

A Journey with Christ the Messiah

I AM THE Way, THE Truth, and THE Life

John 14:1-11

INTRODUCTION:

This morning we are continuing a series that I have entitled *A Journey with Christ the Messiah*. This series, Lord willing, will continue through the Easter season. We have already looked at Old Testament scriptures and saw a Messiah prophesied and we read of those Messianic prophecies being fulfilled by Jesus. We saw how it would be humanly impossible for one person to be able to fulfill all of those prophecies. Yet Jesus accomplished it even though many required divine intervention. How can you plan where you will be born? How do orchestrate a virgin birth? How do you raise from the dead? Yet all of these and hundreds of others were fulfilled by Christ exactly as prophesied hundreds of years earlier. The disciples witnessed His miracles of healing the lame, giving sight to the blind, and raising men from the dead. They also saw with their own eyes His transfiguration, His resurrection from the grave, and His ascension into heaven. They even heard a voice from heaven saying "This is My beloved Son in Whom I am well pleased". They were so convinced that He was the Messiah that they were willing to live the rest of their lives proclaiming the gospel, despite persecution, even unto death.

To understand the context of our scripture this morning, Jesus was spending His last day with His disciples. Judas was about to betray Him and He was going to the cross the next day. Jesus knew it and the disciples were finally beginning to understand that their perception of what the Messiah was going to do had been wrong. They had expected that He would begin an earthly reign and there would be a time of peace and prosperity. But now they were understanding that Jesus was going to die and that He was going to a place where they could not come for now. So their hearts were troubled.

All Stand and Read Scripture

John 14:1-11 (NASB)

14 "Do not let your heart be troubled; [a](#)believe in God, believe also in Me. ² In My Father's house are many dwelling places; if it were not so, I would have told you; for I go to prepare a place for you. ³ If I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself, that where I am, *there* you may be also. ⁴ And you know the way where I am going." ⁵ Thomas *said to Him, "Lord, we do not know where You are going, how do we know the way?" ⁶ Jesus *said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me.

⁷ If you had known Me, you would have known My Father also; from now on you know Him, and have seen Him."

⁸ Philip *said to Him, "Lord, show us the Father, and it is enough for us." ⁹ Jesus *said to him, "Have I been so long with you, and *yet* you have not come to know Me, Philip? He who has seen Me has seen the Father; how *can* you say, 'Show us the Father'? ¹⁰ Do you

not believe that I am in the Father, and the Father is in Me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on My own initiative, but the Father abiding in Me does His works. ¹¹ Believe Me that I am in the Father and the Father is in Me; otherwise believe because of the works themselves.

As we prepare to continue this journey, let's bow in a word of prayer.

Prayer

As humans, we all have the inherent sense that there must be an intelligent design and creator of the world around us and there must be a purpose in life. We see the world around us and realize that there is so much detail and order in it that it could not possibly have happened by accident. There has to be a creator. There has to be a purpose for life. So we seek for that creator and our purpose in life.

Let's continue the journey!

BODY:

Ever since the fall of man, mankind has always tried to find some means, some way to find God.

Proverbs 14:12 (NASB)

¹² There is a way *which seems right to a man,*
But its end is the way of death.

The natural mind of man suggests to them that there are many ways to God, many paths to God. You can go your own way and as long as you get there that is all that matters. But that is not true!

God's word says there is a way that seems right to man but the consequences of that way of thought is death. Not physical death, but spiritual death.

There is but one way. The human way is the wrong way.

Jesus declares that He and He alone is the pathway to God. "I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me."

Jesus says, "You believe in God, believe also in Me". Jesus came to be the way. He did not come to direct us on the way but He came to be the way.

Looking back to the previous "I AM's", Jesus revealed several truths concerning Himself.

He did not come to offer bread, but to BE the Bread of Life.

He did not come to shed some light on the world, He came to BE the Light of the World.

He did not come to open the door, He came to BE the Door for His Sheep.

He did not come to shepherd someone else's sheep, He came to be the Good Shepherd of His own sheep that He purchased on the cross.

He did not come to speak of a future resurrection, He came to BE the Resurrection and the Life.

And in our text today Jesus did not come to point the way, but to BE the way to God, the Father.

In man's search for God, a new "religious" movement has started called the New Age. It is a huge movement towards a one world religion where all spiritual paths are equally valid (except if you believe in Jesus Christ of course).

I am sure that all of you have heard of Oprah Winfrey. Oprah is right in the forefront of this movement.

Over the past few years as Oprah Winfrey has transformed herself from being just a talk show host to being one of the world's most influential spiritual leaders. According to Forbes, Oprah Winfrey is worth well over a billion dollars, but these days she seems much more interested in spiritual matters than in building her empire. Millions of Americans deeply respect what Oprah has to say, and it would be hard to overstate the influence she is having not only in the United States but also all around the globe. She has become a spiritual powerhouse, and she is changing hearts and minds every single day.

