

More Like Jesus Part 7

The Way, The Truth, And the Life

John 14:1-14, John 5:18-47

Memory Verses: John 14:6

MANUSCRIPT

Introduction (Me, We, & the Struggle)

Growing up in North Carolina we were all told the story of the lump. Maybe you've heard it. Well it goes like this. In a small town in North Carolina, probably Lincolnton or Mooresville, there was this black lump in the middle of a little swampy pool on the side of the road leading out of town. It looked like hardened lava or more plausibly left over concrete and asphalt poured out of a bucket into an oddly shaped mound. One day an ole timer who had looked at this lumpy rock thing thousands of times over the course of around forty years decided to pull it out of the little swamp hole with his tractor and wash it off. It was around two foot tall and weighed over a hundred pounds. He had some of his buddies help him haul it to his house where he used it to keep his front door open in the summer. A couple years back the ole timer died poor as dirt without a nickle to his name, and at his wake one of the people there, a friend of a friend, noticed the lump. Being an amateur geologist he started to chip away at some of the outer shell of the lump only to discover what experts would eventually affirm was the largest single piece of gold ever found east of the Rockies. The value today would be well over two million dollars. You can just imagine, this poor ole timer, hardly able to make ends meet, praying every night that God would give him a break, not knowing that on his front porch sat a two million dollar piece of gold! What a fool, right?

But we're just like that ole timer. Everyday we get out of bed, work our job, dabble in a hobby, have conversations, watch television, eat some food, and then fall asleep while pondering the great existential and philosophical questions of our day. Why? Because we desire some sense of purpose and meaning. Because we desire to do something great and make something of ourselves. We fight for truth, justice, and the American dream. We fight for a better life. But many of us give up on all that way too quickly. Many of us at some point along the road get frustrated and disenfranchised. We lose the way. We stop feeling meaningful. We get lost in all the lies and lose hope of finding real truth. We stop fighting for a better life and settle for any semblance of life we can find on our own. All the while there sits that dusty old Bible waiting to be cracked. All the while there sits the church building we pass by every Sunday morning on our way to something else. All the while there's the lump.... Jesus, the way to meaning and purpose, the truth in all

circumstances, and the source of abundant and fulfilling life. If only you'd just recognized Him as the Savior, rather a meaningless lump, He could have changed your life! As we are going to see today, Jesus truly is the way, the truth, and the life.

We are in a series called More Like Jesus where we are looking at the life of Christ and some of his more detailed teachings and we are seeing how we can emulate his life and apply these teachings to become more like Him. Three weeks ago we saw where Jesus said, "I Am the Bread of Life." When we applied this we saw how we are to be fully satisfied and sustained only in Jesus Christ. Two weeks ago we saw where Jesus said "I Am the Light of Life, I Am The Door and the Great Shepherd, and I Am the True Vine." When we applied these we saw how we are to be fully dependent on Jesus Christ to fulfill all of our needs. And today, we will be looking at another one of Jesus' "I Am" statements, where he says in **John 14:6**; "I Am the way, the truth, and the life, no one comes to the Father but by me."

When we look to Jesus we may be tempted to look at him as a helper, a comforter, or merely a friend who offers helpful advice. And, while Jesus fulfills all of these roles through the Holy Spirit, He is so much more. In a world filled with Billions of people searching for eternal life, Jesus is the way. To all of those looking to find a definitive answer to what is right and what is wrong, Jesus is the truth. For all of those people trying to figure out what's the purpose and meaning of this life is, Jesus is the life. As we saw last week, Jesus fulfills all of our physical and spiritual needs. As we will see today, Jesus also fulfills all of our philosophical needs. **For all of our questions about purpose and meaning, right and wrong, life and death, Jesus is the Way, the Truth, and The Life!**

Let's read our main passage this morning and then look at each of these elements of Christ one at a time. Read with me **John 14:1-14**.

