

Who Is Jesus Part 5

The Truth

John 14:6

Memory Verses: John 14:6

MANUSCRIPT

Introduction (Me, We, & the Struggle)

In **Matthew 16:15** Jesus asks; who do you say that I am? It's a great question. Who is Jesus?

Over the past month we have been trying to answer that question. If you remember, we've seen that Jesus is the Chosen One and he is also the Head of the Church. He is our savior and our leader. But then we also saw who he is through 7 specific "I Am" statements in the book of John. The last two weeks we've been in John chapter 10 where we reflected on the fact that Jesus stated "I Am the Good Shepherd." He cares for us, fights for us, and pursues us. And then last week we looked at Christ's statements where he said; "I Am the Door & I Am the Way." When it all boils down there is only one way to God and eternal life... and Jesus is it.

Today, let's start by looking back at one of the verses we looked at last week as we examined Christ; the one and only way. Turn over with me to **John 14:6**. As we saw last week... Jesus says "I am the way... and what does he say next? I am the truth? Then he says I am the life... I wonder where we will be next week? But today we want to focus on the fact that Jesus calls himself the truth. What does it mean that Jesus is the truth? Pilate had similar questions. Look over with me at **John 18:37-38**. Jesus said plainly... I have come into this world to show the world the truth. Pilate said... "what is truth?"

Let me ask you this question this morning. What is truth? Now for some of you this may seem like a silly question. Truth is truth right? I mean, whatever is not false, or a lie, or a fabrication, or counterfeit is truth right? What do you mean what is truth? $1 + 1 = 2$ is truth. The sky is blue is truth. Water is wet is truth. There should not be any debate as to what is true... Truth is truth.

Okay... I will submit that there are still some basic truths that are not debated among most people. But what if I asked you if Kobe Bryant who recently passed away, if he was the greatest basketball player of all time? Some would say... no way... it's MJ or it's LeBron or it's Kareem or it's Magic, but some of you would say absolutely. So for some people Kobe is the GOAT and for some he's not. Now how can both be true? How can it be true for you that Kobe is the greatest to ever live and for others he's maybe 10th or even 20th. Now we have a problem when it

comes to truth right? At that point now we are talking about preferences more than actually tangible, quantifiable, concrete truth. And we are only talking about basketball. What about when we start talking about things that really matter like morality and values... about good and evil.

Now at this point you may say... but good is good and evil is evil right? How can we not know the truth on this? For instance, most everyone thinks murder is evil right? Do they? What about mercy killing? What about euthanasia? What about abortion? We now have people who are advocating that the killing of infants should not be tried in the same manner as killing non-infants because infants can't speak or take care of themselves. Something that was unthinkable for most of the history of the world is now being talked about in the open as a viable option. And if murder is debatable then I guess all things are on the table right?

And this is where Pilate is coming from. He is coming from the stand point that truth has lost it's truthfulness if you will. He's saying... we live in a society that doesn't believe in absolute truth anymore. Instead we live in a society that believes in relativism; that is... the belief that what is true for you is true for you and what is true for me is true for me. You don't judge my truth and I won't judge your truth and we'll all get along. Sounds good right? Wrong. Because as we've started to understand here in our current culture... when everyone feels that whatever they want or whatever they do is true... and every truth is respected as such... then nothing is true and everything starts to fall into anarchy. Now men can be women, women can be men, feelings trump facts, anything goes, do what feels good, and tolerate everyone and everything... unless of course that person believes in absolute truth. We can't tolerate that.

So we have a couple of questions that we need to answer don't we. First, is there still such a thing as absolute moral truth? Secondly, if there is... Is Jesus that truth? And, thirdly, if Jesus is the truth... what does that mean?

This morning we are going to search through the Bible and look at some scriptures that can help us answer these questions. And I believe what we will find is this... **There Can Be No Other Truth Than Jesus Christ, For No Other Truth Can Set You Free**.

Teaching (Expand on the Problem, God)

So let's address the first question. Is there still such a thing as absolute moral truth? The answer is yes. **Absolute Moral Truth Must Exist Because Our Feelings Aren't Trustworthy**. If there is no moral absolute truth guiding the way we live our lives then what is there left to guide us? If there is no North Star outside of us to guide us... then there must be one inside of us. It must be our feelings and our thoughts right? This is what our society as a whole believes. This is why our society pretty

much lives according to this one guiding principle... “do what feels right.” We hear it in our slogans and on television... “Be you” “Be who you want to be” “If you can dream it you can achieve it.” Most Americans see this as the American Dream. If we want it we can have it if we just go for it. And... sure, we all know our feelings can lead us astray at times, but more than not they will guide us to the right place, right? Wrong. According to the Bible... Your feelings and thoughts aren't just misguided some of the time... they are misguided most of the time if not all of the time. Just look at scripture. **Jeremiah 17:9** says the heart is deceitful above all else. **Proverbs 28:26** tells us that whoever trusts in his own mind is a fool. **Proverbs 14:12-13** tells us that there is a way that seems right to a man but it leads to death. And lastly **Proverbs 29:11** says that a fool gives full vent to his spirit. All that means is this... when you trust in your heart and your mind and live accordingly it leads to a destroyed life.

