



# 19 Minutes With the Messiah

## I AM the Way

(John 14:1-6)

Jesus' Body as the Temple  
The Living Water  
New Cloth  
New Wine in Old Wineskins  
The Salt of the Earth  
The Light of the World  
The House Built on the Rock  
The Two Debtors  
The Sower  
The Weeds  
The Growing Seed  
The Mustard Seed  
The Yeast  
The Hidden Treasure  
The Fine Pearl  
The Net  
I AM the Bread of Life  
Becoming Childlike  
The Unmerciful Servant  
I AM the Light of the World  
I AM the Gate  
I AM the Good Shepherd  
The Good Samaritan  
The Friend at Midnight  
The Rich Fool  
The Wise Servant  
The Barren Fig Tree  
The Great Banquet  
The Lost Sheep  
The Lost Coin  
The Lost Son  
The Shrewd Manager  
The Rich Man and Lazarus  
The Unworthy Servants  
I AM the Resurrection and the Life  
The Persistent Widow  
The Pharisee and  
the Tax Collector  
The Workers in the Vineyard  
The Ten Minas  
The Two Sons  
The Wicked Tenants  
The Wedding Feast  
The Fig Tree  
The Householder  
The Ten Virgins  
The Talents  
The Sheep and the Goats  
A Lesson About Foot Washing  
▶ I AM the Way  
I AM the True Vine  
The Woman in Labor  
I AM the Alpha and the Omega

<sup>1</sup>[Jesus said,] "Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God; trust also in me. <sup>2</sup>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.

<sup>3</sup>And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am. "You know the way to the place where I am going."

<sup>4</sup>Thomas said to him, "Lord, we don't know where you are going, so how can we know the way?"

<sup>5</sup>Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."

1. Jesus' words are a part of his farewell discourse spoken on Maundy Thursday evening. Why did the disciples need this special encouragement at this particular time? How do the Savior's words and the setting in which they were spoken reveal his selfless and compassionate heart?
2. The King James Version of the Bible reads: "In my Father's house are many *mansions*." Both the Old English word *mansion* and the word *rooms*, used in the NIV, suggest a place of permanence and stability, a place of being settled and at home. What comfort do you find in these words?
3. Why and how did Jesus prepare a place for us in the Father's house?
4. Jesus promised, "I will come back and take you to be with me." When will he do so?
5. Thomas' question indicates that  
 he was still an unbeliever who did not yet trust in Jesus as Savior.  
 he had not been listening carefully as Jesus was speaking.  
 he didn't "get it," thinking Jesus was speaking of a literal road he planned to use.  
 he believed but was still slow to grasp the truth of Jesus' words and promises.
6. Rather than chastise Thomas, Jesus said, "I am the way and the truth and the life." Can you think of other times during his earthly ministry when Jesus said, "I am the . . ." ? Read the following passages. What is the significance of Jesus' "I am" statements?

*"Moses said to God, 'Suppose I go to the Israelites and say to them, 'The God of your fathers has sent me to you,' and they ask me, 'What is his name?' Then what shall I tell them?' God said to Moses, 'I AM WHO I AM. This*

*is what you are to say to the Israelites: "I AM has sent me to you'" (Exodus 3:13,14).*

*"I tell you the truth," Jesus answered, "before Abraham was born, I am!" (John 8:58).*

7. What did Jesus mean when he identified himself as  
the way?

the truth?

the life?

What significance can you see in the way in which the definite article *the* is used in each of Jesus' "I am" statements?

### **For Further Study**

8. Many people contend that Jesus Christ is simply one of many ways to reach God and that his truth is just one of many truths. What are some other ways and truths in our world? What comfort, albeit false, does a belief in many ways and many truths offer?
  
9. Agree or disagree with the following statements:
  - Even the created world around us teaches that there is such a thing as absolute truth.
  - We must not tolerate the teachings of world religions or have anything to do with their adherents.
  
10. Are Jesus' words in this lesson more meaningful to you in good times or in trying times? Explain your answer.

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### **Prayer**

Lord Jesus,  
"You are the way, the truth, the life;  
Grant us that way to know,  
That truth to keep, that life to win  
Whose joys eternal flow." Amen. (CW 356:4)

Helps:

(1) Although Jesus had announced his passion, the disciples were slow to grasp his words. Nevertheless, they would soon witness his crucifixion and ascension and would then suffer persecution for their faith. At a time when Jesus needed comfort and strengthening, he selflessly provided these to his own.

(2) In contrast to the shifting, disappointments and changeability of earthly life, the Savior promises a place of eternal, dependable and unchanging glory—a place where Christians will be free forever from sin and its terrible effects.

(3) All people are eternally lost and condemned to hell because of sin. Out of his undeserved love, Jesus has prepared a place for us in heaven through his perfect life lived in our place, his vicarious death as payment for our sins, and his resurrection. He continues to prepare this home by interceding with the Father and ruling all things on behalf of his people.

(4) Jesus will take us to be with him in heaven either at the moment of death or on the Last Day.

(5) Like all Christians at times, Thomas was dull in his thinking, failing to understand and trust Jesus' words. He apparently thought that Jesus was speaking of an earthly journey and destination.

(6) Jesus said, "I am the bread of life" (John 6:35), "the light of the world" (John 9:5), "the gate" (door) and "the good shepherd" (John 10:7,11), "the resurrection and the life" (John 11:25), and "the true vine" (John 15:1). With these statements, Jesus identified himself as Yahweh, the great and gracious I AM, LORD of the Old Testament. He is both true man and true God and therefore fully qualified to be our Savior.

(7) Jesus is not one of many ways to heaven, nor does he guide us to heaven by his example; he is the way—the one who alone takes us there! Likewise, he is not one of many truths, nor does he simply share the truth; he is the truth—God's gospel truth incarnate! Furthermore, Jesus does not simply proclaim life or lead us to life; he is the life—the true Son of God in whom and in whose redeeming work alone spiritual and eternal life are possible.

(8) Answers are numerous and will vary (world religions, work-righteousness, etc.). This idea offers the false comfort of universalism—that all people will eventually be saved and go to heaven regardless of what they believe.

(9) The laws of nature, physics, mathematics, etc., teach that there are absolute truths; examples are countless. While we will identify and avoid false teachings (they are dangerous, deadly, and damning), we will, at the same time, lovingly reach out to the lost adherents of world religions with the truth—the saving gospel of Jesus Christ.

(10) Jesus' words and promises are certain in all circumstances. In good times, our sinful nature may forget, devalue, or take for granted his promise of eternal glory. Our gracious Lord will use difficult times to remind us that life in this sin-filled world is only temporary; he has prepared an eternal and bliss-filled home for us in heaven.