

## **John 14:5-7**

Main Point: Jesus is the only way to Salvation

Because Jesus is the Way—follow Him  
Because Jesus is the Truth—have confidence in Him  
Because Jesus is the Life—live Him

### **Introduction:**

Good morning everyone – Our passage today is John 14:5-7.

Since I have never done this before I am going to make it easier by talking about myself which is something I know how to do.

I am going to mix in a little of my testimony today.

This way you all could get to know me a little better and what motivates me.

I came to faith when I got sober in AA 12 years ago.

Before I met Christ I completely destroyed my life with alcohol and drugs.

I will spare you the details but it was really bad.

And, I have to say, if it can be of any use to anyone who is struggling here please come talk to me.

What I will tell you is that I am no stranger to sin and what it does to your life and your soul.

12 years ago I never would have believed that I would be up here today, committed to Christ, and doing this.

What Christ has done in my life is a miracle!

When I hear the song *Amazing Grace*, the line “I once was lost but now I'm found” really gets to me.

I was lost before Christ and it was very dark.

But if you can't relate to that, I'm sure you have been lost before trying to get to some place.

The key thing about being lost, is to be lost, you have to have a destination.

Otherwise, you are just wandering.

It's a scary feeling being lost, when you look around and you don't know where you are it's disorienting.

Maybe now with smartphones this doesn't happen very often but at one time you could actually get lost and not have instant directions at your finger tips.

My point is, we have to know where we are going, before we can figure out the way to our destination.

You have to have a destination to know the way to take.

Every life has the same arc: birth, life, and death.

But there are different choices we can make within that arc that will lead to different destinations.

The solution that 12 step programs offer to overcome addiction is a spiritual awakening that will solve your problem.

It was through the 12 steps that I found God.

The claim they make is that you can choose any “higher power or god” that you want and through the 12 steps have a spiritual awakening to become recovered.

But Jesus tells us that there is only one God and that it is Him.

Much of modern day culture makes a similar claim that everyone has their own truth.

The ideas that we are going to see in our scripture reading today are:

What is the destination in the arc of life, what way should we take to get there, and is there more than one way?

Let’s see what Jesus says about it.

Let’s open up Bibles to John 14. We are going to start reading at the beginning of the chapter.

The passage is on page 929 in the church Bibles.

Raise your hand if you need a Bible and someone will come around and give you one.

I am going to read the first four verses of the chapter just to get some context but we’re going to focus our attention on verses 5-7.

*“Don’t let your heart be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. <sup>2</sup> In my Father’s house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I am going to prepare a place for you? <sup>3</sup> If I go away and prepare a place for you, I will come again and take you to myself, so that where I am you may be also. <sup>4</sup> You know the way to where I am going.”*

*<sup>5</sup> “Lord,” Thomas said, “we don’t know where you’re going. How can we know the way?”*

*<sup>6</sup> Jesus told him, “I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. <sup>7</sup> If you know me, you will also know my Father. From now on you do know him and have seen him.”*  
*John 14:1-7*

*[Christian Standard Bible](#) (Nashville, TN: Holman Bible Publishers, 2020), Jn 14:1-7.*

### *The Word of Lord*

This verse is very well known by Christians and it is my hope that you carry this verse around in your heart and it provides security, comfort, and confidence.

The whole Christian faith rests on this statement by Jesus: I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life.

So let's look at the three ideas Jesus presents.

**Idea 1 is→**

#### **1. Because Jesus is the way—follow Him**

Let's go back to our Bibles and look at verses 4-6 again.

*<sup>4</sup> You know the way to where I am going.”*

*<sup>5</sup> “Lord,” Thomas said, “we don’t know where you’re going. How can we know the way?”*

*<sup>6</sup> Jesus told him, “I am the way,*

Jesus was in the process of comforting His disciples when he said this.

He knew that he was going to be leaving them soon and that they were going to need his direction to lead them in the tough times ahead.

They needed clear direction because Jesus was about to be crucified which was the last thing they would have ever expected from a savior.

They were going to be feeling pretty lost.

They didn't seem to be getting it.

Thomas says: "*we don't know where you're going.*"

At this point Jesus had told His disciples everything they needed to know for salvation; they had seen many miracles.

They had even seen Lazerus raised from the dead.

Jesus said "*You know the way to where I am going*" so that they would realize it was Him, It's Jesus!