Teaching (Expand on the Problem, God)

We will start by looking at Jesus as the Way and what I want you to see here is that... **To Be More Like Jesus We Must Find The Way To Heaven**. It's a pretty simple point. We aren't breaking new ground here. But let's just look at it all the same. In **verses 1-7** of the passage we just looked at we see that the disciples are concerned about where Jesus is going. Thomas asks, how will know how to get to you if we don't even know where you are going? So Jesus tells them that He is going to his Father's House, which is just another title for Heaven. He tells them that one of his chief purposes after ascending, along with interceding for us at the right hand of the Father, is to prepare a place for us in Heaven. Think about that for a second. Yes, there will be streets of gold, gates of pearls, walls of precious stones, a crystal sea, a giant city, but within that there will be place, whether it be a room or a mansion, a place specifically for you, prepared with love by the very hands of Christ.

He says, yes, I have to go back to the Father and to prepare that place for you, but when it's ready I'll come back and get you and bring you there, so that where he is there we will be also. Now that's interesting. Jesus is coming back and one of the reasons for his return is to get us. What will that look like? Well according to our parallel passage this morning in **John 5:25-29**, when Jesus comes back, first the dead will hear his voice and live. The good will be raised to the resurrection of life and the bad to the resurrection of judgement. This event is what many refer to as the rapture. Some say this will happen at the second coming of Christ, some place this at a time before His second coming, regardless... the resurrection of the dead in Christ is real and it precedes Heaven.

Thomas says, okay, you are going to Heaven, and you are going to come and get us, but how can we go there if we don't know the way. Thomas just doesn't get it does he. Jesus tells him, know where I'm going, and you know the way. I'm the way. It's interesting that Thomas kind of represents the Billions of people who still say, but we don't know the way. They don't know the way because they don't know Jesus. Simply put, **There is no other way to have Eternal life in heaven than to know Jesus.** And just so we are on the same page, going back to our message a few weeks ago about a belief that saves; knowing Jesus is different than knowing about Jesus... you must have faith and believe in him and you must repent and be living for him. So... for all our questions about life and death, Jesus is the way. **For all of our questions about life and death, right and wrong, meaning and purpose, Jesus is the Way, the Truth, and The Life!**

The second thing we need to look at is Jesus as the Truth and what I want us to see here is that... **To Be More Like Jesus We Must Place Our Trust In The Bearer of Truth.** In **John 14:8-11** we see Jesus making the case that He is the truth. This is important for us because over the past 50 years there has been a strong cultural push towards relativism; the philosophy that all truth is subjective or relative; you can have your truth, and I can have my truth, and those truths don't have to be the same. It's this type of philosophy that Pilate prescribed to in **John 18:38** when he sarcastically asked Jesus, what is truth? **Mahatma Gandhi, great liberator of India, once famously said, "Nobody in this world possesses absolute truth. This is God's attribute alone. Relative truth is all we know. Therefore, we can only follow the truth as we see it."** As you can see, there is a large portion of society that truly believes that there is no absolute standard of truth for all people, but at least Gandhi concedes that God knows absolute truth and if we could know God then perhaps we could know this truth.

Well, Jesus makes this very case. He says that He is God and

that he has the authority to speak absolute truth. I think **vs10-11** is key here. Jesus says, "I speak on the authority of the Father and by the way... I am in the Father and He is in me. Believe in me as the Father and you will be able to believe that what I say is the truth."

Jesus also makes this case in **John 5:18-19, 23**. In **vs18** he says, "I am God because me and the Father are the same." In **vs19** he says, "I can only do what the Father does." And in **vs23** he says, "I and the Father are worthy of the same honor." If I look like the Father, If I do what the Father does, and if I am worthy of the same worship as the Father... then I must be the Father. I'd say that's a pretty convincing case. The point being... **If Jesus and the Father are the same then Jesus is God and his message is absolute truth.**

