

"I AM . . . the Way, Truth and Life!"—John 14:4-7

The text for this sermon, the theme of which is, "I AM . . . the Way, Truth and Life!", is John 14:4-7 → Jesus said, "*You know the way to where I am going.*" Thomas said to Him, "*Lord, we do not know where You are going. How can we know the way?*" Jesus said to him, "*I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me. If you had known Me, you would have known My Father also. From now on you do know Him and have seen Him.*" This is the text.

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ Jesus:

Years ago a mother shared her frustration with me because her son kept lying. She insisted that lying is wrong and was constantly trying to "drill" this concept into her son's head. However, for some reason, no matter how she explained it, he just wasn't getting it!

I asked her, "So why is lying wrong?" After looking at me in shock (after all, I am a pastor and should know better), she answered, "Because! If you keep on lying you will gain a reputation of distrust. Nobody will know whether or not you're telling the truth! How will anybody ever be able to trust you? How will

you be able to get and keep a job in life with such a reputation?”

I responded: “So? Who cares what people think? Lying gets a person what he wants, when he wants it. And if he doesn’t get it, there’s always another lie. So what’s the big deal?”

Naturally by this time she was wondering if she stepped into the right office. “But pastor, wouldn’t you say that a person who is a perpetual liar is hurting themselves and the other people around them? That isn’t right, is it?”

“People get hurt everyday! It’s a fact of life!” I responded. “So why shouldn’t he protect himself from getting hurt by making sure he can control things to go his way? If he doesn’t look out for himself, who will?”

She retorted, “Well, I don’t care what you say! Hurting yourself and everyone around you just isn’t right!”

I replied, “Seems to me that lying is wrong because my Father in heaven says it’s wrong. Period.”

You can see that this discussion was getting absolutely nowhere. In fact, it sounds like so many of the discussions which take place amongst people as they try to determine what’s right and wrong or what’s proper and improper. It gets nowhere because the beginning premise is relative. As long as right and wrong are based upon human principles you’ll never be able to truly determine whether something is right or wrong. And . . . if you think you have

determined what's right and wrong it will constantly change with your situations, feelings and other "justifications" for your behavior. If you allow the human element to be the beginning point then the human "consequences" for behavior may determine what's right and wrong at a given moment. But even that's not certain! **We need an Authority outside of ourselves to give direction to life because we're too unstable as sinful human beings!** That's why Proverbs 9:10 says: *The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom, and the knowledge of the Holy One is insight.*

Jesus put it this way in our text: ***I am*** *the way, and the truth, and the life.* In the midst of life filled with so many changes and so much relativism Jesus provides the truth for us to live in the proper way as He also made that way possible.

In our text Jesus reassured His disciples in the midst changes about to take place in their lives that would affect them both physically and spiritually. While journeying to Jerusalem *Jesus began to show His disciples that He must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised.* (cf. Matthew 16:21) The thought of His leaving them (and by death at that!) could have caused these disciples much anxiety. Thus, speaking about His work of salvation for all people, Jesus tried to comfort His disciples at the thought of their lives going

through changes which were a direct result of their relationship with Him but did not include His physical presence among them. Jesus' words of comfort and call to faith are given in John 14:1 → *Let not your hearts be troubled. You believe in God; believe also in Me.*

Jesus reassured them that He was leaving to prepare a place for them, referring to heaven, where they would get to live in a perfect relationship with their loving heavenly Father forever! *No one comes to the Father except through Jesus.* (Verse 6) This "preparation" has happened because of the Person and Work of Jesus Christ through His perfect obedience, His perfect sacrifice on the cross and His resurrection from the dead! This "preparation" is for everyone who believes in Jesus for forgiveness of their sins and His victory over the power of sin, death and the devil in their life! That's why Jesus describes heaven as having *many rooms*. There's room for everyone!

The way to heaven needed to be provided by Jesus because, by virtue of the sinful nature of all people, they are "lost" in their sinfulness and they can't save themselves. This is why it is futile to determine what's right or wrong through logical discussions. Listen to God's description of people in Romans 3:10-12,18 → *None is righteous, no, not one; no one understands; no one seeks for God. All have turned aside; together they have become worthless; no one does good, not even one. . . the way of peace they have not known.*

There is no fear of God before their eyes. The person without the Holy Spirit and faith in Jesus is completely helpless when it comes to life, both eternal life and their understanding of living life on this earth properly. Romans 1:25 states that *they exchanged the truth about God for a lie and worship and serve the creature rather than the Creator.*

Could one say that “red flags” should “pop up” when dealing with issues of morality, right and wrong and the last place Christians look for the answer is to Scripture? Should it be a concern when Christians search for answers to life in every other area of “expertise” with little or no regard for the expertise of the One Who created that life, redeemed that life and sustains that life? Absolutely! Amidst so much temptation by the devil as he uses the world and our sinful nature to relativize and keep us away from the “truth,” Jesus tells us that *the truth* is something which is “outside” of ourselves. **It is found in Him!**

Jesus told Pilate in John 18:37 → *Everyone who is of the truth listens to My voice.* All Pilate had to say is, *What is truth?* (cf. John 18:38) Sounds no different than what the world is saying today as well. When satan deceives us into exchanging truth for choice it will affect how we live life and the direction it takes. The analysis of your life will then leave you floundering, searching for an answer to your problems in everything and everyone else accept Jesus, or at the very least see Jesus as simply one among many “experts.” It will

disregard the spiritual battles taking place in your life which leads to a disregard of the Person & Work of Jesus Who has dealt with the instigator of those spiritual battles for you—the devil. It leaves one living like a victim rather than a victor in Jesus. The devil wants you to despair of this life and eternal life and will do anything to try and make it happen.

However, you can know the certainty of your place in heaven as you trust in *the Truth* of God's Word which reveals *the Way* to receive *the Life* that God desires for you! It happens as you change by confessing your sin of relativism and looking to something or someone other than God to define your life. It happens as you encounter *the way, and the truth, and the life*—Jesus—and the complete and final forgiveness of your sins which only He can give!

Jesus is the way to the Father since He embodied God the Father, the great I AM. He told His disciples in our text: *If you had known Me, you would have known My Father also. From now on you do know Him and have seen Him.* (Verse 7) Jesus is the way to eternal life—living in a perfect relationship with God forever! Jesus is the way to determine the truth while living your life each day! Faith in Jesus gives you your beginning point so that *the fear of the LORD is actually the beginning of wisdom, and the knowledge of the Holy One is actually insight* into your daily activities, trials, struggles and joys! Trusting in Jesus Christ alone is the only Truth which will govern our ways in life and

bring us into eternal life! Amen.

*Let us . . . lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely,
and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us,
looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith,
Who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross,
despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.
Consider Him . . . so that you may not grow weary or fainthearted.*

(Hebrews 12:1-3)

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