I can relate to Thomas in that I didn't get it at first.

I read the Bible everyday for years and didn't understand a lot.

In a minute I will tell you what finally opened my eyes but not yet.

Jesus told Thomas and the disciples unequivocally who He is, "I am the way."

He is the only way to salvation, it's Him.

The difference between us and Thomas and the apostles is our background beliefs.

We all get shaped by our culture whether we like it or not and for the apostles their culture was that they were Jews.

The background belief of the ancient Jew is that there is only one God and to claim to be the way to the Father or to be God is Blasphemy.

It's beyond controversial; it was punishable by death.

For the Jew, the way to God and salvation was the temple system and law of Moses.

Jesus completely blew this up when He said he is the Way.

The thing that every Jew knew back then and knew well was that they can't just approach God.

They understand that there is a God and they fall short of Him.

That's why they have the Law of Moses and that's why they needed a priest to make sacrifices for them to atone for their sin.

They knew that only the high priest can approach God, in the temple, in the holiest of holies, once a year on Yom Kippur.

Ancient Jews knew that there is one God, and that they Sin, and that they needed redemption.

Our culture in New York, in the United States, teaches us that humans are inherently good.

The culture teaches that we are basically good people.

If you went to Rich's evangelism class then you learned this: walk up to someone on the street and ask them "are you a good person and if there is a God will you go to heaven based on His standards?"

They will say "yeah, I think I'm a good person and yeah God would send me to heaven."

The background belief of much modern culture is that there is no God, but if there is, he wouldn't send people to hell because they are basically good.

The culture teaches that all things come from the material world and that humans are inherently good.

In our culture, to claim that there is only one way to God and salvation can be seen as closed minded, even bigoted, and the opposite of love.

The hope of the Gospel is lost if people don't even know that there is an objective morality set by God, that we break when we Sin, and that **we all fall short of the glory of God. (Rom 3:23)**

You don't need a savior if there is nothing to be saved from.

This is the first destination on the arc of life we need to know before we can figure out which way to go—we are all sinners in need of saving!

So what's the point of contrasting the two cultures?

It is to see that what Jesus said was just as radical then as it is now, and that we are lost in sin, and that Jesus is the one and only way out—salvation.

Jesus is the Way.

Our destination is to be found in Him or to be lost in sin.

For the person who has not yet placed their faith in Jesus this might seem radical but there is more to what Jesus says here that we need to consider.

But Christ leaves no doubt as to who he is, the only way to salvation!

Jesus is the way to Salvation—so follow him.

Now Continuing on to the second part of verse 6

## **2. Because Jesus is the Truth—have confidence in Him**

My coming to faith was a process that has been both experiential and intellectual.

The experiential side of it was I placed my faith in Christ and was dramatically changed by it.

I know without a doubt that God did for me what I could not do for myself and that was free from a life controlled by sin.

I am no longer a slave to sin.

That's where Amazing Grace connects so deeply "I once was lost but now I'm found."

I know that it is only by the power of God that I am who I am today.

The intellectual side of my faith was more of a process.

That's where I relate to Thomas and him not knowing the way even though it was right in front of him.

Since coming to faith I had to figure out what I was going to do with my life and I ended up getting a degree in civil engineering.

I like to think logically and I like the predictability built into God's creation that's found in math and science.

There were things in the Bible that I didn't understand and wasn't sure how to understand them.

What changed my understanding of Jesus and who he is, was to know that He is "the Truth."

Truth in my mind is like a beautiful equation that elegantly solves a problem.

When the problem is solved there is no arguing with it.

It is either right or wrong. True or false!

Once I saw the truth the destination was clear.

The thing that my misunderstanding did for me was propel me toward wanting to know more.

Christian apologetics changed my faith from the experiential to intellectual.

So I understood here→heart and→head.

Apologetics appeals to my engineering mindset.

For those of you who don't know what apologetics are, it's a branch of theology that focuses on rational defense and justification of religious beliefs mainly in response to objections, skepticism, or competing worldviews.

It analyzes the Truth claims of the Christian faith.

The name has nothing to do with apologies so don't let that put you off.

It is just from the Greek word apologia which means "speech in defense."

One of the great apologetic books is Mere Christianity by C.S. Lewis.

In that book Lewis makes the argument that Jesus is either a lunatic, a liar, or Lord.

It is simple Jesus is either who He said he was—God, or he was so deluded in his belief about himself he was a lunatic, or he lied about who he was.

