

John 14:6
“I am the way, the truth and the life”

Introduction

1. Over the past four weeks we have been examining the great “I Am” statement of Jesus in the Gospel of John:
 - a. In our first week we were in John 6 where we saw Jesus interact with three different groups of people:
 - 1) The crowd: who followed Jesus around simply to get their bellies filled
 - 2) The religious: who sought after a Messiah of their own making, someone who would fit into their own preconceived notions and ideas
 - 3) And finally, the genuine: who understood that Jesus was the **Bread of Life**, and Peter declaring: “Lord to whom shall we go? You have words of eternal life. We have believe and have come to know that You are the Holy One of God”
 - b. Dustin then took you through John 10 where Jesus rebuked the Pharisees, describing Himself as not only the **Gate** through whom both the sheep and God’s shepherds must enter the LORD’s sheepfold, but also the **Good Shepherd** who lays down His life for the sheep
 - c. In John 8 we saw Jesus use the backdrop of the Feast of Booths, and specifically the Illumination of the Temple, to reveal Himself as **Light of the World** promised and prophesied by God through the OT prophet Isaiah—the one who would lead His people out of darkness and into the light of eternal life
 - d. Last week in chapter 11 we saw Jesus exercise His supernatural power over life and death by raising Lazarus from the dead and establishing Himself as the **Resurrection and the Life**—we learned there that Jesus doesn’t merely point us to or tell us how to get eternal life; He is Life
2. We have two more statements to look at:
 - a. Next week Dustin will take us through the last one in John 15—“**I am the Vine**”
 - b. Today, we look at John 14:6--“**I am the way, the truth and the life**”
3. As we walk through our passage today I am going to break it down into three pieces:
 - a. Jesus encourages his disciples
 - b. He makes them a promise
 - c. He gives them a reminder
4. Read 14:1-6

A. Jesus encourages His disciples not to be troubled (14:1)

1. Notice how this passage begins (1a): “**Do not let your hearts be troubled;**”
2. The tense of the verb here (present imperative) is better understood as a call to stop doing something that was already occurring:

- a. Therefore, **“Stop letting your heart be troubled”**
 - b. Jesus saw that the disciples were troubled about something
3. We discover what was troubling them by looking at the context which begins back in chapter 13:
- a. **13:1**: This conversation takes place during what we refer to as the Lord’s Supper—the Passover Feast that Jesus celebrated right before being betrayed, arrested, beaten and then crucified
 - b. **13:19-27**: Jesus had just warned them that someone would betray Him
 - c. **13:31-36**: Jesus just informed them that He was going away and that they couldn’t follow Him immediately, but that they would come later
 - d. **13:37-38**: Jesus just informed Peter that he would deny Him not once, but three times
4. Imagine for a moment that you have given up your former life and followed this man, the one you believed was the Son of God, the Messiah, and He drops these bombshells on you
- a. Wouldn’t you be a bit troubled???
 - b. His disciples certainly were, and probably a bit bewildered as well
 - c. And, the night was only beginning--If they were discouraged now, just wait!
 - d. Later that night, in 16:6, Jesus says that the disciples were specifically troubled because of the things that He revealed to them, over the course of the evening: **“But because I have said these things to you, sorrow has filled your heart.”**
 - e. This night was a night of preparation, filled with new information about the trials to come:
 - 1) 13:19 – **“From now on I am telling you before it comes to pass, so that when it does occur, you may believe that I am He.”**
 - 2) 15:29 - **“Now I have told you before it happens, so that when it happens, you may believe”**
 - 3) 16:1 – **“These things I have spoken to you so that you may be kept from stumbling.”**
 - 4) 16:4 – **“But these things I have spoken to you, so that when their hour comes, you may remember that I told you of them. These things I did not say to you at the beginning, because I was with you.”**
5. So, Jesus encourages them by informing them that they could trust in Him just as they did God (1): **“believe in God, believe also in Me.”**
- a. If you have margin notes in your Bible you may notice that there is a note on this verse indicating another possible translation of the phrase “believe in God”
 - b. The NASB, along with most modern translations, render this as an imperative (i.e. a command): “believe in God”
 - c. However, the indicative and the imperative moods for this word have the same form, so it can be translated as a simple statement of fact: “You believe in God...”
 - d. This is how the KJV and NET translations render it—and it’s the translation that I believe best fits the context of the verse
 - e. Jesus is asking--encouraging—the disciples to believe in Him just as they do their Heavenly Father
 - f. This is especially important in light of the fact that their whole understanding of the Messiah and the future was about to be radically changed

