

Heart of the Gospel  
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John 14:6&7

We're going to focus our attention on the very heart of John's Gospel Message.

But before we open the Word of God this morning...

**Let's ask Jesus to open our hearts and minds to him for a moment.**

(pause)

Amen, Thank you Lord.

He who has an ear, let him hear.

We're going to the center of John's Gospel message and find ourselves face-to-face with the immeasurable Love of Christ for his followers.

We find ourselves in John 13, verse 31

This will be Christ's "Last Supper". He has just identified his betrayer, Judas Iscariot, who then immediately exits the upper room to seal Christ's fate.

Christ openly comes to terms with this new reality with the remaining 11 disciples.

**Verse 31,**

When he was gone (Judas), Jesus said:

"Now, is the Son of Man Glorified, and God is Glorified in him.

If God is glorified in him, God will glorify the Son in himself, AND will glorify him at once.

\*We're talking about the idea of ultimate Glory here, which is a reference to Jesus' sacrificial death on the cross, and the **Glorious Salvation** that would result.

Therefore, the Glory of the father is closely bound to that of the son, they are uniquely different, but one in the same. The disciples are finding it difficult to comprehend, but Christ's encouragement here is key.

**There is no greater love in all of creation.**

Jesus continues, in verse 33

"My children, I will be with you only a little longer. You will look for me, and just as I told the Jews, so I tell you now: Where I am going, you cannot come.

A new command I give you: **LOVE ONE ANOTHER**. By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.”

Simon Peter asks,

“Lord, where are you going?”

Jesus reply’s

“Where I am going, you cannot follow now, **BUT YOU WILL FOLLOW LATER.**”

Then to 14: 1 through 4

Jesus comforts them saying “DO NOT LET YOUR HEARTS BE TROUBLED”

“TRUST IN GOD”

“TRUST ALSO IN ME”

“In my Father’s house are many rooms; if it were not so I would have told you.

I am going there to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I WILL COME BACK, and take you to be with me so that you also may be where I am. You know the way to the place where I am going.” (pause)

**THERE IS NO GREATER LOVE .**

Thomas says to Jesus:

“Lord we don’t know where you are going, so how can we know the way?”

Which brings us to the heart of it this morning.

John 14: 6 & 7 (**SLIDE UP: Verse**)

(Verse 6) Jesus answered: “I am The Way, and The Truth, and The Life. No one comes to the Father except through me. (7) If you really know me, you will know my Father as well. From now on, you do know him and you have seen him.”

There are 7, “I am” declarations by Christ in John’s Gospel.

Each unique in their broad “Scope” and by their “Divine and Eternal nature”

These 3 self-assertions and exclusive claims, are perhaps the most consequential for us, as they require action resulting in our eternal destination.

We’ll get to the three “I AM’s” in John 14 in a moment, but let’s go deeper into the heart of the Gospel where God reveals his great **agape** love for us through His Son. (**SLIDE DOWN**)

The First of seven “I AM” declarations is found in John 6:35

**“I AM The bread of life”**

**He who comes to me will NEVER GO HUNGRY, and he who believes in me WILL NEVER BE THIRSTY.**

Also: “The bread that is living” or, “The bread that gives life”

**I AM THE BREAD OF LIFE**, says The Lord

The Second, John 8:12

**“I am The light of the world”**

“Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life”, says Christ The Lord.

\*It is also notable and a great encouragement that Jesus’ followers also reflect the light that comes from him, they too are the light of the world.

**I AM THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD!**, says The Lord.

(3)

The Third “I AM”, John 10:7 through 10

**“I am The Gate, for my sheep.”**

“All who ever came before me were thieves and robbers, but my sheep did not listen to them.”

And again, verse 9

**“I am The Gate”;**

“whoever enters through me will be saved, he will come in and go out, and find pasture. The thief comes only to steal, kill and destroy; (Semi-colon, and a big HOWEVER) **I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full”**

Says the Lord

Notable here, is that:

(1) **The** Gate (Christ Jesus) is the one, and the only, way to salvation. Inside there is safety as he watches over his flock, under his care one is able to go out and find pasture, a full supply of all their needs, they want for nothing.

And (2) is the thief is only ever interest in himself.

Christ’s interests, are not on himself at all, but rather the sheep under his care, so much that he demonstrated his immeasurable love for his sheep by dying in their place upon the cross, so that they would be saved for all eternity.

