

I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life

John 14:1-6

I AM Series

Good Morning - DON'T FREAK OUT -

A) I think I just got your attention –RIGHT

B) Sort of an odd way to start a sermon! –

C) As soon as I say that – you know that something alarming is coming!

1) There is usually some BAD NEWS attached to a statement like that – RIGHT

This morning we are in John 14 – and that is exactly how the chapter starts – Jesus saying Don't freak...

A) Actually – He says - **Let not your heart be troubled**

B) There is a back drop to that statement –

C) John 13-17 a special time in the ministry of Jesus

1) Last hours with His closest companions – before his arrest & subsequent trial and Crucifixion

D) **John 13-17** – these Chapters take place in that night – mostly in upper room

1) Last hours / Last words/ Last deeds / Last prayer

E) The evening began with a foot washing

1) Last Supper

Jesus on this night in that room would reveal that He was going to be betrayed – BY ONE OF THEM!

A) V.22 perplexed

B) V.34 **New Commandment** – as I have loved you – wash feet

1) We have to wash each others feet.

C) V.36 Leaving – can't follow –

1) also other gospels Reveal He told them all will forsake Him

D) V.38 Peter will Deny – Their heads were spinning

Ch.14 the conversation continues - V.1 Let not your heart be troubled

A) We can understand – why they would be troubled in heart – INFORMATION OVERLOAD!

B) The heart speaks of the deepest part of us – beyond the soul – beyond the intellect

C) The heart is the deepest part of us, the spiritual part of us – the place where we feel things the most!

D) It is natural to experience this kind of heart trouble

1) But one of the **main points in the Bible** for the believer is to move us beyond the natural.

But the Bible is constantly challenging us to move from the natural to the Spiritual

A) To move from our tendency to REACT in the flesh to RESPOND in the Spirit.

B) How do we do that especially when – We get troubling news like this

1) When we get news that we don't understand?

C) Jesus tells His Disciples to Focus on 2 things

D) The Cure for troubled hearts -

1 - Look to Me

2 - Look to heaven.

1st Look to me

V.1 Let not your heart be troubled you believe in God, believe also in Me.

A) Jesus simply says – **Believe in Me** –

1) Believe = to cling to, trust in, rely upon

B) Don't look at the **impossibilities** / don't focus on your **limitations** –

1) Don't get caught up in what **you can't control**

C) **LOOK TO ME – BELIEVE IN ME !
TRUST ME WITH YOUR LIFE!**

1) Always a Key thing with Jesus – Peter ... water
Hebrews 12 – Runners in a Race – Run looking
unto Jesus

A) RUNNERS – DON'T look at who is next to
you.

B) Don't compare your situation to others –
1) You run – looking unto Jesus - who endured
the cross despising the shame Cross – symbol
of His Love

C) Keep your focus there.

D) So Key - #1 Look to Jesus

#2 Look to heaven

2 In My Father's house are many mansions; if it
were not so, I would have told you. I go to
prepare a place for you. 3 And if I go and
prepare a place for you, I will come again and
receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you
may be also.

A) Poll last year done by organization – Pew
research – Study religious trends

B) 72% of Americans believe that heaven is a
literal place!
1) Also noted that majority of Americans believe
that good people go there.

C) Pretty impressive – just under ¾ of the
American population believes that Heaven is for
Real!

**That is an important statistic because imagine
what our society would be like if we didn't
believe in heaven . . .**

A) A society which didn't believe in heaven would
be **obsessed with youth**.

B) It would spend hundreds of thousands of
dollars trying **to look, stay, and feel young
through plastic surgery, diets, and exercise
programs**.

C) A society that didn't believe in heaven would
spend billions of dollars on **life support systems**
to delay facing an unknown future.

**In a society which didn't believe in heaven, crime
would soar !**

A) No fear of either eternal judgment or reward.

B) The theology of a society which didn't believe
in heaven would be based upon the here and now
1) On health, and prosperity.
2) **Techniques for Success**

C) A society that didn't believe in heaven would
also be marked by despair – millions on Prozac
1) And other anti-depressant meds – NOTHING
TO LOOK FORWARD TO.

