

Sermon: The Way to Life

Text: John 14:1-31

Discussion Questions:

What comes to mind when you think of heaven? What will heaven be like?

Does the thought of heaven— and what waits for you there—help you to weather the storms of life? What storms has the future hope of heaven helped you weather in your life?

How can you use the future hope of heaven to encourage others as they go through times of trial and difficulty?

For those who don't believe in heaven, what things do they hold on to as anchors when the storms of life overwhelm them? Do these anchors ultimately help?

Statistics tell us that people are most open to the message of Jesus and His love for them when they go through times of crisis. How can you use the future hope of heaven to reach out to people who are going through crisis? Have you ever done this?

Examination:

- Read **John 14:1-6**
 - Why does Jesus tell His disciples to not let their hearts be troubled (v. 1)? What has Jesus been telling them that might give them reason to be troubled (see 13:21, 33, 36-38)?
 - How are we to fight the urge to be troubled?
 - How does believing in Jesus give us peace as we face the storms of life?
 - How does Jesus describe His "Father's house" in this passage (v. 2)? What do you think Jesus meant by this? Is this to be understood as literal brick-and-mortar construction—much like we think of upscale houses in high-end neighborhoods?
 - Does the thought that there are lots of rooms in heaven give you hope? How does the idea that there is room for you to dwell with God forever give you peace in your life today?
 - When Jesus talks about going away to prepare a place, what does He add to His promise about His return and how that will impact His followers (v. 3)?
 - How do these words of Jesus give YOU hope and provide and anchor in YOUR storm? For people with cancer, or depression, or relationship problems, or any kind of struggle—what is Jesus' message to them?
 - Which disciple speaks up and confesses that they don't know where Jesus is going (v. 5)? Does it surprise you that it wasn't Peter? Does this question add to the notion that Thomas was a "doubter"? Does Thomas ask a legitimate question?
 - What does Jesus mean that He is the way, the truth and the life (v. 6)?
 - How many ways are there to get to God the Father? Doesn't Jesus seem narrow-minded? What does Jesus' statement say to those who think there are multiple ways to get to heaven and have a relationship with God?
 - Has the truth of these six verses impacted your life in any specific way?

- Read **John 14:7-14**
 - What does Jesus say about knowing the Father (vv. 7-10)? Is this a message you have heard before in the Gospel of John? Why do you think Jesus continues to emphasize this truth?
 - Have you ever prayed that God would reveal Himself to you in person (v. 8)? What was your motivation in praying that prayer?
 - Is asking God to reveal Himself wrong? Does a request for God to reveal Himself indicate that there is a lack of faith in the one making the request?
 - What does Philip's questions in verse 8 tell you about his understanding of what Jesus has been saying over and over again about His relationship with the Father?
 - Jesus makes it very clear that everything He does is actually the Father working IN AND THROUGH Him (v. 10). Is this true for every follower of Christ? Are there some people who call themselves Christians—but their lives AREN'T reflective of God at work in their lives? What role did the Holy Spirit play in the life of Jesus—and what role does He play in OUR lives?
 - The word "believe" appears in verse 10, verse 11, and verse 12. Why is believing so important? What are we to believe? What is the outcome of believing—what can be accomplished?
 - What do you think Jesus meant by the words "greater things" in verse 12?
 - Are the words "in Jesus' name" just like "magic words" that make things happen (vv. 13-14)? What is God's ultimate purpose ("so that...") for answering our prayers? How is it that God the Father is glorified in the Son when He answers our prayers and gives us whatever we ask?

- Read **John 14:15-31**
 - When Jesus says, "If you love me," what kind of love is He talking about (v. 15)? Is this kind of love based solely in emotion (how you feel)?
 - How does Jesus tell His disciples to respond if they truly love Him? How will they demonstrate their love?
 - If someone were to look at your life, would they conclude that you love Jesus by the way you keep His commandments?
 - What other promise does Jesus make to the disciples and to those who keep His commandments (vv. 16-17)? If this is "another" Helper, who is the first helper?
 - What do we know about the Holy Spirit? Explore some of the attributes of the Holy Spirit we see in other passages:
 - Psalm 139:7-10
 - Luke 1:35-37
 - Romans 8:26-27
 - If we love, we keep the commands; if we keep the commands, we are promised the help of the Spirit. What is promised for those who do not love & obey Christ?
 - What does the Holy Spirit specifically do to help the disciples take the Gospel message forward (v. 26)? How does this help you understand the nature of the Bible? (see 2 Timothy 3:16; 2 Peter 1:20-21)

Application:

Jesus knows that His time with the disciples is coming to an end, but He will not leave them alone. Just as Jesus has left the Spirit to help them, we can be assured that the Spirit has been left to help us. The gift of the Spirit is vital to every believer because we need Him to help us live the life God has called us to live. Take a moment and thank God for His Spirit that He has given to help you. Trust Him for the strength, peace, comfort, and leading that the Holy Spirit provides in your life today.