

I AM
I Am the Way, the Truth, and the Life, part 2
John 14:1-11
March 25, 2018

Big Idea – Jesus exhorts his disciples to trust God to overcome their troubled hearts. Then gives four reasons why they should trust him.

We are in the midst of a short series leading up to Easter called, I AM, looking at a few of Jesus' I am statements. Last week we looked at I am the light of the world (John 8); this week, we will look at I am the way, the truth, and the life (John 14:1-11). Last week, I said that I am is the name God used to describe himself to Moses (Ex 3:14). Jesus uses I am to identify himself as God. Today's I AM statement, "I am the way, the truth, and the life" is an exclusive claim that he is the only way to God. But that is not the main reason Jesus says it. Let me set the scene to help us appreciate the passage. Judas, one of the twelve, has left to betray Jesus (13:21-30); then Jesus announces that he is leaving them for good (13:33); and finally, Jesus foretells that Peter will deny him three times (13:38). I think they are confused and distraught. Their hopes of a conquering Messiah are crumbling as it appears that Jesus' ministry is falling apart. And they are struggling as they consider life without Jesus. The answer to their troubled hearts is to believe in God by believing in Jesus. The life Jesus promises, includes the power to deal with turmoil in our hearts. Jesus says to believe me for strength and peace and power to overcome the turmoil in your heart. This exhortation is not just for the moment but in the coming hours Jesus will be arrested, beaten, and then crucified. And the disciples will abandon him and deny him. So, to convince them and us to trust him, Jesus gives us four reasons why we should trust him (see 20:30-31). So, if you are a Christian, the answer to your turmoil, is trust Jesus. If you are not a Christian, the answer to your turmoil, anything you are dealing with really, is trust Jesus.

First, trust Jesus because God has a big house (2). Our ultimate destination, God's house, has plenty of space for all of God's children (1:12). I am leaving and in the next day you will all abandon me but do not let your shame and fear produce turmoil. Trust Jesus because there is a place for all his children forever.

Second, trust Jesus because he is going to preparing a place for you (2-3). Jesus is going to make God's house ready for them. What's not finished is the way to the Father's house so Jesus must go to the cross. Sin has created an infinitely wide chasm between God and humanity that only Jesus can overcome by his death. He is the Lamb who takes away the sin of the world (1:29) by absorbing God's wrath for us (2 Cor 5:21). He speaks to his friends who will deny him and abandon him. He speaks to each of one of us, you do not need to be in turmoil because you are sinful and unworthy. Your sin does not have to exclude you from your place in God's household because Jesus went to purchase your forgiveness and become the way to the Father. Not only does he make our room available, but he makes it secure for those he saves. So, do not let your hearts be troubled, trust Jesus.

The **Third** reason is, Jesus will take you there (3). Jesus said, *if I prepare a place for you, then believe in me because I will take you there.* He prepares a place for us because he is coming again to take us to himself so we can be there with him. His coming again refers to Jesus' second coming when he will be reunited with his people. In saying this, he shifts his focus from a place to a person, himself. The bible speaks of two comings of Christ, the first to offer bring salvation and his second, to bring judgment to those who have rejected him. The essence of the Father's house, of heaven, is the presence of God and Jesus. Jesus says, I am going to my death and then be resurrected so I can be your dwelling place, your room. Do not be troubled because I go to the cross to secure the way for your eternity with me. It is secure because Jesus promises to come back for them. Thomas responds, we do not know where you are going? How can we know the way (5)?

Jesus picks up on Thomas's words and gives the **fourth** reason, trust Jesus because he is the way to the Father (5-7). Jesus does not just point people to God, he is the way to God because he goes to the cross. Thus, he says, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father but by

me. If you know me, then you know my Father also. From now on you will know him and have seen him (6-7).” Jesus went to prepare a place for them by becoming the way they get there. So, the way to God is a person, Jesus, who went to the cross to pay the penalty for your sin and rose again. This sets Jesus apart from every other world religion. All other religions teach that the way to God is you doing something to be accepted by God. Ask the average person on the street and they think that they will get to heaven because they are a good person, however they define it. But Christianity says you will never be good enough to get to heaven. That is why Jesus came and died on the cross, the way to God is based upon what Jesus did for us. Jesus is not only the way he is also the truth. Jesus is the truth because he reveals God the Father perfectly, “if you know me you know the Father.” To know Jesus is to know God the Father, to hear Jesus is to hear God the Father (6). How can Jesus make this claim to absolute truth? Because he is God. If you question that, read the gospel of John and I think you will recognize that he is no mere man. Jesus is the way, the truth, and the life. Life in the gospel of John is eternal life, the life of God, that comes by faith in Jesus. This is why trusting him overcomes turmoil in the human heart. This life gives us the power to overcome our sin and transforms our hearts. Do not let your hearts be troubled because Jesus is the way, the truth, and the life. That is, he is the way to God, he is the truth that you can rely on, and he is the life that infuses you with power to overcome any sin in your heart.

But this is not just for ourselves, just so we can live without turmoil. When we are in turmoil, we become preoccupied with ourselves. But Jesus came to give us life not only for ourselves but so that we can love others. Jesus says the way to overcome the turmoil in your heart and be of help to others is trust God by trusting me. Do not let your hearts be troubled because Jesus is the way, the truth, and the life.

Questions for Life Groups:

1. What does it mean to have your heart be troubled?
2. Read what has happened in chapter thirteen to help understand the turmoil the disciples were in (13:21-38). What are the three things that created the turmoil?
3. What are examples of life situations what have created turmoil in your life? What currently creates turmoil in your heart?
4. How is trusting in Jesus the antidote to turmoil in your heart?
5. Why did Jesus say trust in God and trust also in me?
6. What are some of the reasons Jesus gave for trusting in him? How do they help you trust Jesus?
7. In what ways are you troubled in life that you need to trust Jesus?
8. How does trusting in Jesus help us to love others?
9. How are you doing helping others?

