

## **Gospel of John the Seven I Am sayings – Session 6**

The sixth I am saying is found in John 14:6: **“I am the way the truth and the life.”**

Chapter 14 ushers in a new segment of John’s Gospel. Chapters 14-17 are called the **Farewell discourse**. (Some commentators include chapter 13 in the Farewell Discourse.) Jesus is preparing his disciples to the fact that he not be with them much longer. The Farewell Discourse is only found in John’s Gospel. It should not be read in a vacuum. From chapter 12 on, Jesus is on a path to the cross.

If you have a bible that puts Jesus’ words in red you will notice all the red in chapters 14-17. 13 has a good portion as well. Jesus is giving his disciples his farewell address. Many famous people leaving their positions of power give a speech at the end. This is Jesus’ speech.

**John 14:1, “Don’t let your hearts be troubled”**. In verse one John sets the hearer’s mind on what is to come; Jesus’ departure. “Believe in God. Believe also in me.” Other translations use “trust” in place of believe. **Jesus has just said this about himself in 12:27**, “Now my heart is troubled.” So he knows what he is talking about with the disciples.

We don’t talk like that anymore. We might say, don’t worry. Or don’t let it get to you. Eugene Peterson’s very modern paraphrase reads, “Don’t let this throw you. You trust God, don’t you? Trust me.” (The Message)

Jesus is pointing them to **faith in God**, away from having to have him, Jesus, with them. Even in his “I am” saying here he is pointing to God. **“I am the way the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.”**

Some early church fathers interpreted this verse in this way: Jesus is the way that leads to truth and to life. That interpretation connects the, I am the door passage, the way in. Plus it connects

to last week's I am the resurrection and the life. As if this new saying is clarifying what he has already said.

It is important to note that Jesus is answering Thomas' question. Again Thomas has a pivotal role in John's Gospel. Jesus has just told the disciples that they know where he is going. Thomas points out that they in fact do not know. "Lord we do not know where you are going so how can we know the way?"

Jesus' answer is more than an answer to Thomas' question it is an answer for all believers. **"I am that way."** I am the map. I have the directions. Just like I have the truth and the life. **I have all you need to get to my Father's house.**

This passage is another one frequently used during Memorial services. I like the image of Jesus preparing the way for us. Actually I like the picture this paints in my head of Jesus getting my room ready for my "visit". How many of you wash the sheets, clean the guest bathroom, making things tidy for company coming? I love that God and Jesus are doing that for me! For you too! "I go to prepare a place for you." It doesn't get more personal than that!

**Next week: "I am the Vine" 15:1** The last of the 7 "I am" sayings!