This leaves us no middle ground.

Jesus can't be a great moral teacher unless he was the Truth.

Great moral teachers don't lie about who they are or are so deluded into false beliefs they make claims that are untrue.

That gives us two choices: Jesus is Truth or He is not.

Jesus being the truth is significant and especially important to the plight of humanity because we find ourselves in the situation we are in, the fallen world, because of lies.

In the garden of Eden, the serpent told Eve that God had lied to her about death being the penalty for eating the fruit of the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil.

The serpent's lies lead to Eve believing that following God's commands was not the way to blessing and freedom.

It led to her taking life into her own hands and eating the fruit which brought sin and death into the world.

Truth is the only cure for the lies that bring sin and death into the World.

What changed everything for me was looking into the resurrection.

After researching and reading about the resurrection, I realized Jesus actually rose from the dead.

God came to Earth as a man—Jesus to pay the penalty for our sins and rose from the dead conquering death.

The resurrection tells us that Jesus is the truth!

At that point, I realized there is NOTHING more important than that Truth!

Jesus really is God and we can know Him, through His life, through the Bible, through prayer, through the Holy Spirit living within us.

We have the God who is with us and who is Truth!

The only destination in life that is worth pointing towards is one that is real and one that is True.

A destination that has the power of salvation and is the one and only Way.

God had been revealing himself before Jesus but he made his revelation clear in the life of Jesus.

The one and only way to salvation is found in Jesus and is revealed by His truth.

This truth gives us confidence in what we place our faith in.

Jesus' resurrection gives the ultimate confidence.

He has the power of life and death.

We should place our faith in Jesus because he is the Truth and we should be confident because we have the God who has revealed Himself to us as the Way of Life.

I would not be standing up here today for a good moral teacher.

There are a lot of great books out there with moral principles.

I am up here because Jesus is the Truth.

The Way to salvation.

**The third idea is→**

### 3. Because Jesus is the Life—live Him

The final destination that Jesus gave in John 14:6 is He is “*the life*” .

When Jesus says he is “the life” he is talking about two realities.

First, he is talking about our status in life.

We live in the fallen world and “The wages of sin is death” (Rom 6:23).

Apart from Christ we are spiritually dead.

We are unable to do anything on our own for our salvation.

As we have seen, the one and only way to salvation is Jesus.

Do any of you remember the movie the Green Mile?

The movie was loosely allegorical about Christ.

The main characters' initials were JC.

He had the power to bring things back to life and he willingly goes to be executed without a fight knowing he is innocent.

In the movie, The Green Mile is a green hallway that leads to the electric chair.

The condemned walks the green mile to execution.

There is a scene in the movie where the main character John Coffey is walking the green mile to be executed and the guard calls out “Dead man walking, dead man walking here!”

In the scene, you can feel how cruelty of the guard.

He yells it out to be cruel.

In the context of what Jesus is telling us, He is the life, it is not cruel to say we are all dead men walking.

In this life, apart from Christ, we are all the walking dead, and life is just the green mile we walk to eternal death apart from him.

For someone like me, who's life was destroyed by sin, I feel this to my core!

I know what it is to be spiritually dead.

Hell has been explained as a place where we are separated from God, spiritually dead, and without hope.

I know what that felt like, in this life, and I don't EVER want to go back there.

Christ gave me life when I placed my faith in Him and I am thankful for it every single day.

I was a person who had nothing, reached out to God, and was given life.

Christ restored me from the hopeless state of being spiritually dead.

I know how to share my testimony with broken people who have destroyed their lives with sin like myself.

It's the person who appears to have everything.

How do you tell them that they are spiritually dead?

Sin is deceptive and it's not always obvious.

For example, there are people who are constantly doing things for other people, but with the wrong motive.

They do things for other people but they do it for the recognition they get.

They take something good and turn it sinful.

There are countless examples of twisting what is good but the point is the spiritually dead take good things of God's creation and twist them.

When we know that we are not the center of life but Christ is, it keeps us pointed in the right direction.

We all fall short of the Glory of God (Rom 3:23) and to have life we need to be born again.

John 3:3 says "truly I tell you, unless someone is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God."

It's so easy to say, place your faith in Christ and you will be given life, health, wealth, all that your heart desires.

It fills churches but it's a false Gospel.

