

HEAR MINISTRIES

Sermon for Sunday, **May 3rd, 2026**

Text: **John 14:1-14**

Recorded by: Tammy Springer

Let us Pray: *Lord, open our ears and our hearts to the truth of Your Word this morning so that we may learn from You to live in the forgiveness and peace that comes from our Savior Jesus Christ! And, Holy Spirit, speak through me this morning to the glory of God the Father. In Jesus' name I pray. Amen.*

Have you ever used a GPS or Google Maps to get where you're going and when the voice says, "Use this road...." You think to yourself, "I've never taken that road....it doesn't seem right.....I can't believe we would go that way!" so you don't follow it but go your own way instead? Unfortunately, you never arrive at your desired destination because you refused to follow the road that could get you there! Has that ever happened to you??

Our Scripture readings today speak to this same issue of following the right road pretty clearly. In our Acts reading we hear about Stephen, a man full of faith in the risen Christ and full of the Holy Spirit, who proclaimed loudly and unbendingly of Jesus as truly God. (Acts 6:5-8, 51-53)

Peter talks about what an "...honor [it] is for you who believe...." (1 Peter 2:7) He says, "whoever believes in Him (Jesus) will not be put to shame." (1 Peter 2:6) Peter knows Jesus is God!

And then we get to John 14. Jesus is CLEAR about the RIGHT road to follow to be reunited with God the Father. **Jesus said HE is the right road – the way through which all people could be reunited in right relationship with God the Father. Jesus also told them He and the Father were ONE.** What bold proclamations Jesus made!!

Of course, the Pharisees and their cronies were outraged! What blasphemy was this Jesus speaking, to say He was God??!! Needless to say, it created quite a controversy! (John 14:9)

This statement of Jesus continues to be one of the most controversial in our culture today. According to Jesus, He is the only way to God the Father. He said in *John 14:6*, *“I am the Way, the Truth and the Life. No one can come to the Father except through me.”*

Our culture has become increasingly opposed to what appears to them to be intolerant and exclusive claims. Even many Christians see this issue as controversial. Haven't you heard people say, *“Christians are arrogant to think Jesus is the only way....do they think they have a corner of the market on God?”* If not, maybe you've heard this, *“Don't all religions basically teach the same thing anyway if you boil them all down? Just be good, love others, live peacefully, and resist evil. It shouldn't matter if you are a Christian, Jew, Muslim, Hindu, Buddhist or whatever because if you pulled out all the basic teachings of these religions you would end up with the same basic ingredients.”*

This makes me think of Italian dishes. They are all prepared differently (like lasagna, spaghetti, ravioli, manicotti, pizza), but they are all basically composed of the same ingredients. So, people say, *“aren't these religions just taking different roads going up the same mountain to God, so that the important thing is to be faithful in your practice?”* Hmmm.

This week I came across an article called *“Faith for the Future.”* **The essential point of this article was that if Christianity is going to survive in the future it must evolve to remove the exclusive claims which divide people.** *Instead, the article stated, we must create a faith which is more inclusive of other views and particularly embraces science. Otherwise, Christianity will become an extinct dinosaur totally out of touch with today's culture.*

Needless to say, I did **NOT** agree with the premise of this article. The problem is that it completely ignored Jesus' teachings, Paul's teachings and, basically, the whole New Testament!

Jesus didn't just teach people how to live good moral lives. **Jesus came to teach us how we could be in a relationship with God, His Father, just as He was in relationship with the Father.** Jesus wanted to show us how God could work in our lives, giving us the power to change our lives.

This relationship cannot be restored by following a particular teaching. **It can only be restored through one person – the person of JESUS CHRIST, God's Son.** The way to God is not through rituals and praying in a certain direction and refraining from eating meat.

Jesus was not just another road sign among many pointing us in the right direction to God. He isn't a compass or GPS to DIRECT our path. He IS THE PATH connecting us to God.

Picking up on my burning building example from last week, imagine, again, being in a building which is on fire, and there is smoke all around. A fireman comes in and yells, "The building is on fire, all of the exits are blocked by flames. You need to follow me. I know the way out."

But, instead of following the fireman out, some of the people respond, "*How do I know the building is really on fire? Maybe you have created all of this smoke just to get us to abandon our comfortable place to follow you.*" Others say, "*I believe there is a fire, but I think I would rather take my own way out of the building,*" not trusting the word of warning from the fireman that all of the exits have been blocked by destruction caused by the fire.