The end of a life spent chasing your feelings and your own thoughts, without ever denying yourself based upon a moral standard will inevitably destroy you. Why are their serial murderers? Because they followed their feelings and thoughts. Why are their mass shootings. Because someone followed their feelings and thoughts. Why did men fly planes into towers? Why have moms drowned their children in bathtubs? Why do husbands commit affairs and leave their wife and kids? Why are there wars, genocide, and racism? All of it is because someone followed their feelings... because they were doing what felt right to them. Listen, we can't trust our feelings or thoughts. We simply can't... and if we can't trust our feelings or our thoughts to lead us to the right place then there must be an absolute moral standard, outside of us, to guide us.

So there must be an absolute moral truth... but how do we determine what is that truth? **We Can Know What Is True Based On Where It Leads.** According to the Bible we can determine what is the truth by a couple of criteria. The first is... does it give you understanding to life's biggest questions? **1 John 5:20** says that we know the Son has come and given us understanding, so that we may know him who is true. The truth leads to understanding. Listen... there are universal questions that everyone has; why do we exist?, what is the purpose of our existence? And, there must be a truth out there that can answer these questions. If we can find an understanding that can answer these questions then we have found the truth.

The second is... does it lead to eternal life? Once again.. **1 John 5:20b** says that truth leads to eternal life. Simple... everyone wants life after death. Even those who don't believe in life after death want there to be life after death. So, If you can find something leading to eternal life... then you've found truth.

The third criteria is... does it set you free? Look at **John 8:32** which says simply... the truth will set you free. In order to find truth we must find something that frees us. And just as the pharisees said... free us from what? In order to find what frees us we need to know what we are captive to. Again look to **John 8:34** which tells us clearly that we are slaves to sin. This simply means that we, as humans, can't help but do the wrong thing; we are bound to it. In fact... **We are so enslaved to sin that we start to think that our sin is a good thing... we can't imagine that we are evil so we must imagine our evil as good.** We get to the point where we think the thing that enslaves us actually frees us... all the while we are being more enslaved. But every now and again we may get a glimpse of our sin.. there is a blip in the matrix and we see the prison.. and we recognize we need to escape it. No matter what you believe... everyone knows that there is something wrong with this world and something is broken in it... and something is broken in us. What is the key to escape? The truth will set you free.

So... we've established that there must be an absolute moral truth because we can't trust our feelings or thoughts. We've explored the criteria for finding this truth. So... does Jesus meet the criteria? Yes... **Jesus Is Absolute Truth And The Standard For All Moral Value.**

Let's look at the evidence. Can Jesus give you understanding to life's biggest questions? Let's look at **Ephesians 2:10** which says that we were created for good works. We exist because of God's grace to do his good works. Also look at **Colossians 1:16** which says that we were created for God. Look at **Romans 11:36** and **Isaiah 43:7** . We see that we were created to bring God glory forever. Why do we exist and what is our purpose in this life?... to do God's good and bring him glory forever.

So Jesus gives me understanding as to the biggest questions... I live for his glory, but can Jesus give me eternal life? Hmm... Look at **Romans 3:23** the answer is yes. Yes, Jesus is the way to eternal life. Also, **John 17:3** absolutely. Jesus is eternal life.

So, Jesus gives me understanding to the purpose of life. Jesus can give me eternal life. But... can Jesus set you free from your sin? Well lets look at **Galatians 5:1** . The answer...yes he can. **There Can Be No Other Truth Than Jesus Christ, For No Other Truth Can Set You Free** . If you are struggling beneath the weight of your sin and you desperately want to escape a life of slavery and sinfulness... Jesus is the truth that can set you free.

Application (Resolution, You)

If there is an absolute moral truth and there is... and that truth can be found... and it can... and that truth is Jesus... and it is... then what? Then

everything Jesus tells us to do in his Word is the truth. So what is the application of all of this. Follow Jesus' truth in his word. **John 17:17** says that we are sanctified and discipled in the word of Jesus' truth. So what is the absolute moral standard of truth? Jesus and his Word. **There is an absolute truth and it is found in the Words of Christ**.

So, are you willing to put your trust in the truth of Jesus Christ? Are you willing to submit to his Word and his will? Then you will know the answers to life's hardest questions. Then you will know the way to eternal life. Then you will be set free? **There Can Be No Other Truth Than Jesus Christ, For No Other Truth Can Set You Free**

Conclusion

Let's go back to the story we started with this morning in **John 18**. Pilate after talking with Jesus about absolute truth... walked outside, gave Jesus over to the Jews and washed his hands. Why? Because he was dismissing the idea of Jesus as the truth. Washing his hands is symbolic that he did not place his trust in Jesus as the truth and was fine handing him over to be killed.

Listen, you can either wash your hands of Jesus as the truth or you can cling to Jesus as the truth. These are our options today. You can't be in the middle with Jesus... he's either the only truth or not true at all. Will you make him your truth today?