

Week Seven: 'I am the way and the truth and the life.'

OPENING PRAYER

READ | *John 14:1-13*

¹"Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God; trust also in me. ²In my Father's house are many rooms; if it were not so, I would have told you. I am going there to prepare a place for you. ³And 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. ⁴You know the way to the place where I am going."

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

⁶Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. ⁷If you really knew me, you would know my Father as well. From now on, you do know him and have seen him."

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

⁹Jesus 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'? ¹⁰Don't you believe that I am in the Father, and that the Father is in me? The words I say to you are not just my own. Rather, it is the Father, living in me, who is doing his work. ¹¹Believe me when I say that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; or at least believe on the evidence of the miracles themselves. ¹²I tell you the truth, anyone who has faith in me will do what I have been doing. He will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father. ¹³And I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Son may bring glory to the Father.

DISCUSS

1. What is Jesus talking about in verses 1-4? Why might Thomas and the disciples (v. 5) have been confused or uncertain about this? Why needn't His followers' hearts be troubled?
2. *No one comes to the Father except through me.* Why would it be important to preserve Jesus' being the only way to *the Father* and to salvation? What is undermined if this is not true?
3. How would you respond to a claim that Jesus intended his words in verse 6 only for the twelve disciples and not for all humanity? How can we know Jesus was *the way and the truth and the life* for everyone, always?

APPLY

1. St. Augustine wrote, "Whatsoever we ask that is adverse to the interests of salvation, we do not ask in the name of the Savior." Does verse 13 include a blanket promise that Jesus will give a person whatever they want, if requested *in my name*? Why is Jesus offering not a formula, but a promise to those who will pray in His name and toward that which brings glory to the Father. When does prayer honor God?

CLOSING PRAYER

Prayer suggestions: > *that in Jesus, 'the way and the truth and the life', would be exactly that in our lives more fully; that the kind of Savior Jesus desires to be for us would point to such a dramatic story of grace on our behalf that it would astonish and change us, and make us more like our Savior*