

## Lesson Five: Is it really true that Jesus is the Only Way?

We are attempting to answer some of the most often asked questions about God and the Bible. We are using as our source the Bible itself for a very good reason. There is no other authority we can turn to. When it comes to theology and truth all other sources are opinions; the Bible is God's revelation of Himself and His will. Yes, God has an agenda; to be glorified by all of his creation. So on we go.

There are many people, even non-Christians, that admire and even quote Jesus. Here are some of the things about Jesus that people from all walks of life really like.

But when Jesus said in John 14.6 "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me", he spoke "**fighting words**." There is a story behind that phrase, "those are fighting words." [see side note]

There is no single claim of Jesus and the Bible that enrages this present society like John 14.6. It is one thing to claim to be "a" way to God. It is quite another to claim to be "the" way to God.

So now we come to the 14<sup>th</sup> chapter.

- How can I be saved? Jesus is the **way** of salvation.
- How can I be sure? Jesus is the truth and the **measure** of it.
- How can I be satisfied? Jesus is the life, he holds it and gives it and He is the **source**.

Go back to Eden. Before sin came Adam enjoyed three special privileges:

- He enjoyed close **communion** with God: he walked with Him.
- He knew God in reality as He is: He **believed** what God said.
- He possessed spiritual **life** completely or fully; he lived in the paradise of God.

So he enjoyed the fullness of what God had planned for man. No barriers, no roadblocks no inhibitions, absolutely nothing between him and God. But what happened when the fellowship was broken by sin?

He lost all three privileges.

- His **fellowship** was broken: he then hid from God
- His **knowledge** was corrupted: he believed Satan's lie instead of God's truth
- His life was **shattered**: he was beginning to die physical and was dead spiritually.

Our present condition apart from God's grace is identical to Adam's. 1) We are **alienated** from God without fellowship with him because of sin. 2) We cannot understand God in reality because we are **ignorant** of the **truth**. 3) We are condemned to spiritual and physical **death**.

Do you know why the gospel is such good news? It is because all we lost in Adam can be reclaimed in Christ. In Jesus – the relationship is reestablished, the truth is made known and we are granted life. In other words Jesus is communion restored, truth recovered and life reborn. Amen!

Jesus is the **relationship** and fellowship restored – I Am the way.

Apart from Jesus no one can have **fellowship** with God; no one. *1 Ti 2:5 For there is one God and one Mediator between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus...* Jesus is the one that teaches the way. Jesus is the guide along the way. JESUS IS THE WAY. Our separation from God is eliminated when we approach him through THE WAY. Let me give you a window to see this. (Illustration)

Jesus is the truth **reclaimed** -I Am – The Truth.

The gospel of John is a book about the revelation of Jesus as The Truth. Here are a few verse that declare it.

- *Jn 1:14 And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and **truth**.*
- *Jn 1:17 For the law was given through Moses, but grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.*
- *Jn 8:32 And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free."*
- *Jn 17:17 Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth.*

- *Jn 18.37 For this cause I was born, and for this cause I have come into the world, that I should bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth hears My voice."*

When we say that Jesus is the truth we of course mean the following: He is the conveyor of the truth; the communicator of the truth, the witness to the truth, the origin of the truth and the preacher of the truth. Yet he is more: He is truth **embodied**. Christ is the final revelation of God to Man. The Truth is not a system or a philosophy it is a **person**.

Facts about Truth:

Truth is **inflexible** and **intolerant**.

The truth follows a **specific procedure**.

People can play games all they want but they can't change the **truth**. Many are building their lives on a bunch of **false assumptions**. They are broadminded and permission assumptions. If it feels good they do it. If it looks good they want it. If it sounds good they believe it. But what if it is all a lie; or turn it around, if it is not the truth then what? Jesus is THE WAY AND THE TRUTH. He alone can see us to Heaven.

Jesus is life **regained** – The Life

Another idea that is riveted in the teaching of John is the idea of Life. There are over 40 places the book talks about life many of which include the words everlasting or eternal. Here's a few

- *Jn 1:4 In Him was life, and the life was the light of men.*
- *Jn 3.16 ...whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.*
- *Jn 4:14 but whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him will never thirst. But the water that I shall give him will become in him a fountain of water springing up into everlasting life."*
- *Jn 5:21 For as the Father raises the dead and gives life to them, even so the Son gives life to whom He will.*
- *Jn 5:40 But you are not willing to come to Me that you may have life.*
- *Jn 6:35 And Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life.*

Jesus is the author of Life, the life giver even life **incarnate**. He is the opposite of **death** and darkness. *Jn 10.10 I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly.*

- Jesus did not come to invigorate or renovate our **old nature**.
- Jesus did not come to **refine** or **rejuvenate** people that had become discouraged.
- Jesus didn't come to put a new suit on a **corpse**.
- Jesus came to give **dead** people **life**.

We have been sticking to the verse John 14.6 because it is the verse that the Tolerance Police of today's cultural watchdogs love to hate. But the Bible is full of Jesus only passages.

*Ac 4:12 Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved."* There is no other way to Heaven. Any attempt to climb up another way or to insist on some other arrangement is futile.

Christianity is exclusive: the reports are true. It proclaims one ultimate **problem** of humanity (sin), one ultimate **need** of humanity (salvation), and one ultimate **Savior** for humanity (Jesus). It levels the playing field among all people by announcing that all are equally in need of the same Savior. But here is the thing; Christianity's proclamation of **exclusivity**, one Savior for all people, is also its proclamation of **inclusivity**: one Savior for all people. The Angel said it clearly.

*Lk 2:10 Then the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to **all people**. 11 For there is born to you this day in the city of David a **Savior**, who is **Christ the Lord**.*

We have become such nice and cultured Christians not willing to offend anyone to the point that we will dialogue with people about **anything** but we avoid the most **important thing**. The most uncaring and unloving thing a person could do would be to know that Jesus is the only Savior of the world and **keep** it to ourselves.

Another widow to see this truth. [Illustration]