

The Only Way to God

Lesson 13

John 14:1-14

Opener

Ask: Have you ever taken a shortcut to go somewhere that ended up getting you lost? You thought you knew the way, only to find that you were further away than when you started?!? Usually, there is one way to a destination that is the *best* way.

Many people try to take shortcuts or detours in their relationship with God. They think if they can do enough good things, read enough books, or follow a certain belief system that they can attain salvation.

In the Scripture today, Jesus assures us that HE is the only way to get to God. As it says in Acts 4:12, “Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved.” Not Buddha, not Muhammed, not New Age meditation or zodiac signs. **JESUS IS THE ONLY WAY TO GOD!!!**

Scripture

Jesus told him, “I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one can come to the Father except through me. . . . Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father!”
- John 14:6,9

Discussion

vv. 1-5

Jesus is trying to prepare his disciples for his death. Part of this preparation involves assuring them that he is the Messiah—that he is God. His words here are like those of a loving father moving to a new place ahead of his family. He tells them not to worry—that he will get the new home ready for them. Then when it is ready, he will come back and take them with him. Then they can all be together.

That is exactly the message Jesus gives his disciples. He will go on to heaven ahead of them, get it ready, and then come back and take them with him. And they will be together forever.

However, when Jesus states that “You know where I am going and how to get there,” Thomas confesses that he does *not* know where Jesus is going or the way to get there. Jesus uses Thomas’ question to assure him and all the disciples exactly who he is and why he has come.

vv. 6-7

Jesus came to earth to show us the Way to the Father and to bridge the gap between us and God. Through his sacrificial death, Jesus became the Way to eternal life with God. He really cannot make it any clearer than he does in these verses. Just in case there is any doubt that Jesus is the only way to God, he states it plainly.

Some religions believe that there are many ways to reach God. If you are ever approached with this belief, John 14:6 is the perfect verse to share. As Billy Graham often states, either Jesus is who he said he was, he was a liar, or he was crazy! It is impossible to read verse 6 and believe Jesus was just a “good man.”

Evidently the disciples were still not certain about Jesus’ identity as God’s Son. He tells them in verse 7: “If you had known who I am, then you would have known who my Father is.” He then assures them that because they have seen him, they have seen God!

vv. 8-11

In Colossians 1:15, Paul states that “Christ is the visible image of the invisible God.” This is exactly what Jesus is trying to get across to his followers. He was much more than just a good man or teacher—He is God! That was probably hard for them then and for us today to grasp, since he came as a human being. But the fact remains: Jesus is God.

Again, Jesus wants his disciples to be certain of who he is before his impending death. So he repeats it again in verse 9: “Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father!”

Ask: Is it hard for you to believe that Jesus and God are one and the same?

Listen to the words of Paul again in Colossians: “Christ is the one through whom God created everything in heaven and earth. . . . Everything has been created through him and for him. He existed before everything else began, and he holds all creation together” (vv.16-17).

It is hard to understand why the God who created all things and holds them all together would become a created being and die for his creation. This is the amazing love of Christ which sets Christianity apart from any other religion. There is no other love that can compare to the love of the Father for his people.

vv. 12-14

These verses are easily misunderstood. Is Jesus saying that his followers can do greater miracles than he did: raising the dead, healing the sick, etc.? Jesus’ meaning goes deeper than this. The greatest miracle of all is when a person’s soul is saved and they gain eternal life. *This* is what Jesus called his followers to do—to make disciples (Matthew 28:19-20). From this standpoint, his followers did even greater works than he, for many came to Christ after his time on earth.

Jesus says that his followers can do greater works “because [he] is going to be with the Father” (v.12). In other words, although not with them physically, he will leave his Holy Spirit with them. This Spirit will guide them and give them strength to do his work.

Leon Morris in his book on John helps us understand the meaning of verse 13. He says that Jesus is referring to

prayer that is exercised in order to set forward the work that Jesus came to do.

That kind of prayer is not prayer directed toward selfish ends. If we are praying for something we would like but which is not in accordance with all that the “name” stands for, then such prayer is not covered by what Jesus is saying.

True prayer is prayer that fits in with the “name” (*Reflections on the Gospel of John*, p. 501).

Application

Ask: Have you been trying to take shortcuts in your relationship with God? Do you believe that trusting Jesus is the only way to have eternal life? Jesus desperately wants you to know him—so much so that he came as one of us and died to save us.

Jesus is now in heaven getting it ready for us to be with him. So there is no reason to be troubled or afraid if we believe in him.

The bottom line of today’s lesson is that Jesus is supreme over all. He is the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. All things were created in and through him. He died to save us, and because of this life and death, we can have eternal life. Colossians 1:19-20 states that “God in all his fullness was pleased to live in Christ, and by him God reconciled everything to himself. He made peace with everything in heaven and on earth by means of his blood on the cross.”

Belief in Jesus is the only way to have a relationship with God. Salvation belongs to Jesus Christ. Trust him today and see the things he can do through you!