Oprah's massive television audience of ten million viewers each day and her magazine readership of over 2.7 million each month gives Oprah a tremendous platform from which to influence American culture.

However, Oprah is confusing a lot of people because she openly identifies herself to be a Christian. But what she believes about God, faith, salvation, heaven, hell, and a whole host of other things directly contradicts the Bible.

Millions of Christians are being fooled by Oprah Winfrey because she uses Christian terminology and Christian traditions as a way to lure people into beliefs that are not Christian at all.

Take a few moments and imagine a religion where Jesus did not come to die on the cross, where there is no heaven, no hell, no sin, no salvation, no doctrine, where all spiritual paths in the world are equally valid and where "god" is in you and in everything else you see.

That is the religion of the New Age and Oprah Winfrey.

During one of Oprah Winfrey's national broadcasts, she stated that Jesus did not come to earth to die on the cross for our sins and start Christianity. Instead of coming to die on the cross, Oprah told millions of her viewers that the real purpose for Jesus coming to earth was to teach all of us "Christ consciousness".

During one of her famous broadcasts she described it this way...

quote "One of the mistakes that human beings make is believing that there is only one way to live. And that you don't accept that there are diverse ways of being in the world. That there are millions of ways to be a human being. There are many paths to what YOU call god. Referring to a lady in the audience, she continued, Her path may be something else and when she gets there she may call it "The Light" but her loving, her kindness, and

her generosity brings her to the same point that it brings you. It doesn't matter whether if she called it god along the way or not." unquote

Then there was some back and forth between the audience and Oprah. Oprah then stated, and I quote "There cannot possibly be one way."

Then another lady from the audience asks "What about Jesus?"

Oprah responded "What ABOUT Jesus?".

The lady continues, "You say there isn't only just one way. There IS one way, and ONLY one way, and that is through Jesus!"

Oprah continued by repeatedly saying "There cannot possibly be only one way. "There cannot possibly be only one way."

Despite Oprah's explanation of why Jesus came to this earth, Jesus did not say that He was "A WAY" or "ONE" of the Truths by which you can find Life. Jesus said "I AM **THE** Way!" And just in case you didn't catch the exclusiveness of that statement, He follows it by saying "**No one comes to the Father BUT BY ME!**" I AM THE **ONE AND ONLY WAY** to the Father!

When Jesus makes the statement "**I AM THE Way, THE Truth, and THE Life**" He excludes ALL other ways to God. "**No one comes to the Father BUT BY ME!**"

Consider this: Jesus told His disciples in His final commission.

Matthew 28:19-20 (NASB)

19 [Go](#) therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, **20** teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you [always](#), even to the end of the age."

Jesus told His disciples to teach the whole world to believe and practice everything that He had taught them. The disciples in turn wrote Jesus' words and teachings through the inspiration of the Holy Spirit into the books of the New Testament that we have today.

This was written by the disciples of Christ who lived with Jesus, were taught by Him, witnessed His miracles including His resurrection from the dead, and saw the Old Testament prophecies concerning the Messiah being fulfilled by Him.

I ask you, do you want to believe what the DISCIPLES recorded through the inspiration of the Holy Spirit concerning what Jesus said and taught or do you want to believe what OPRAH claims He really intended to teach us?

If you were Satan and your goal was to prevent anyone from becoming a lamb of God, how would you go about it? You would no doubt determine the things that causes you to become a lamb of God and do everything in your power to prevent someone from believing and practicing those teachings. In other words encourage them to do anything that they want as long as their practices do not bring them salvation. Anything else, like living a good life, being generous with your money, doing good deeds, being a good mother or father, even trying to become God, would be fine with Him. But Satan's emphasis would be to prevent anyone from **believing** that Jesus is the means for our salvation.

John 3:16 (NASB)

¹⁶ "For God so loved the world, that He gave His ^aonly begotten Son, that whoever **believes** in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life.

Jesus said,

John 10:27-28 (NASB)

²⁷ My sheep hear **My** voice, and **I** know them, and they follow **Me**; ²⁸ and **I** give eternal life to them, and they will never perish; and no one will snatch them out of My hand.

Listen to another quote from Oprah in another broadcast where she described what she had learned from a book written by Eric Butterworth. **And I quote.** "I thought Jesus came, died on the cross, that Jesus' being here was about His death and dying on the cross when it really was about Him coming to show us how to do it. How to be. To show us the Christ consciousness that He had and that that consciousness abides with all of us. That's what I got. That's what I got." **unquote** (Which was followed by audience applause).

She has also stated **quote** "God is **not** something to **believe**. God IS. God is. And God is a **feeling** experience, **not** a **believing** experience. If your religion is a believing experience, if God for you is still about a belief, then it is not truly God." **unquote**

Isn't it interesting that Oprah tells us that there are millions of ways for us to find God and it doesn't matter which path we take to get there as long as we all get to the same place. But one of the ways that will not work is by **believing** that **Jesus** is the pathway to God.