B. Jesus promises to come back for His disciples (14:2-3)

1. Throughout chapters 14-17 Jesus reveals things about Himself and the future that were not revealed before—this next verse is one of those things
2. Jesus needed to go away in order to prepare a place for His disciples in His Father’s house (2): **“In My Father’s house are many dwelling places; if it were not so, I would have told you; for I go to prepare a place for you.”**
 - a. It’s pretty clear here that Jesus is referring to God’s heavenly dwelling place
 - b. What’s not all that clear is what the disciples understood about Heaven
 - c. Most of what they knew would have come from the OT plus anything Jesus revealed specifically:
 - 1) While there are heaven-affirming verses in the OT, it is mostly silent on Heaven and focuses rather on God’s relationship to His people Israel throughout their history
 - 2) Jesus revealed much more about eternal life in the Gospels, but most of our understanding of Heaven comes through the epistles of the NT (something the disciples wouldn’t have had)
 - 3) Both Peter’s question (13:36) and Thomas’ statement (14:5) reveal they didn’t quite understand where Jesus was going
3. This leads to Jesus’ promise—and the reason they could be comforted and encouraged--He would come back to get them (3): **“If I go and prepared a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself, that where I am, there you may be also.”**
 - a. Jesus states the obvious here: what good would it do for Him to prepare a place for His disciples if He wouldn’t come back and get them?
 - b. But, the focus isn’t so much on being taken back to Heaven, but rather that they would be where Jesus was: **“that where I am, there you may be also.”**
 - c. Since Jesus was going back to the Father, that means they would be with the Father as well

C. Jesus reminds the disciples that they already know the way (14:4-6)
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1. Our passage today ends with a reminder that Jesus gave to His disciples: **“And you know the way where I am going.”**
2. The good news for the disciples was that they already knew the way to where Jesus was going, even though they may have been a bit perplexed: **“Thomas said to Him, ‘Lord, we do not know where You are going, how do we know the way?’”**
3. Jesus answers Thomas with a pointed statement: **“I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me.”**
 - a. Thomas, and the rest of the disciples, knew the way to the Father’s house (Heaven) because they knew Jesus and **He is the way.**
 - b. In fact, they knew the ONLY way: **“no one comes to the Father but through Me.”**
 - c. Remember, the disciples were taught by the Pharisees and Sadducees that the way to God the Father was through works of the Law
 - d. Jesus taught them something different: the way to the Father was through Him
4. The emphasis of Jesus’ claim is clearly on the fact that He is the “way” but why does He include the phrase **“the truth and the life”**?
 - a. This phrase serves to provide the reason why Jesus is the way
 - b. He is the way precisely because He is the Truth, the Living Word of God who became flesh and revealed to us the Father and His redemptive plan:

- 1) The theme of truth is a major one in the Gospel of John (with use of the word in nearly half of the 21 chapters)
 - 2) 1:14: **“And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we saw His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth.”**
 - 3) 1:17: **“For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth were realized through Jesus Christ”**
 - 4) 8:32: **“and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free”**
 - 5) In His High Priestly Prayer in John 17: 19 Jesus prayed, **“For their sakes I sanctify Myself, that they themselves also may be sanctified in truth”**
- c. In the same way, Jesus is the Way precisely because He is the Life
- 1) John opens his gospel with these words (1:4): **“In Him was life, and the life was the Light of men.”**
 - 2) 3:36: **“He who believes in the Son has eternal life; but he who does not obey the Son will not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him”**
 - 3) 5:24: **“Truly, Truly, I say to you, he who hears My word, and believes Him wwho sent me, has eternal life...”**
 - 4) Eternal Life is another major theme in the Gospel of John, occurring in all but a handful of chapters (the word life occurs 39 times in the Gospel and in 15 of the 21 chapters)

Conclusion

1. So how does this apply to us today?
2. Do you ever find yourself troubled, wondering if Jesus will ever return?
3. I’m not talking about intellectually—I’m sure most of us here today believe in the rapture of the Church and the second coming
4. I’m talking about a troubled or anxious spirit as we wait
5. We live in a time when things are clearly moving from bad to worse from an earthly perspective
6. We see the table being set and people and things being put in place
7. We see the world becoming more and more hostile toward Jesus and His people, just as Christ warned that it would
8. But, we can be comforted just like Jesus’ disciples
9. As soon as He is finished preparing a place for us, He will return and draw us to Himself just as He promised
10. And we can be encouraged, knowing that if we know Jesus, we know the Way because He is the Way, the Truth and the Life