



## **What did Jesus mean when He said I am the Way, the Truth and the Light?**

In the Gospel of John, chapter 14, a conversation takes place between Jesus and his Apostles in which Jesus tells His disciples that He is the Way, the Truth, and the Life. This conversation happens on the last night before the crucifixion, during the Passover meal. Before this, Jesus had washed the disciple's feet, predicted his betrayal by Judas, predicted his denial by Peter, and told the disciples he would soon be going away (John 13). All of this prompted questions about where Jesus was going, and why it was that they couldn't follow with him.

### **I Am the Way**

Jesus addresses our very human instinct to know where we are going before we start a journey. The disciples wanted to know the next step, the next turn, the ultimate destination of where this journey in faith would lead them. When we have a long trip ahead of us, we want to turn on our GPS and get an idea of how long it will take and the roads we will travel on to get there. We determine the best, fastest routes and then start our journey. Thomas was looking for the same kind of information. However, Jesus makes it clear that they (or we) won't know the defined way we are supposed to travel in life. We are instead tasked with simply knowing and trusting in Jesus daily, and walking in faith that HE is the way. When we abide in him, we will not know a defined course, but we can rest in the comfort of faith – that he will lead us exactly where we need to go as we walk in him.

### **I Am the Truth**

What is truth and how can we know truth? "Pilate asks Jesus, 'What is truth?'" Jesus answered this question in John 14 with the disciples when he tells them "I am the truth." Jesus can testify to the truth and teach the truth because he himself is that truth. In him there is nothing false, nothing misleading, and nothing fake or uncertain. Each of us are capable of knowing truth, but none of us can claim to actually *be* truth. There are too many things we don't know, and too many things we get wrong throughout our lives. Yet Jesus claims to *be* truth, and in doing so claims to be one with God.

## **I Am the Life**

This saying draws us back to the shepherd analogy of John 10:

"The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full. ... "I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me—just as the Father knows me and I know the Father—and I lay down my life for the sheep."

Here Jesus is not only painting a picture of how he defends and leads his sheep, but also foreshadowing his death on the cross.

This life is not our ultimate goal and does not encompass the entirety of who we are. This life is a mere drop in the ocean of eternity and serves as the starting block on the marathon that leads us to our goal of eternal life.

Jesus is teaching us that what we are to really be concerned with is not this life, but with eternal life. The Scriptures speak often of the life to come after our life on this earth, and as we follow the voice of our shepherd, we can grasp what that eternal life is in the here and now. We can live this life in such a way that we are not chasing things that don't last but chasing the things that do last and have eternal significance. This type of life has eternal impact not only for us but for untold others around us.

When Jesus refers to himself as the way, the truth, and the life, he is giving us a better way to live our lives through him. He is showing us that through following him daily in faith, he will lead us to a better, richer, more meaningful life than we could ever find on our own.

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