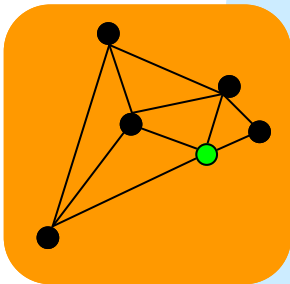


The Way, the Truth and the Life: John 14



Prayer. *Find Life* has been running across Clayfield, Eatons Hill, Kenmore/Centenary, Mitchelton (Latechurch & Villagechurch), Wavell Heights & Wilston-Windsor Presbyterian Churches. Before we start the study, pray for the things you've been discussing, and also pray for **Wilston/Windsor**. Wilston/Windsor is led by Stu Atkinson. Stu is married to Cathy and they have four kids. Their church family is diverse. Windsor is more formal with a traditional service style. At Wilston there are more young families. Pray for the team of people who are throwing themselves into serving each other and living busy lives at the same time. Pray that they would have lots of visitors at services over Easter. Pray they could welcome some musically gifted people into their congregations!

Have you ever been to one of those cafés where the sign on the wall says “best hamburgers in town”? It’s a big claim. But what do they mean? Tastiest beetroot? Freshest bread rolls? Meatiest patties? It’s a fairly safe claim, because the test is purely subjective. Jesus, on the other hand, makes the kind of unequivocal claim in John 14 that’s bound to be contentious—he says he is *the way, the truth and the life*. Let’s check it out...

Who would you rate as the most arrogant person in public life, and why?

Think of a couple of well known “gurus” in different fields. What makes them gurus?

The section from John 13.31-14. 31 is known as ‘the Upper Room Discourse.’ Jesus prepares his disciples for the events to come, and what they’ll mean for salvation, and explains their relationship with the Father, the Holy Spirit, evangelism and the importance of obedience...

Read John 14

1. Jesus is preparing his disciples for his coming death. What’s he trying to tell them?
2. What does Jesus mean when he says “Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father”? v9

3. Why would the disciples' hearts be troubled at Jesus' death?
4. What kind of rooms do you think Jesus is preparing for his followers? v2
5. The disciples seem confused at Jesus' statement about being the way, the truth and the life in v6. Are you? What's he driving at?
6. What's the benefit of Jesus telling all this to his disciples before it happens (v29)?
7. What does Jesus say about the following in the upper room?



He and the Father	
The Spirit	
The World	
The Disciples	

8. What other ways do you know of that people might think they can take to the Father?
9. Using circles representing JESUS, THE FATHER, and YOU, to draw the relationship made possible by Jesus. Explain your diagram.

10. How do you think Jesus' explanation changes the disciples' expectations in relation to:

evangelism

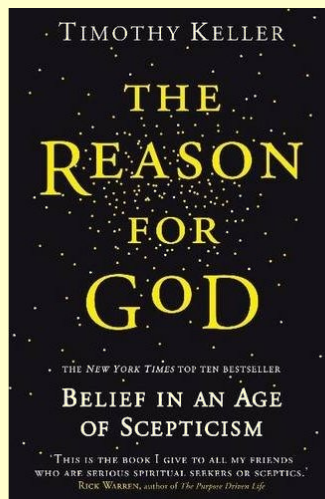
persecution

death

We must allow the impact of this to strike home to us: God's moment of supreme triumph is achieved through the betrayal, humiliation and weakness of His Son as He is nailed up to a tree by the people He has created. The cross may look weak, but it is actually the point at which God undoes all of humankind's sin and reverses the consequences of the Fall.

- 11. What objections might you expect to Jesus' claim to be the way, the truth and the life? How would you answer them?
- 12. If what Jesus says about himself, the Father, the Spirit, and his followers is true, how should it affect the way we live life in the time until Jesus' return?
- 13. It's been said that Christians should "name it and claim it" in light of what Jesus says here about prayer. What do you think?

Find Life Extra



Timothy Keller has written a book called "Reason for God". In it, he answers many of the objections our culture has to Christianity. One of those deals with the exclusive claims of Jesus such as the one here in John 14. The objection is that it's arrogant for anyone to claim absolute truth. Here's an excerpt from his book which reveals a fatal flaw to this objection.

"Sometimes this point is illustrated with the story of the blind men and the elephant. Several blind men were walking along and came upon an elephant that allowed them to touch and feel it. 'This creature is long and flexible like a snake' said the first blind man, holding the elephant's trunk. 'Not at all—it is thick and round like a tree trunk,' said the second blind man, feeling the elephant's leg. 'No, it is large and flat,' said the third blind man, touching the elephant's side. Each blind man could feel only part of the elephant—none could envisage the entire elephant. In the same way, it is argued, the religions of the world each have a grasp on part of the truth about spiritual reality, but none can see the whole elephant or claim to have a comprehensive vision of the truth.

This illustration backfires on its users. The story is told from the point of view of someone who is not blind. How could you know that each blind man only sees part of the elephant unless you claim to be able to see the whole elephant?"

So here's the fatal flaw— the person who objects that it is arrogant for Jesus to claim to be *the* truth and the *only* way to know God, is actually making their own absolute statement — that 'no one can know the truth'. That *only they can see* the whole truth, and everyone else is blind. Keller puts it well. They're just parking their bus alongside every other group who wants to make a claim on the truth. The reality is, we all make truth claims of some sort, and the solution is not to throw them out or pretend they're all the same, but carefully and responsibly weigh them up.

Jesus' departure is not a tragedy for the disciples, whose love of Jesus is shown to be genuine by their perseverance in obeying His teaching. Following His departure:

- They will receive the Spirit.
- They will be the dwelling place of the Father and the Son
- They will be reminded of the things that Jesus taught them
- They will be loved by the Father
- They will receive Jesus' peace

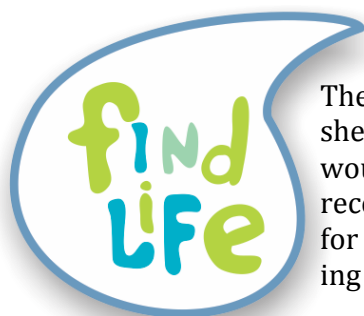
Instant replay...

Jesus says

I AM THE WAY AND THE TRUTH

AND THE LIFE

Did you figure out what he meant?



There's a huge gap between how the world sees Jesus, and the way his sheep do. Let's pray for our own sakes, and for the sake of others, that we would grow in our understanding of Jesus, that we would hear his voice, receive the life he's got for us, and hold out that same hope to others. Pray for the upcoming Easter services around all our churches. And keep praying for the people who have been praying for throughout this series.

- 1.
- 2.

Thanks for being part of Find Life.

Stuart Atkinson