D) Wait a minute: I just described our Society to
a T!

1) What is the Deal – 72% believe Heaven is real
And that most people will go there?

**We are a culture that gives lip-service to the idea
of heaven, we do not live in the reality of heaven.**

A) If you are here today – HEART IS
TROUBLED

Chances are you have lost sight of Heaven.

Colossians 3:1-2

**If then you were raised with Christ, seek those
things which are above, where Christ is, sitting
at the right hand of God. 2 Set your mind on
things above, not on things on the earth.**

B) Now the word mind in v.2 can also be
translated **affections** – Connection

1) What you are fond of – is what you are going
to be thinking about!

C) Paul said that Heaven was indescribable

1) No words in our Human vocabulary can do it
Justice.

1 Corinthians 2:9

**“Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, Nor have
entered into the heart of man. The things which
God has prepared for those who love Him.”**

D) Heaven is not even the end all for US!

1) Rapture: 7 Years – Return – Eternity

**Speaking of the Rapture: Jesus says here is a
good reference to that.**

2 In My Father's house are many mansions;

if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. 3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, **I will come again and receive you to Myself**; that where I am, there you may be also.

A) Jesus says – I am going away – but I am going to come again – Coming to GET YOU.

B) Receive you to Myself – where I am – you will be also

C) Rapture: 1 Thessalonians 4:16-18

16 For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. 17 Then we who are alive and remain shall be **caught up** together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord. 18 **Therefore comfort one another with these words.**

Escape Mentality? – No! –

A) But it is living our lives here in the reality that what we do here effects – what happens there

B) Some people have been described as being so heavenly minded – no earthly good.

1) Walking around with their head in the clouds – some **hyper spiritual condition** {Just being hyper spiritual

C) When in reality – I think Jon Courson is right when he says – **Really can't be any earthly good until we are heavenly minded**

Remembering Eternity is where it counts!

A) All of this is shaping – what our place and enjoyment in heaven is going to consist of.

Matthew 6:19-21

¹⁹ “Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal; ²⁰ but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. ²¹ **For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.**”

B) Is your treasure JESUS? Is your treasure Eternity?

C) Let that shape the things that you make your priorities.

1) Invest your time, energy, resources in things that will count in ETERNITY!

D) Realizing that there is nothing more important to look forward to than the day we stand before Jesus and long to hear Him say: **Well done**

So How can we avoid that place and make sure we are going to heaven?

A) Question is answered in our text

4 And where I go you know, and the way you know.”

5 Thomas said to Him, "Lord, we do not know where You are going, and how can we know the way?"

B) Now I can picture the disciples sitting there nodding their heads – when Jesus says these things

1) The way you know – Yea – inside their thinking – I have no clue what He is saying {too proud to ask

C) Worship conference – Panel – dangers – Philosophical answer – applauded

1) What did he say

D) **Chemistry class** – everyone is sitting there like they have a clue – but really don't

1) Student says – I don't get this at all

E) Thomas says – *Lord we don't know*

1) Thankful for Thomas – We get the answer

6 Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.

I am the way – Not a way – not going to show you the way – I am the way!

A) The is SINGULAR – not A WAY – THE WAY.....THE TRUTH – THE LIFE

B) Jesus is **emphatic** - THE WAY!!!!

1) You can't get to heaven by being good – Not good outweighs the bad.

C) Can't by Being religious – Church attendance

1) TITHING – Good things – NOT THE WAY **THE ONLY WAY is through Jesus!**

A) PETER PREACHING - Acts 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.”

1 Timothy 2:5

“For *there is one God and one Mediator between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus,* ⁶ who gave Himself a ransom for all.”

B) That is narrow – you Christians are so narrow minded

C) Our culture has been sort of conditioned to think that narrow-mindedness is ALWAYS A BAD THING.

1) Even DANGEROUS.

D) People turn a deaf ear to this Claim of Jesus – too Narrow!

Is being Narrow really always Bad?