We so easily to take the good things that God built into life and make them idols: family, career, money, love, power, these are all good things if they are in alignment with Christ.

Since coming to Christ I have been given everything I wanted in life and I am incredibly grateful for God's blessings, but I realize that after every goal accomplished—I just set a new one.

I always want more.

It's the human condition.

None of it means anything if not in alignment with God's will.

He is the destination for life and all that is good in it.

To be spiritually alive in Christ and following Him is Life.

There will be inevitable suffering in this life and there will be triumphs but to be freed from sin and living life in relationship with Jesus is the true hope.

Because Jesus is the life—live him.

How do we do that?

For those of you who have not yet come to faith, it is done by seeing that Jesus is the one and only way to Salvation, the way of truth that brings life.

We need to acknowledge that we are sinners, ask for forgiveness and turn our lives over to Christ and then we will be given life and be born again.

I think most of us here have already placed our faith in Christ and have life.

The problem I have and the problem I think a lot of us have is we struggle to make Christ the center of our lives.

We go to church on Sunday, we do Christian stuff, but we segment our lives.

Making Christ the center of our life does not mean we have to change everything about our lives; what it means is making sure every part of our life is in alignment with God's will.

Again, how do we do that?

I am going to list all the typical ways but the one thing we can't forget is first and foremost we do it by the power of the Holy Spirit.

We need to know our Bibles, all of scripture points us to Jesus, and we have the power of salvation in it.

We need to take time to pray throughout each day really seeking to put everything we do into alignment with God's will so we live by Biblical principles.

We should be seeking to be discipled by Christ through prayer, and from the scriptures.

We should also be seeking to be discipled by other Christians who have experience that we don't.

This brings us to the second reality that Jesus is talking about when He says He is "the life."

Jesus is—eternal life the final destination.

The three ideas that Christ gives us about Himself are all connected: He is the one and only way to salvation and the truth that leads to eternal life.

Jesus said "Whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life and will not be judged but has crossed over from death to life" (John 5:24).

Our lives have eternal value.

When Jesus says he is the life he means we can have life forever, with Him, the source of life itself.

Pointed towards this destination we have immense hope and security.

This life is only a blip; the promise of salvation is eternal.

Now let's look at the last part of the verses we are covering today.

Jesus ends what he said to Thomas by reiterating the exclusivity of His statement.

*...No one comes to the Father except through me. <sup>7</sup>If you know me, you will also know my Father. From now on you do know him and have seen him.” John 14:6–7*

This brings us back to the main point of the sermon: Jesus is the only way to salvation.

Jesus is making an exclusive truth claim here.

He leaves no doubt to who and what He is.

He is LORD—the author of our salvation.

The exclusivity of it was as incredible then as it is now.

But let me ask you a question: If I say there is no God.

Is this an exclusive truth claim and one based on faith I might add?

Or if I say that, with our limited human minds, all the religions get God a little right but none can claim to know the only way to God.

Is that an exclusive truth claim and again one based on faith?

Yeah! Those are exclusive truth claims.

In fact, saying that there is no truth is a truth claim in itself.

When Jesus says “No one comes to Father except through me” (John 14:6).

He is saying that he is the one and only way to salvation.

Is it exclusive, yeah, but it’s no more exclusive a claim than saying there are many ways to God.

Both are saying I'm right and you're not.

Again Jesus is either a liar, a lunatic, or LORD!

Who do you say He is?

Jesus asked the same question to his disciples.

He said *“Who do people say that the Son of Man is?” “Simon Peter answered ‘you are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.’”*(Matt 16:13,16).

The final piece of our scripture reading today is what we get when we accept Christ as the way, the truth, and the life.

We get to know Him, we get to know God!

Looking back at our Bibles in verse 7 Jesus says *“If you know me, you will also know my Father. From now on you do know him and have seen him.”* (John 14:7).

This is the most incredible part of the Christian faith.

We get Christ, God with us—Emmanuel!

In the perfect life of Jesus, his death on the cross, and through his resurrection we see all that God is and does.

We see that Jesus is the only way to salvation.

The barrier between man and God, that was erected in the fall, has been restored by Christ.

God is no longer housed in the Temple, only for the priest to approach.

He is with us!

He is the Way, He is the Truth, and he is the Life.

So I say don't get lost, don't make Christ just a part of your life, make Him the totality of your Life because He is the Truth and He is the only destination worth heading towards!

Lets Pray

Lord Jesus