

Kirkwall Presbyterian Church
'Jesus said, "I am the Way, the Truth and the Life"'
John 1:1-21
July 26, 2026
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We continue under the general theme I have entitled, *"And Jesus said..."*
 Last week we looked at His teaching using *'the Parable of the Sower.'* This week we change focus slightly to look at one of Jesus' seven 'I AM' statements, namely, *"I am the Way, the Truth and the Life."*

The last 2 ½ -3 years had, in many ways, been an emotional roller coaster for the disciples. For example, at one point while they were in Jerusalem, Jesus healed a man who had been born with deformed feet. Acting out of compassion, Jesus said, *"Get up and walk."* The cripple, who had not sought out Jesus, who did not know Jesus, was instantly cured. His feet became normal and he stood up and walked. Seeing his joy, the disciples were filled with wonder and joy for him. But a cloud soon dampened their enthusiasm. The priests, the teachers of the law, the scribes and the Pharisees were not impressed. Jesus had healed on the Sabbath! The disciples had been raised in the strict Jewish system. Anything resembling work on the Sabbath was not allowed. One part of them could understand the religious leaders' point of view; the other part saw that Jesus was right in doing good on the Sabbath. Traditions are very hard to overcome!

Although following Jesus was exciting, often they were confused and bewildered.

As the third Passover festival since they became followers of Jesus drew near, Jesus spoke of His impending death. The disciples became more confused and anxious. Jesus, the Messiah, be killed? Impossible. He who had shown His power over nature, over every disease known to men – die? Never!

Jesus, who knew the thoughts of people; who rode into Jerusalem like a victorious king, to be arrested by the Jewish and Roman police? Unthinkable!

Peter, moved by frustration, spoke out, *“Jesus, you just stop talking this nonsense. No one around here has the power to kill you!”* And Jesus rebuked him, *“You are talking like the devil; like Satan himself.”*

Jesus had come to die.

Can you feel the disciples’ tension rising. Peter expressed the hopelessness he was feeling when Jesus would not be persuaded to forgo the Passover in Jerusalem this year: *“We may as well go up with Him to Jerusalem and die with Him!!”*

They gathered with Jesus to eat the Passover at a pre-arranged upper room somewhere in Jerusalem. We are not told where, perhaps it was in Mary’s house, the mother of John Mark.

Jesus teaches them a lesson on servanthood. He washes their feet. He is both host and servant. He says to them, *“I will be with you only a little longer; where I am going you cannot come. But you will follow later.”* The disciples are bewildered, anxious, confused, afraid. Jesus knew this. As a caring father would speak to his upset children, Jesus addresses the 12 plus a few other believers, recorded by John –

John 14:1 – *“Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God; trust also in Me.”* And in their state of confusion, they may have asked, as we might ask, *“Why? Is anyone in control around here?”*

What follows are five reasons to have hope.

1. *“In my Father’s house are many rooms. If it were not so I would have told you. I am going to prepare a place for you.”* He is going to Heaven to prepare the future home for all who believe. It will be one of inexpressible beauty, and there will be one with your name on the door. We might say that He is overseeing the construction and completing reservations to Heaven!
2. *“And if I go”* – this does not mean that maybe He will or maybe He will not go. It is translated from a Greek language construction that means, *“I AM GOING,”* no question about it! *“I am going and I will come back for you.”* He is promising the second advent. He is coming again.
3. When He comes back, *“He will take you to be with Him in His Father’s house.”* If your earthly body has died, no matter, it will be resurrected

like Jesus was resurrected and so you will see Him and be with Him – forevermore.

4. Verse 4. *"You know the way to the place where I am going."* Thomas asks the question that we – in times of wonder, or doubt, or disappointment may ask, *"We do not know where you are going so how can we know the way?"* Thomas, you were not listening. Jesus has just told you He is going to Heaven, the Father's house. But our gracious Lord does not rebuke him. Rather, He emphasizes the Way. *"I am the Way!"* I am the pathway. This is a metaphor. We should understand it by adding a word, *"I am **like** the road that leads to Heaven."* There is no literal road, but for our understanding Jesus says, *"I am like the road."* There is a toll on this road. "NO SIN!" Jesus is the road; He has paid the toll. All who believe that Jesus' death on Calvary was necessary for their sin to be purged, to be cast into the sea of forgetfulness, are pardoned, are justified are declared 'NOT GUILTY,' and are on the Way, through Him who is the Way. There is only one way. *"No one comes to the Father except through Me."* No one else was sinless and qualified to purchase forgiveness for another. No one could satisfy the wrath of God toward man's disobedience except the perfect Son of God. He is the only Way.
5. The flip side is this: All who believe in Jesus as their Savior are on the Way. All who believe are having a place prepared in Heaven. All who believe will have life eternal.

But – if we adopt the popular theology that Jesus is only one of many ways to Heaven, then we trample Jesus' work underfoot – and we miss – He will not pay the toll for those who divide their loyalty with another.

Jesus goes on: *"I am the Way, THE TRUTH..."* He only speaks the truth because what He says comes from God who cannot speak other than the truth.

The sentences goes on, *"AND THE LIFE."*

John tells us in the opening words of his Gospel *that "through Jesus all things were made; without Him nothing was made that has been made. In Him was life, and that life was the light of men."* Genesis tells us that God breathed into Adam the breath of life and Adam became a living being.

Jesus, when on earth raised Jarius' 12-year-old daughter from the dead. He gave life to the only son of a widow in Nain; Lazarus, 4 days in a grave and Jesus created a new body for him in a moment.

Jesus rightfully declared, *"I am the Life."* Those who die believing in Him will receive a new body fit for Heaven.

They will be caught up – lifted up from the earth – to meet the Lord Jesus in the air. And they will be forever with the Lord because the resurrected body will be an imperishable body.

So, just hours before His arrest, the mock trials, the crucifixion, death and resurrection, Jesus encourages the believers: *Don't be overcome with fear (let your hearts be troubled)* because, in the long run things will be just fine! You who believe in Me have a glorious future waiting!! Because *I* control the future!

His words can be trusted because He is the truth—He always speaks the Truth!

Amen!