A) **Pharmacist** – to be Narrow – right?
Prescription from Doc – One pill

B) Horrified if we showed up and He says – too narrow – **I have all kinds of pills – big/ small – white, blue, yellow, orange**

1) So Narrow only give you the one on the Prescription – **so I gave you a handful of everything!**

C) That kind of Broadmindedness would put your health – even your life in Danger!

We expect Narrow mindedness in our Pharmacist

We want Narrow mindedness in our Air traffic Controllers.

A) Consider this: LAX If you count international, domestic, military, cargo, and private aircraft, the airport logs 1,578 landings and takeoffs every 24 hours.

B) That averages one plane down a runway every 55 seconds.

C) SO we want the guy in the tower to be Narrow right?

1) When he tells a pilot he is clear to land on runway 17 – Pilot says – always 17 – I want to land on 36.

D) We want that Dude or Dudette in the Tower to be Emphatic – 17 or NOTHING!

We want Narrow-mindedness in our Pilots too.

A) Leaving LAX tonight at 11:30 pm red-eye to Guatemala -

B) Now what if the Pilot midway through the flight comes on the intercom –

1) Know your ticket says GUA – but me and the co-pilot were talking – TOO NARROW

C) WE have decided to go to INDIA INSTEAD!

1) NOT HAPPY - Bahamas – maybe ☺

So We want our Pharmacist to be Narrow. Air traffic controllers – Pilots Surgeon to be Narrow

A) About 16 years ago – Major Hip surgery – opened me up good! - SCAR

B) What if after the Surgery – Meeting with the Doc – said – How did it go – Get everything needed?

1) Oh yea and More.

C) When you were under – Saw you had two of so many things – took a Kidney – Lung – RIB

D) That would not be good – RIGHT?

WE would not like that in a Surgeon – so why is it on the most important subject of ones eternal Destiny

A) WHY do We Wrestle – with It being Narrow!

B) Matthew 7:13,14 ¹³“You can enter God’s Kingdom only through the narrow gate. The highway to hell is broad, and its gate is wide for the many who choose that way. ¹⁴But the gateway to life is very narrow and the road is difficult, and only a few ever find it.

C) Not difficult to find – Jesus made it VERY clear – Difficult to accept -

D) **Listen the Marvel** is not that there is only one way to be saved. –

1) The marvel is that there is a way at all

E) That is the marvel that there is a way to be forgiven and cleansed and saved

1) **That way is thru JESUS**

The Truth!

A) Jesus is the truth! – He doesn't just teach truth – he is the truth.

B) Every word He ever spoke was truth – the total embodiment of truth.

1) Truth about how to Live – Truth about God
The truth about life.

C) Jesus made this claim: John 8:32, 36

And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free."

³⁶ Therefore if the Son makes you free, you shall be free indeed."

Again People don't like that – Jesus the Truth.

A) They say that is intolerant to be so dogmatic.

B) Listen: All truth is intolerant – it is intolerant of what is A LIE!

C) That is Arrogant – NO it is not!

1) It isn't arrogant at all to call the truth – TRUTH

D) From Heavens perspective what is Arrogant is to call THE TRUTH – A LIE!

The Life!

A) Real life is found in Him

B) Source of everything that is life

Romans 6:23

"²³ For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord."

1 John 5:11,12

¹¹ And this is the testimony: that God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. ¹² He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life."

C) Not living until you meet Jesus!

D) Source of Abundant life – He is the source of how to live life in the here and now.

E) He is the source of Eternal life – Future.

So many people are living today for the here and now.

A) Weekend – Party – Eat drink and be merry.

B) The High life – they call it

C) Listen you were not made for that – that is not the definition of living

1) That is existence at best

Living is Knowing God – Living is being in a RIGHT RELATIONSHIP WITH your Creator.

A) Living is knowing that this life is not the end all.

B) Living is Knowing Jesus

C) John 17:3 **"And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent."**

**D) Eternal life – Quality and Quantity
Know – Ginosko – Intimately**

"Jesus didn't come to make bad people good, or good people better. Jesus came to make dead people alive!" – CS Lewis