

August 13th, 2023

## 5-I AM JESUS...The Way, Truth & Life

---

### INTRO

Before I was a pastor, I got to work for a Christian **foster care agency**. I got to recruit, train and license foster families and support them throughout their foster care journey. And I was a part of placing children who had to be removed from their own homes into these foster



homes.

Hands down, one of the best parts of my job were the adoptions. When these families decided that they would make this child a part of their family permanently.

And family would be in the courtroom, much like this picture.

And the attorney would ask them several questions. The boring stuff, like your name, your address. And then they get to the good stuff:

- They'd ask how long the child had been in their home.

- Do you realize that if you adopt this child it will be as if they were born to you?
- That they would be able to inherit from you just like any biological child of yours?
- Do you wish this adoption granted?

The judge signs the form, bangs the gavel, the adoption is granted. Everyone cheers. The child has a forever (a lifelong) home.

**We have a forever home with God.** A permanent place. Where you're loved, accepted.

**The questions have been asked, the gavel has been banged, the order signed. We have a forever home with God.**

Yet maybe you have this tension inside. You say, I don't feel that. I don't belong to Him. Or I did, but there's no way I could anymore. I've done too much, said too much, I'm just a mess. Or I'm a second rate child of the King.

We have a forever home with God.

Today, we're going to ask ourselves, **why can we believe that? Why do we we know that's true?**

We're going to dive into John 14:1-7 today as we ask ourselves that question.

Why can we be confident that we have a Forever Home with God?

This'll be on the screens, you can pull it up from your phone or the Bibles in the seat in front of you. Maybe you're new to the Bible. Take the table of contents and find John. John is one of the four what we call Gospels, Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. They're these incredible accounts of Jesus.

And we've been covering these amazing statements that come straight from Jesus during this series. And today, we're going to cover another powerful statement.

So if you're there in John 14 and you're ready, say "I'm Ready." Let's pray:

---

## Why Can We Be Confident That We Have a Forever Home With God?

### 1. **Jesus Has Prepared the Home for Us (vss. 1-3)**

1. The doors are wide open and the place is ready for us

*Do not let your hearts be troubled. You believe in God. believe also in me*

*-vs. 1*

- Background on this: we are in this second story room where Jesus and His disciples are having his last meal. It's the Passover meal, which we see originating in Exodus. It's a beautiful meal pointing to the Passover Lamb, which is Jesus.
- In chapter 13, we go through a whirlwind of things!
  - Jesus washing disciples feet
  - Judas leaving to betray Jesus
  - Jesus telling Peter he'd deny Him
- And in the midst of all this chaos, confusion, concern. Jesus says those words.
  - He'll say it again later in the chapter
- What's the reason that we don't need to allow our hearts to be troubled?
- How's your heart doing this morning? is it troubled?
  - Finances keeping you up at night?
  - Relationship turmoil with a loved one?

- Stress about the future?
- This idea of belief is NOT just some sort of vague agreement. It's trust. **Wheelbarrow**

Yes, the most famous example of someone walking a tightrope over a waterfall in a wheelbarrow is often attributed to Charles Blondin. He was a French tightrope walker who performed this daring feat on June 30, 1859, at Niagara Falls. Blondin not only walked across the tightrope himself but also performed various stunts, including pushing a wheelbarrow and even carrying a stove on his back while crossing the falls. These acts were remarkable demonstrations of his skill and daring, captivating audiences with his death-defying feats.

- *2-My Father's house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you?*
- This is such a cool passage!
- The point is there is plenty of room in the Father's house
- This is a very inclusive passage
- And he's going to prepare a place-what does that mean?
  - Jesus is going to die on the cross for you and me
  - And He's looking forward to taking us to the Father's house
- Sense of togetherness-all of us. Big family!
- Jesus is using wedding language here.
- Illustration: No vacancy sign

- We're all familiar with one of these. There's room in the Father's house for all. There's room for you
- Maybe you don't know the Gospel-share it
- This is our mission!



*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. (vs. 3)*

- Isn't this incredible reassuring? Jesus is coming back.
- This is not as good as it gets.
- Prepare: there's this love, care and intentionality that goes into it.
- Illus: when we see through these lenses, it changes everything.
- He's coming back! Do you believe this?
- That you may be where I am: Jesus wants to be with you
  - Get pastoral here! What's your internal dialogue with yourself like? Putting yourself down, critical, berating yourself.. Jesus wants to be with you. He loves you.
- Jesus has prepared the home for us

---

**“Why else can we be confident in our Forever Home with God?”**

## 2. Jesus Has Made the Way to the Home for Us (vss. 4-6)

*You know the way to the place where I am going. -Vs. 4*

- This is an interesting statement. He's coming back for them to take them to the place where He's going. But He's also saying, you know the way. The disciples' minds are reeling and confused here.

*Thomas said to him, "Lord, we don't know where you are going, so how can we know the way?" (vs 5)*

- I love that Thomas speaks up here. You know that person in class or at work that asks the question that everyone's thinking but no one wants to ask? I feel like that's Thomas
- And this sets us up for our I AM statement.
- If you're ready, say "I'm ready!"

*Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me." (vs 6)*

- Let's break this down

- *The Way*



- Jesus turns the what from a who; the way is not a what, it's a who. It's Jesus.
  - **Culture at the time, tons of roads.** Jesus says I am that road. And I am exclusive
    - Some of the famous Roman roads include the Appian Way, Via Augusta, and Via Appia..all roads lead to Rome
- 
- *The Truth*
    - Anyone here get scam calls?
    - **In Jan 2023 alone, Americans received 5.51 billion robocalls,** which is nearly 20 spam calls for every single person in the US according to Robokiller a company that specializes in blocking spam calls and robocalls.
    - In the midst of the news, scam calls, AI, people are asking what Pilate asked, “What is truth?”

- And Jesus in the midst of all that says, I AM THE TRUTH
  - *The Life*
    - Jn. 11:25 I am the resurrection and the life
    - Jn. 10:10 in me you have life and life to the fullest
    - Jesus has taken us from death to life!
    - **Parched and dying of thirst in the desert**
- No one comes but through me. THIS IS EXCLUSIVE! AND THAT'S OFFENSIVE
- **CTA story**
  - As early as the 1st century
  - What's the big deal? Don't compromise!
  - This is offensive today! And Jesus who is simultaneously inclusive (plenty of room for you!) and exclusive (I am the only way!) stretches His arms wide and says come to me!
  - law of non-contradiction
- How live this out? Get

---

## CONCLUSION

- The questions have been asked. God has answered
  - This is my child
  - They're dwelling place is with me
- How can we be sure?
  - Jesus has prepared it for us
  - Jesus has made a way for us
- We have a forever home with God
- Pray

(5 mins)



# Talk It Over

I AM JESUS  
The Way, Truth, & Life  
John 14:1-6

## SMALL TALK

1. What does it take for you to “feel at home” somewhere? Where have you experienced a sense of home and belonging?

## VIEWPOINT

2. **Read John 10:14-18.** Compare this passage with John 14:1-6 and this notion of Jesus being the only way and making a home for us.
3. **Read Luke 15:11-32.** What are the qualities we see about God the Father from this story?
4. **Read Acts 4:8-12.** What do we see here about the exclusivity of the Gospel?

## GETTING PERSONAL

5. What’s a time you’ve gone through where you’ve felt distant from God and not at home with Him? What truths can you remind yourself when you feel that? (if going through this now, pray together for that person)

## MAKING PROGRESS (THIS WEEK)

6. There’s plenty of room in the Father’s house! Think and pray through ways that you might be able to share Jesus with others.