaven.

If you would enter, you must enter through Him.

There's no other way.

What does that say about those

Who try to get to heaven in other ways?

What about the Jehovah's Witnesses

Who trust their membership in their organization

And the work they do for them

To get them into a paradise on earth?

What about Mormons

Who believe that faithful adherence

To the teachings of Joseph Smith

Will advance them to a state of godhood?

What about Muslims

Who believe that following the teachings of Muhammad

Will get them into a sensual paradise in heaven?

What about the majority of the human race

Who believe that if there is a heaven and hell,

That their good works will be good enough

To get them into the good place

And to keep them out of the bad?

What about the many who attend church from week to week,

Who believe the Bible, and that the Gospel is the only way,

But who have never really trusted Jesus,

Turned from their sins,

And devoted their lives to Him?

What about those who think they have trusted Him,

But who are constantly in fear

That they haven't done enough for Him,

Or that their sins will condemn them,

Because they're still trusting in their works

Ultimately to save them?

The answer is the same in each case:

Jesus says, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father  
but through Me" (John 14:6).

Whoever does not come through Jesus –

Through faith in His name,

Through a complete trust in His work to save them,

Through repentance from all their sins –

Whoever does not come in this way

Will not enter into heaven.

We should consider how many people we know

Who are in one of these situations

And begin to pray how we might reach them with the Gospel.

And since as churchgoers,

We're more likely

To fall into the last two categories

Than in any of the others,

This exhorts us to make sure

That we have closed with Jesus –

That we are trusting Him

And turning from our sins –

And that we are trusting Him alone –

Make sure you're not looking to Jesus

And to your own works.

His salvation is by His grace –

Through His work –

And received by faith alone –

By looking to Him

And receiving His gift of life –

Without any work on your part.

This is really the only way

You can have any assurance

That you will see heaven:

If your trust is in Jesus Christ alone. Amen.

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