But it's not just Jesus who testifies that He is God... there are other witnesses as well. Look again at our parallel passage in – **John 5:30-47**. In **vs.31** Jesus concedes, "If it's just my witness we can't trust it." So he first presents in **vs.32-35** that John the Baptist witnessed about Him and testified that I am the Messiah. In **vs.36** he presents that his own miracles and works are also a very credible witness in his corner. **John 10:22-26** says the same. They ask Jesus, are you the Christ? Jesus says, I've already told you that I am. The works I do in my father's name are my witness. In **vs.37** Jesus presents the father's voice at His baptism. Many of you heard God's voice saying; "well done my good and faithful servant." God himself testifies on my behalf. In **vs.38** Jesus presents one of his greatest witnesses when he says, "the scriptures testify about me." And in **vs.45-46** Jesus speaking of Moses says that even; "Moses testified about me." And off course we know that every prophet, every OT story, and almost everything in the observable world has pointed to Jesus as the Messiah, and if we can see the signs in the scriptures and see the miracles and words of Jesus then we should recognize that there can be no doubt... everything points to Jesus as God.

But Jesus' ace in the hole is another voice from the past – David. We have three of the Gospels which tell this story in (**Matthew 22:41-46, Mark 12:35-37, Luke 20:41-44**). First. the scribes correctly say that the Christ will be in the lineage of David, a son of David. So Jesus asks them, then how can David speak directly to the Messiah calling Him Lord if he was merely a future descendant? More specifically, how can he be both his son and his Lord? Again, the point is simple... **Jesus has always been, and He has always been God,** and that's what that story is meant to reveal. Like I said before, when you know that Jesus is God then you can believe his word as true. Look again at **John 5:38**. For all of our questions about right and wrong, Jesus is the truth. **For all of our questions about life and death, right and wrong, meaning and purpose, Jesus is the Way, the Truth, and The Life!**

Lastly, when looking at Jesus as the Life I want us to see that... **To**

Be More Like Jesus We Must Pursue the Purpose of Life . Again in **John 14:12-14** we see Jesus presenting his case that he is the life. There are two things to note here. There is a purpose in living this life and there is a power for living this life.

The purpose of life is found in Jesus. He is the source of absolute truth. We can know without a doubt what is right and what is wrong, what is good and what is bad when we believe the word of Jesus. He is also the way to have eternal life beyond this world so if this life is nothing else than a doorway to the next, Jesus must be pursued as the purpose of life.

But Jesus is also the power of life here on earth. Get this... eternal life is more than just Heaven, it starts here in this world when we accept Christ into our lives. It is that abundant life. Just look, in **vs.12** Jesus tells us that “you will do greater works than even me.” In **vs.13-14** we see that whatever we ask of Jesus, he will do for us. That sounds exciting to say the least. And then in **John 5:20-21, 24** we see Jesus speak of eternal life as something we obtain here in this life. In **vs.20** greater works will God show us. In **vs.21** the Son of God gives new life to those he wills. And in **vs.24** whoever hears His words and believes has passed from death to life here and now. Just as we saw last week in **John 10:10**; Jesus has come to give us life and give it to us more abundantly; peace that passes all understanding, joy in the midst of pain and sorrow, forgiveness for those who wrong us, hope regardless of how bad it gets. Look, **Jesus isn't just the purpose for living this life but He is also the power to live it.** For all of our questions about meaning and purpose, Jesus is the life. **For all of our questions about life and death, right and wrong, meaning and purpose, Jesus is the Way, the Truth, and The Life!**

Application

Are you looking for a way to heaven? Jesus is the way. Are you looking for objective answers in a world of lies? Jesus is the truth. Are you looking for purpose and power for living? Jesus is the life. There is no other way to the father but by him because he and the father are one. Which means Jesus is God. If Jesus truly is God then who else could you ever put your trust in? And here's the good news... you don't need to do anything for Jesus to give you these.

Conclusion

During the Spanish-American War, Clara Barton oversaw the work of the Red Cross in Cuba. One day Colonel Theodore Roosevelt came to her, asking to buy food for his sick and wounded Rough Riders. However, she refused to sell him any. Roosevelt was perplexed. His men needed the help and he was prepared to pay out of his own funds. When he asked someone why he could not buy the supplies, he was told,

“Colonel, just ask for it!” A smile broke over Roosevelt’s face. Now he understood—the provisions were not for sale. All he had to do was simply ask and they would be given freely.

Just ask Jesus today and he will be your way, your truth, and your life.