

May 6, 2021

Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. John 14:6

This verse, found in the Gospel of John, is part of a multi-chaptered expose on the work of Jesus Christ. It follows the story of the last supper, where Jesus had revealed that one of them would betray him to death. This is why chapter 14 opens with the words "let not your hearts be troubled." The disciples had just learned that their Lord was about to die, and having followed Jesus for three years, and having just experienced the triumphant entry into Jerusalem, this revelation was bewildering indeed.

Jesus begins his explanation with the reassurance that He is going to prepare a place for his disciples, and that he will return. And then he makes the statement in today's scripture. *"I am the way and the truth and the life."*

Let's set this against another scripture found in Matthew 7:13,14. *Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it. But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it.*

Jesus is the way. He is the only way. It is through his death that we have been redeemed. We are not saved through our own righteousness, or our own efforts, but by the great, immeasurable love of our Creator who laid down his life to pay the penalty of sin on our behalf.

This is 'the way' that Jesus reveals in the verses and chapters that follow His statement. In His wisdom and compassion, Jesus gave us practical advice to apply to our lives during our journey with Him.

Whoever believes in me will do the works that I do... John 14:12

If you love Me, you will keep My commandments...John 14:15

Remain in me, as I remain in you ... John 15:4

This is my commandment. Love one another as I love you ... John 15:12

This advice and guidance was not given to condemn us! *"I have told you this so that you might not fall away,"* Jesus said in verse one of John 16. Our Lord knew that the established church of the day would come after His disciples. He knew the evil one would sow fear, uncertainty and doubt over the hope and redemption He was giving the world. So Jesus offered these guidelines, these road signs, to help us find and remain in Him – the way – and be secure in His redemption.

It's never complicated with Jesus.

For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son, so that everyone who believes in Him might not perish but might have eternal life. John 3:16