**I AM THE GATE!** says The Lord

(3)

Number 4,

John 10: 11 & 14

**“I am The Good Shepherd, The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.”**

And again in 14

“I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me—just as the Father knows me and I know the Father—**and I lay down my life for my sheep!**”

It’s noteworthy In Genesis 31, and 1<sup>st</sup> Sammuell 17:34-36

The Palestinian shepherd might risk danger for his sheep, but he expected to come through alive, as we can read in those passages.

Jesus however goes much further saying that The Good Shepherd will **die** for his sheep.

**I AM THE GOOD SHEPHARD!**, says The Lord

The Fifth “I AM”

**John 15: 1 through 4**

**“I AM THE TRUE VINE**, and my Father is the gardener. He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful. You are already clean because the Word I have spoken to you. **Remain in me and I WILL remain in you.** No branch can bear fruit by itself, **it MUST Remain in the vine.** Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me.”

And again, verse 5

**I AM THE VINE**; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit.

\*A living vine is a powerful visual example of the relationship between Christ and the believer, where the branches a completely reliant on the nutrients that flow from the vine, namely Christ The Lord, sustaining the believer in all things.

Together there is union, apart from the vine there is nothing.

**“I AM THE TRUE VINE”**, says The Lord

Let’s now look again to **John 14: 6 & 7 for the remaining “I AM’s” (SLIDE)**

The second half of verse six here requires action on the part of the believer.

“No one comes to the Father except through me.” Says Christ the Lord.

This required action calls into a very active, and personal relationship with Christ, a relationship that is lived out daily, moment by moment.

We cannot draw near to God unless we are quickened by the example of Christ's Life lived out in the Gospel Message, unless we are taught by Him as The Truth... in order to come by Him as The WAY.

The good news is there are no qualifications are required on your part... all are welcome regardless of background or experience, you can start that wonderful, blessed journey anytime, anywhere, without delay.

Christ also call us out of darkness and into the light by His Holy Example, in the way that he Lived.

He calls us into His Truth, about who he is and what he is.

Christ also calls us to follow him and him alone, as HE is THE ONLY WAY to God The Father in Heaven.

He's leading us into his truth by his word and by his example, a life lived for the sole purpose to please the Father.

There's is a lie out there however that wants to stop the believer in his tracks, maybe even before he begins... it's a lie that wants to keep you from cultivating a real and personal relationship with Christ, in all his purity and his holiness. A lie that says it's just not possible, you might as well not even try, what would Christ in all his purity and holiness want to do with me.

That lie doesn't understand God's new covenant of Grace with man made possible through Christ's ultimate sacrifice. Or the mechanism of repentance and full submittal that ushers in grace and mercy to the undeserving.

**Don't believe the deceiver for a moment...**

**When God see's the believer and hears his plea for forgiveness, he sees Christ The Lord, AMEN!**

As the Apostle Paul assures the Church in Philippi, Chapter 1 verse 6:  
"being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on unto completion, until the day of Christ Jesus." Thank you Lord.

Getting back to the 3 “I AM”s” in John 14: 6&7.

(#1)

I am **THE Way**, says Christ the Lord.

He alone knows the way to the Father in Heaven, He left his place at the right hand of God in Heaven and came down here, was born into the flesh where he lived for a time, returned to The Father in Heaven, and, will again return to lead His faithful home to the Father, for all eternity. By Christ as **THE WAY** our prayers go to God And His blessings come to us. As Christ as **THE WAY**, we are reconciled to The Father for all eternity.

### **Acts 4:12**

Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which **WE MUST BE SAVED**.

### **Ephesians 2:18**

For through Him we both have access to The Father, by one spirit.

### **Hebrews 10: 19 & 20**

Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter The Most Holy place by the blood of Jesus, by a new, and **LIVING WAY**. Opened for us through the curtain, that is, his body.

\*When Jesus died, the curtain separating the Holy Place, from **THE MOST HOLY** Place was “torn from top to bottom”. The curtain symbolizes the body of Christ in terms of suffering: Like the curtain, his body was torn to open the way into the Devine Presence.

### **John 6: 40**

“For my Father’s will is that **EVERYONE** who looks to **The SON**, AND **BELIEVES** in Him, shall have eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day”

**“I AM THE WAY”**... says Christ the Lord

(#2)

I am **THE Truth**, says Christ the Lord.

