

Jesus is the Only Way to God

Gospel of John, Part L

John 14:5-7

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I. The Blind Men and the Elephant

II. The “Where” and the “Way”

A. Confusion (14:5 cf. 12:23-24; 13:1-3, 31)

- I. Prologue: The Identity of the Son of God (1:1-18)
- II. Jesus Proven to be the Christ & the Son of God in His Public Ministry (1:19-12:50)
 - A. The Son of God Revealed (1:19-4:54)
 - B. The Son of God Rejected (5:1-12:36)
 - C. Conclusion (12:37-50)
- III. Jesus Proven to be the Christ & the Son of God in His Passion and Resurrection (13:1-20:31)
 - A. Introduction: He knew His hour had come (13:1)
 - B. Jesus Prepares the Disciples for His Departure (13:2-17:26)
 - C. Jesus Departs this world to the Father (18:1-20:29)
 - D. Conclusion: Purpose of the Gospel (20:30-31)
- IV. Epilogue: The Future Mission of the Son of God (21)

Jesus had announced that He was going away and then declared in 14:4 – *where I go you know, and the way you know*. This causes considerable consternation. Thomas replies, “Lord, we do not know *where* You are going, and how can we know the *way*?”

John has already explained what Jesus means by this language. He introduced this section of the Gospel with these words: “*And supper being ended, the devil have already put it into the heart of Judas Iscariot, Simon’s son, to betray Him, Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into His hands, and that He had come from God and was going to God, rose from supper...*” *Where* was Jesus going? *To God the _____*. What is the way to the Father? *Through _____ in the sacrificial death of Jesus Christ* (Jn 12:23-24; 13:31). Why? Because there was no other way for God to reconcile fallen human beings to Himself than through the sacrificial and substitutionary death of Jesus Christ.

B. Clarity (14:6-7)

1. The Way (cf. 5:22-23; 10:7-10)

With each of these declarations, Jesus thunders forth His exclusivity. Whether you agree with Jesus’ claim or not, let us not lessen His claim. The reason that Christians declare that Jesus is in the only way to God is because *Jesus Himself* claimed that. He is not “_____ way” but “_____ way” to God.

“It is not that [Jesus] teaches the way, or guides us in the way: if that were so, we could thank him for his teaching and then proceed to follow it on our own. He himself is the way, and therefore it is only by being made part of his humanity that we are on the way and know that we are not lost even though we do not see the destination” (Lesslie Newbigin, 181).

2. The Truth (cf. 1:14, 17-18)

Second, Jesus is *the truth*. Is this not an astounding claim? “*Jesus is the truth, because he embodies the supreme revelation of God – he himself ‘narrates’ [exegetes] God (1:18), says and does exclusively what the Father gives him to say and do (5:19ff; 8:29), indeed he is properly called ‘God’ (1:1, 18; 20:28). He is God’s gracious self-disclosure, his ‘Word’, made flesh (1:14)*” (Carson, 491).

3. The Life (cf. 1:4; 3:16-17; 11:25; 17:3)

Finally, Jesus is *the life*. The Apostle John told us in the beginning of His Gospel, “*All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made. In Him was life, and the life was the light of men*” (1:3-4). Because He is the Creator of all, the source of all life, He is also the only one through whom we can experience eternal life, the life of God Himself.

And lest we fear that we have misunderstood the radical, exclusive claim that Jesus is making here, He doubles down in the second half of the verse. “*No one comes to the Father except through Me.*” Jesus is the _____ way; there is no other.

III. The Exclusivity of Jesus

A. The Second Adam (cf. Rom 5:17-19; 1 Cor 15:21-23)

The NT confirms Jesus’ exclusivity by presenting Him as the Second _____, head of a new humanity. “*For since by man came death, by Man also came the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ all shall be made alive*” (1 Cor 15:21-22). “*Therefore, as through one man’s offense judgment came to all men, resulting in condemnation, even so through one Man’s righteous act the free gift came to all men, resulting in justification of life. For as by one man’s disobedience many were made sinners, so also by one Man’s obedience many will be made righteous*” (Rom 5:18-19). All men are either in Adam or in _____.

B. The Universality of Sin and the Sole Solution (Rom 3:23-25; 1 Tim 2:5-6)

Another way the NT confirms the exclusivity of Jesus is by highlighting the universality of sin. As Paul declares in Romans 3:23, “_____ *have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God...*” So what is our only hope? The only hope is the sacrificial death of Jesus Christ. There is but one God and one _____ between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus (1 Tim 2:5).

C. Hope for the Nations (Lk 24:46-47; Rom 10:13-15; Acts 4:12)

So what is the hope for the nations of the earth? The only hope lies in Jesus Christ crucified, dead, buried, resurrected, ascended, and glorified. “*Thus it is written, and thus it was necessary for the Christ to suffer and to rise from the dead the third day, and that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in _____ name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem*” (Lk 24:46-47). Jesus is the only hope for all nations. “*Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved*” (Acts 4:12).

IV. Conclusion (cf. Rev 5:9-10)