***“The God We Know:***

***Exploring the ‘I Am’ Sayings of Jesus”***

**Lenten Bible Study: Week 6**

**April 5, 2023**

**“I Am the Way, the Truth, and the Life:**

**Knowing God’s Way”**

**The objective of This Session:**

 The focal point of this lesson is to consider the larger purpose of Jesus’ time on earth, discern what that means for us as believers today, and develop a practice to help us be intentional about our walk with Jesus as He invites us to follow.

**Opening Prayer**

 **Loving God, be with us in this time together, so that we may more clearly see the truth of who you are and who you want us to be as the church.**

 **Show us how to be your people no matter where we are and how we feel. We ask this in the name of Jesus, who is the Way, Truth, and Life. Amen.**

**Read John 14:1-9 (NIV)**

 1 “Do not let your hearts be troubled. You believe in God; believe also in me.

 2 My Father’s house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you?

 3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am.

 4 You know the way to the place where I am going.”

 5 Thomas said to him, “Lord, we don’t know where you are going, so how can we know the way?”

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

 7 If you really know me, you will know my Father as well. From now on, you do know him and have seen him.”

 8 Philip said, “Lord, show us the Father and that will be enough for us.”

 9 Jesus answered: “Don’t you know me, Philip, even after I have been among you such a long time? Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, ‘Show us the Father’?

Repeat a word, phrase, verse, or idea in this passage that speaks to you.

Let’s reflect for 2 minutes in silence about the word, phrase, verse, or idea that spoke to you in this passage

**Video**

 This video segment is filmed in several locations within Israel. Pastor Rob will be talking about the importance of roads and about the context for Jesus’ statement “I am the Way.”

 Listen to hear whom Jesus was speaking to and what the original context can add to our understanding of the meaning of this statement “I am the Way.” for us today.

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**Commentary on John 14:1-9**

1. **The Scene**
* Upper Room
* Before Jesus was arrested
* Jesus had already dismissed Judas *[who betrayed Him with a kiss]* from the room
* Jesus knew that the world of the 11 disciples was about to be shattered…
* Bewildered—*puzzle, confused and perplexed*
* Confused—*not thinking coherently*
* Devastated—*overwhelmed or shocked*
* Deep Sorrow—*distress caused by a loss*
* Jesus, in his last hours before His death, comforts His disciples spiritually and emotionally

 **1 “Do not let your hearts be troubled. You believe in God; believe also in me.**

* Faith in Jesus Christ will soften [not remove] the painful emotions that accompany the mental blows of death
1. **Jesus explains to His disciples, in part, what heaven will be like**

 **2 My Father’s house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you?**

* Dwelling places—prepared for all who placed their trust in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior
1. **Jesus Reassures His disciples of His return**

 **3 And if I go and prepare a place for you,** **I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am.**

* This is the Rapture of the saints [all believers] at the end of time
* Jesus is coming back to earth for those who are alive and to raise the bodies of those who have died in Christ
* Rapture—1 Corinthians 15:50-54; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18
* The church [all believers] will celebrate—Revelation 19:6-10
* Receive Rewards for our faithfulness—1 Corinthians 3:9-15; 2 Corinthians 5:9-11
* The church will return to earth with Christ—Revelation 19:11 – 20:6
1. **Jesus declares ‘I Am the Way, the Truth, and the Life”**

 **4 You know the way to the place where I am going.”**

 **5 Thomas said to him, “Lord, we don’t know where you are going, so how can we know the way?”**

 **6 Jesus answered, “I am the way and the truth and the life.****No one comes to the Father except through me.**

* **Jesus is the way**—He is not one of many ways, He is the Way
* He is Salvation
* Christianity is Christ
* Obeying the Ten Commandments, The Golden Rule, or Church Membership, and feeding the hungry, etc. is not the way—these are acts of kindness that reflect one who is in Christ

Eph 2:8-10

 8 For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God,

 9 not of works, lest anyone should boast.

 10 For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.

YouTube:

 “Domingo de Ramos” is a family day, **the arrival of Jesus on a donkey**,

 Some people say that all religions will eventually lead us to God if we’re sincere and faithful to that particular faith—this is not true.

* Jesus said, **“No one comes to the Father except through me.”**

However: **John 10:16**

 "And other sheep I have which are not of this fold; them also I must bring, and they will hear My voice; and there will be one flock and one shepherd.

Q = What do you think John 10:16 means?

* **Jesus is the Truth**
* He is not just a prophet who teaches the truth—He is the Truth
* Jesus is the embodiment of the Truth—**John 5:39**

“You search the Scriptures because you think they give you eternal life. But the Scriptures point to me!”

* The Word of God is The Truth

**John 1:1 (NLT)**

 “In the beginning, the Word already existed. The Word was with God, and the Word was God.”

**John 1:14 (Contemporary English Version)**

 “The Word became a human being and lived here with us. We saw his true glory, the glory of the only Son of the Father. From him, the complete gifts of undeserved grace and truth have come down to us.”

* **Jesus is the Life**
* He is the source of all earthly life and eternal life

**John 11:25 (English Standard Version**)

 “Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he dies, yet shall he live”

* The darkness of sin cannot destroy the Life of Jesus

 **John 1:4-5 (NLT)**

 “4 The Word gave life to everything that was created, and his life brought light to everyone.
 5 The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness can never extinguish it.”

* God invites us to open our hearts to the Life that is in Christ

**Galatians 2:20 (English Standard Version)**

 “I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

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Q = What would Jesus say to Christians who think that only their denomination teaches the truth about how to be “saved”?

**Closing Litany/Prayer:**

**One:** When we face a complicated situation that challenges us to see what

 God wants us to do, we can remember Jesus saying to his friends,

**All:** “I am the Way.”

**One:** When we find ourselves wondering if we’re really accepted by God, we

 can take comfort in remembering the grace embodied in Jesus who

 said,

**All:** “I am the Way.”

**One:** When we are tempted to believe that we know who’s in and who’s out,

 we can remember that Jesus welcomed outsiders and outcasts and

 said,

**All:** “I am the Way.”

**One:** When we fall into the trap of thinking that faith is about rules, we can

 remember the call to the relationship found in Jesus’ words,

**All:** “I am the Way.”

**One:** When we wake in the morning and wonder what God asks of us in that

 day’s encounters, we can find our model and our answer in the one

 who said,

**All:** “I am the Way.”

**Prayer**

 **Living Christ, thank you for showing us the way. Help us to understand that just as you have sought us and found us, you are seeking all those around us too. Teach us to live and to speak about our faith in such a way that other seekers will be drawn into a relationship with you. Amen.**