Christ is God's Word in the Flesh, and God's Word **IS** absolute truth.

**John 1:14**

“The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the ONE AND ONLY, who came from the Father, full of grace, and truth.

And then... there's the **all encompassing** truth about Christ:

**John 1: 1 through 5**

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God... and the Word was God. HE was with God in the beginning. THROUGH HIM ALL THINGS WERE MADE; (big pause) without Him nothing was made that has been made. In Him was life, and that life was the light of men. The light shine in the darkness, but the darkness has not understood it.

\*We can rest our weary, searching conscious, put our own limited human understanding to the side, stop wrestling with reason, stop questioning and rather find complete contentment in the truth... in Christ alone. The very bedrock of our Christian Faith is found in HIS Absolute truth.

**I AM THE TRUTH...** says Christ the Lord.

(3<sup>rd</sup> and finally)

I Am **THE Life**, says Christ the Lord,

A life lived in complete Holiness, Glorifying The Father in heaven through all he says and all he does, in the way he prays, and the way he lives, in the way he serves others and by his Holy example. I AM THE LIFE, says Christ The Lord.

**“I AM THE LIFE”...** says Christ the Lord

No charm, no Idol, no Worldly desire can compare to this eternal promise. They don't get you there, and worse, they keep you occupied and IDLE.

Neither can Health, wealth or happiness, even in full measure.

They are only for a season at best.

All else is either momentary or unsustainable by comparison, broken upon the eternal rock of the truth revealed in scripture here this morning.

(7)

To put the power of these eternal truths about Christ into perspective, let me ask you this one simple rhetorical question and I'm going to pause for a moment for some quiet contemplation.

**(Slide Down: Verse)**

On what basis have you been saved?  
(big pause)

Certainly not on the basis of what we've done or what we're doing, certainly not on the basis of anything we can accomplish for ourselves, or for others, **but rather on what someone else has done for us, namely Christ The Lord!**

**The ground of our salvation is entirely outside of us, in the work of Christ.**

**It cannot be earned, it is freely given.  
And what a gift it is.**

**ETERNAL SALVATION is only by works of, and through Christ The Lord.**

**Therefore then, we are completely dependent on Christ. Are we not?**

**That is the new and humbling disposition of the believer is it not? Amen?!  
It changes EVERYTHING... and changes it for the better, all Glory and Honor to God The Father.**

I want to say a few things about faith as we begin to close.

Excuse me for taking some liberty here but it directly relates, keeping things in their proper context this morning. When we see the word faith in our minds let's change the word for the sake of this exercise to **believe...** that is what Christ is calling us to do here in almost every one of the "I AM" examples: **It is all he requires of his followers.**

**Faith is BELEIVING, IN, HIM**

Believing IN Him means believing in His Holy attributes, his divine nature, his steady and unchanging character...

**BELEIVING in Who the ancients and prophets say he is.**

**BELEIVING in Who GOD says he is.**



**BELIEVING in Who HE says he is.**  
**BELIEVING in Who and what all of the Direct Witnesses here say he is.**  
**BELEIVING in His Miracles.**  
**BELEIVING in His Greater Promises.**  
**BELIEVING in His Great Majesty, Power and Grace.**  
**BELIEVING in the countless lives transformed by that power and grace today in His Church and throughout millennia.**

IN CLOSING...

Accepting and living these truths with absolute certainty will change the way you worship, the way you pray, and the way you love and the way you live, very much for the better and in ways you never dreamed of. You will be changed from the inside out, changed from within by the power of Christ and the indwelling, sanctifying power of the Holy Spirit, wonderful counselor, holy advisor. (pause)

And Jesus said:

“Whoever comes to me I will never cast out”

John 6:37

Some recommended reading:

For the more on the supremacy and superiority of Christ over all things...

The Book of Hebrews.

For more on the absolute truths about God’s great “AGAPE” Love for the believer, through and by Christ The Lord...

The Gospel of John.

Let us pray:

Heavenly father, as we remember Christ this morning by the bread, and by the cup, let us honor him with an unwavering faith...

Fully accepting and believing in who he is, what he has done, and what he will do, With a clear and unshakable certainty.

And now in the words of the great Apostle Paul:

“Now to him, who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask, or imagine... according to His power that is at work within us... to him be the glory in the Church, and in Christ Jesus, throughout all generations, for ever, and ever!  
In Jesus’ Name, Amen.