John 3:36 (NASB)

³⁶ He who believes in the Son has eternal life; but he who does not ^aobey the Son will not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him."

Remember Jesus says, ²⁷ My sheep hear **My** voice, and **I** know them, and they follow **Me**; ²⁸ and **I** give eternal life to them. Make sure that the voice that you are listening to is the Good Shepherd's (Christ's) voice which we have recorded in the Bible.

I want you to hear what Jesus will say to many on judgment day who THINK they have lived their life correctly.

Matthew 7:21-27 (NASB)

²¹ "Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father who is in heaven *will enter*. ²² Many will say to Me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in Your name, and in Your name cast out demons, and in Your name perform many ^amiracles?' ²³ And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; DEPART FROM ME, YOU WHO PRACTICE LAWLESSNESS.'

²⁴ "Therefore everyone who hears these words of **Mine** and ^bacts on them, ^cmay be compared to a wise man who built his house on the rock. ²⁵ And the rain fell, and the ^dfloods came, and the winds blew and slammed against that house; and *yet* it did not fall, for it had been founded on the rock. ²⁶ Everyone who hears these words of Mine and does **not** ^eact on them, will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand. ²⁷ The rain fell, and the ^ffloods came, and the winds blew and slammed against that house; and it fell—and great was its fall."

CONCLUSION:

This is one of my favorite poems.

"This is the beginning of a new day.
God has given me this day to use as I will.
I can waste it or use it for good.
What I do today is important, because
I am exchanging a day of my life for it.
When tomorrow comes,
this day will be gone forever,
leaving in its place something I have traded for it.
I want it to be gain, not loss; good, not evil;
success, not failure; in order that I
shall not regret the price that I paid for it."
Author unknown.

I have rewritten this saying to reflect this same attitude concerning our life on earth.

"This is my one life on earth.
God has given me this life to use as I will.
I can waste it or use it for good.
How I live my life is important, because
I am exchanging my life for what follows.
When I die,
my time on earth will be gone forever,
leaving in its place something I have traded for it.
I want it to be gain, not loss; good, not evil;
success, not failure; in order that I
shall not regret the reward that I receive for it."

Our number one goal during this time on earth should be to search for the purpose of that life, find it, and live it. I think we all inherently know this. That is why we search. No religion can match Christianity. We have Old Testament scriptures that point to a Messiah hundreds of years before Christ and we see Him fulfill them. He performed miracles while on earth to prove that He was Who He claimed to be. But most importantly He died on the cross in our place for , not his sins, but ours. He took on OUR sins as He hung on the cross and replaced the sin in us with His righteousness. When He died on the cross, He paid in full the penalty for OUR sins and then arose again on the third day as prophesied in advance and taught by Jesus Himself, proving that He was truly the Messiah, the Son of God.

The "church of Oprah" is very appealing for millions of Americans because in her "faith", there is no sin, no need for salvation, no heaven, no hell and everyone is "god".

But it is all a big lie.

The truth is that we cannot just make up whatever we want about God and about religion. We cannot just live our lives based upon our feelings. We need a Savior. Of the billions of men and women who have lived on this earth, Jesus **IS** the only person Who is qualified to be our Savior.

Oprah claims that there are multiple ways to find God.

Jesus says "I AM THE WAY, THE TRUTH, and THE LIFE! No one comes to the Father but by ME!".

Matthew 7:13-15 (NASB)

¹³ "Enter through the narrow gate; for the gate is wide and the way is broad that leads to destruction, and there are many who enter through it. ¹⁴ For the gate is small and the way is narrow that leads to life, and there are few who find it.

¹⁵ "Beware of the false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly are ravenous wolves.

Jesus is THE WAY to salvation.

If there was another way to heaven, then why would Jesus have to die on the cross?

If there were many other ways for our sins to be paid for, then why didn't Jesus just come down to earth, point out some of the various ways to get saved, and then go back into heaven?

Jesus died on the cross because through doing He became THE WAY to salvation.

He is THE TRUTH by which we can be saved. The truth is that we are all sinners and there is nothing that we can do for ourselves to restore our righteousness with God. Our salvation requires divine intervention.

The truth is that there is no other way for our sins to be paid for, and that the only way to God is through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.

John 10:27 (NASB)

²⁷ My sheep hear **My** voice, and I know them, and they follow **Me**; ²⁸ and **I** give eternal life to them.

Will you choose to believe Oprah or will you choose to believe the Word of God?

God so loved the world that He sent His Son Jesus to die on the cross for our sins.

Are you ready for Christ's second coming? Will you regret the reward you will receive?

If you do not know Christ as your Lord and Savior, I invite you to come forward this morning and place your faith in Christ. Become part of this church and help in sharing the Gospel to our neighborhood. Trust that He IS THE Way (THE ONLY WAY), THE Truth, and THE Life and be immersed in the waters of baptism for the forgiveness of your sins.

He is Lord!