

## **I Am: Discovering Jesus in His Own Words**

### **I Am the Way, the Truth, and the Life (Week 5)**

**Speaker: Pastor Kevin Canterbury**

#### **Clip 1 - Jesus is the Way Home**

Jesus is the way to heaven, and heaven is our true home if we've been born of God. To dwell in heaven is to dwell in God's very presence, free from the stain and tarnish of sin. It's perfect communion and fellowship with God and with His children. Jesus speaks of many rooms in His Father's house, and he's gone to prepare a place for us – a place we understand he's still preparing today. And he promises that he will return and take us to be with him in that place, if we trust in him and believe his words. Heaven is our home, the destination God has placed in our hearts, and if we are his children, it's where we truly long to be.

Let me illustrate this: Have you ever taken a long trip? You've been driving for days or maybe you too a plane but you had multiple connecting flights and layovers? It's wonderful when you can get a direct flight from Tucson but it's rare, you're stuck in airports, which, let's be honest, can feel like germ-infested greenhouses. And then, there's that feeling at the end of the trip, after the plane lands, or as you're exiting the interstate, and you know you're finally going to be home. You'll get to sleep in your own bed. You can wear those sweat pants that make you look fat because no one's watching!! The journey is over. How good does it feel? Jesus is that way home. He doesn't just point us home; he is the way home.

His life and death provide the pathway to reconciliation with God. We are justified by faith in Christ, receiving his righteousness while he takes our sin and its penalty. Without this justification, we have no place with God. Through the atoning blood of Jesus, we gain access to God, and our spiritually dead selves are brought to life. We were dead in our trespasses and sins, but now we have new life in Christ and an inheritance in his kingdom as children of God. Jesus doesn't simply point the way; he is the way home.

This means that you, are not the way. You cannot reach the Father by any other way than through Jesus. Not good deeds or religious affiliations or self-determination. You can't will yourself into heaven. You must go through Jesus. You must trust in him personally. Your parents' faith or your grandparents' faith will not get you into the Father's house. You must have an abiding, personal faith in Christ Jesus.

#### **Questions**

1. How does the analogy of a long journey home to describe the longing for heaven resonate with your own experiences, both spiritually and practically? Do you think that everyone longs to be in heaven with God?

2. You cannot reach the Father by any other way than through Jesus. Not good deeds or religious affiliations or self-determination. How does this statement challenge the idea that all religions lead to the same God or that good people of any belief system will enter heaven?

## **Clip 2 - Discerning what is True**

Jesus came to reveal the truth about who God is. He's the Logos, the knowledge, the very image of God. He was with God in the beginning, and all things were created through him, both in heaven and on earth. He wrote the book! You can't truly know Jesus apart from his Word, and that Word is truth, with no mixture of error.

Here's a fact: We're swimming in information these days, right? But how much of it actually helps us? We're constantly hit with news headlines and social media updates, and at the end of the day, we just feel...empty. Ever finish scrolling for an hour and think, 'Wow, that really made my day better'? Or spend ages reading political stuff and feel like you actually accomplished something? We live in this age of information overload, and honestly, a lot of it just drags us down. We feel drained, discouraged, and like we can't do anything about it. But here's the thing: Jesus offers something totally different. He offers real truth, the kind that gives you life. He offers wisdom that comes from above.

And get this, the very idea of 'truth' is under attack. Postmodernism is basically saying, 'Is anything really true?' Then you throw in technology and AI, and it gets even harder to know what can be trusted. Now, we're questioning everything! Remember when you could read a news story from a trusted source and believe it? Those sources are disappearing, and it's so easy to make fake stuff now. Deepfakes are everywhere. Did you know you can recreate someone's voice in minutes? Someone could make a recording of me saying anything! It's getting harder and harder to trust what we read, hear, and even see with our own eyes

How can we know what is true? How do we separate the lies from the truth? Jesus offers us the truth, his Word. In a world where it's hard to believe what you're reading and seeing from the so-called 'trusted sources of truth,' God's truth is the foundation on which you can stand and not be shaken.

It's an anchor in the turmoil. It's the measure against which anyone who claims to proclaim the truth should be tested. But you've got to know it and meditate on it in order to utilize it.

## **Questions**

1. How does the constant influx of information in our lives, often leading to feelings of emptiness and discouragement, impact our ability to discern what is true?
2. How does the increasing difficulty of finding trusted sources of information affect our sense of security and stability?
3. How does the concept of God's Word as an "anchor in the turmoil" provide a counter-narrative to this sense of uncertainty?

4. What practical steps can individuals take to "know" and "meditate" on God's Word in a way that allows it to become a solid foundation in their lives?

### Clip 3 - Jesus is life

Jesus is where we get our life, our everything. He's our spiritual food. Anything else just leads to death. Even after we know him, and our hearts are opened, we keep experiencing new life as the Spirit works to make us more like Christ. So, even while our bodies are aging and we're getting closer to death, we're becoming more spiritually alive as we get closer to Jesus and the truth. And then, when we die, we'll experience a physical resurrection like Jesus did, and death won't have the final say.

John 1:4

*In him was life, and the life was the light of mankind.*

John 5:26

*For just as the Father has life in himself, thus he has granted the Son to have life in himself,*

John 6:51

*I am the living bread that came down from heaven. If anyone eats from this bread he will live forever. The bread that I will give for the life of the world is my flesh."*

Okay, that's a powerful statement, right? But remember, Jesus is the Word. So, when he talks about 'consuming his flesh,' he means taking in his Word, getting nourishment from it. Like that old saying, 'You are what you eat' – it's not about literally eating his body, it's about consuming his Word. And, just like that, if we take in what the world offers, we end up becoming like the world.

Now, here's the key: Jesus's life-giving power sustains us.

We often talk about being saved, or our conversion, like it's a one-time thing, a done deal. And while it's true, we're declared righteous for all our sins in a single moment, and raised from spiritual death, we're not left to fend for ourselves. Jesus's life isn't just a one-off event. It's something we need constantly, every moment.

Matthew 4:4

*...“It is written, ‘Man does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.’ ”*

We need his life-giving power every moment of everyday to keep us on the path to eternal life, and he promises to stick with us and finish the work he started.

John 8:12

*Then Jesus spoke out again, “I am the light of the world. The one who follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.”*

## Questions

1. Jesus says that his flesh is the bread of life, and whoever eats it will live forever. Why do you think He used such a jarring statement to make His point and what does it reveal about our dependence on Him?
2. We are totally and completely dependent on Jesus to not only save us from our sin, but to sustain us on our journey. In what ways can we practice and acknowledge daily dependence on Christ?