Now, this may seem like a ridiculous scenario to us, but **this happens all the time.** Our fireman, **Jesus, has tried to warn us that there are consequences to our sin, eternal ones, the result of which is hell, eternal punishment and separation from God...whatever you call it. But people don't believe it!!** They don't take it seriously! They think Christ-followers (and Jesus Christ Himself) are just sending up a smoke screen of exaggeration to convince them to leave their comfortable lifestyle with no real reason.

The truth of the matter is that a relationship with God is only possible through the forgiveness we receive through God's Son. Jesus is THE Way, THE Truth and THE Life. He is the ONLY way to the Father because He is in the Father and the Father is in Him.

Jesus said to Phillip, **“Anyone who has seen Me has seen the Father” (John 14:9). No one, not even in any major religion, has ever made this claim and been able to substantiate it through miracles and by raising people from the dead.** (As an aside, I am struck by this verse because I have heard people say no one has ever seen God. Well, that is not true. Jesus Christ walked this earth as a human being and lots of people saw Him – and He IS GOD!!! Think of that!! The God of the universe has made Himself known to humanity in the person of Jesus Christ!! The sad thing is that many people did not believe it!) **Jesus is the ONLY one who is able to go prepare a place for us with the Father because He is God, and the only person who has ever lived a truly righteous or sinless life (Hebrews 4:15).**

This verse was not intended to divide people. Jesus shared these words with His disciples **to comfort them.** Jesus will soon leave them, but He wants them to know He is preparing a place for them (John 14:1-2). He tells them, *“Do not let your hearts be troubled....” (John 14:1)* And **He is saying that very same thing to us. Not only is He preparing a place for us, but we have the comfort of knowing the very path to get there.** Jesus Christ is *“the Way, the Truth and the Life.”* (John 14:6) **In believing in Him we participate in those things. We have a way to the Father, we know Truth and we have blessed eternal life with the Father.**

I love Thomashe is such a good example of humanity.....or maybe he reminds me of myself! Jesus says in John 14:2-3 that He is going to prepare a place for them and that the disciples will be there with Him. Then Jesus says in v.4, *“And you know where I am going.”* Thomas immediately says, *“Lord, we have no idea where you’re going. How do you expect us to know the road?”* (John 14:5) Jesus goes on to tell them He is going to the Father, but that He and the Father are One. He says to Phillip, *“You’ve been with me all this time and you still don’t understand?..... The words that I speak to you aren’t mere words. I don’t just make them up on my own. The Father who is in Me does His works.”* (John 14:9-10)

Have you ever felt lost or unsure about your spiritual journey? Do you long for a deeper connection with God and a sense of purpose in your life? Just like the disciples, we, too, can find peace and hope in Jesus’ words, knowing

that **through Him, we can find our way to the Father and experience the everlasting life He promises.**

Jesus is the source of comfort and guidance, leading us towards a life filled with faith, love and eternal joy. As we join around the Lord's Table this morning Jesus invites us to remember that, through Him, we also are restored to the Father.

If Jesus is "the Way, the Truth and the Life," as He said He was, then there are two responses we must make.

First, we all have to decide if we are going to trust Jesus as our path to the Father, both now and eternally. We can't do it on our own, but we can do it with the help of the Holy Spirit who calls us and draws us to Himself. We must believe that by trusting in Jesus, He will bring us into a right and restored relationship with God. Trust me, we will find amazing abundant life as a result of being in Christ.

Secondly, if Jesus is "THE Way, THE Truth and THE Life," we have a responsibility to help others find a relationship with God through Jesus Christ.

We live in a new day. **We can no longer just tell people Jesus said, "I am THE Way, THE Truth, and THE Life;" and expect people to respond.** It doesn't impress anyone because **they don't think Jesus IS the ONLY way to God.**

The only thing that will impact people is living a life which has been totally transformed by Jesus Christ, and is evident to those around us. When people see us living a life that obeys God's commands, puts Jesus first in all things and demonstrates love, patience, kindness to others, **they will have to acknowledge that Jesus has made a difference in our lives, and will make a difference in their lives as well. Our actions definitely speak louder than our words.**

What are you choosing in your life? Are you choosing to follow Jesus, the ONLY way to God? Or are you choosing to live out the values of the culture?

I pray you will choose Jesus, the ONLY way. **Amen.**

