

WISDOM: THE WAY, TRUTH, AND LIFE

**BIBLE BACKGROUND: PROVERBS 3:17; 8:32-36; JOHN 14:1-14 PRINTED
TEXT: JOHN14:1-14|DEVOTIONAL READING: PROVERBS 3:13-18**

JULY 26, 2020 SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

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AIM FOR CHANGE

By the end of this lesson, we will know why Jesus is the Word in our lives, reflect on how Jesus gives us direction, and decide to firmly trust Jesus as “the way, the truth, and the life” for the world.

KEEP IN MIND

- **“Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life; no man cometh unto the Father, but by me” (John 14:6, KJV)**

WORDS YOU SHOULD KNOW

- A. **Way** (v.6) *hodos* (Greek)- **A traveler's way or to a way of thinking, feeling, and deciding.**
- B. **Truth** (v. 6) *aletheia* (Greek)- **Not falsehood, whether pertaining to God or earthly matters; personal excellence.**
- C. **Life** (v. 6) *zoe* (Greek)- **State of living, every living soul, and the absolute fullness of life.**

DEVOTIONAL READING

PROVERBS 3:13-18

- 13 Happy is the man that findeth wisdom, and the man that getteth understanding.
- 14 For the merchandise of it is better than the merchandise of silver, and the gain thereof than fine gold.
- 15 She is more precious than rubies: and all the things thou canst desire are not to be compared unto her.
- 16 Length of days is in her right hand; and in her left hand riches and honour.
- 17 Her ways are ways of pleasantness, and all her paths are peace.
- 18 She is a tree of life to them that lay hold upon her: and happy is every one that retaineth her.

FOCAL VERSES

JOHN 14:1-14

- 14 Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me.
- 2 In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you.
- 3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also.
- 4 And whither I go ye know, and the way ye know.
- 5 Thomas saith unto him, Lord, we know not whither thou goest; and how can we know the way?
- 6 Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.
- 7 If ye had known me, ye should have known my Father also: and from henceforth ye know him, and have seen him.
- 8 Philip saith unto him, Lord, show us the Father, and it sufficeth us.
- 9 Jesus saith unto him, Have I been so long time with you, and yet hast thou not known me, Philip? he that hath seen me hath seen the Father; and how sayest thou then, Show us the Father?
- 10 Believest thou not that I am in the Father, and the Father in me? the words that I speak unto you I speak not of myself: but the Father that dwelleth in me, he doeth the works.
- 11 Believe me that I am in the Father, and the Father in me: or else believe me for the very works' sake.
- 12 Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do; because I go unto my Father.
- 13 And whatsoever ye shall ask in my name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son.
- 14 If ye shall ask any thing in my name, I will do it.

IN DEPTH

1. JESUS, THE WAY COMFORT (JOHN 14:1-4)

- Jesus had told His disciples of His approaching suffering and departure (John 13). Now, He aims to calm the turmoil raging in their hearts. Jesus encourages them by telling them not to let their hearts be troubled. Jesus' news apparently threw the disciples' minds into disarray and sends them into a spiritual tailspin, but Jesus provides the key that will lead them out of their mental anguish. He points to Himself as the basis for sustaining peace in the midst of the storm of difficult circumstances by telling them if they believe in God to believe Him as well. Even though He will no longer be present with the disciples physically. He assures them that where He is going, He is preparing a place for them. This is a wisdom that would leave us deeply conflicted if it were not for the one speaking it. It is wisdom that requires faith to apply: Jesus challenges us continually to see that the best wisdom is not a matter of analysis or principle, but flows directly from the Lord. This provides great comfort, not only for the disciples but also for us. Jesus was reinforcing that His words were trustworthy; we can place our faith in His words because He is faithful to keep them.

QUESTION???

- **How do you find comfort in difficult situation?**

2. JESUS, THE WAY TO THE FATHER (VV.5-11)

- Thomas is looking for Jesus to give a location where they can meet Him. As Jewish men, they were taught the presence of God was at the Temple in Jerusalem. Phillip is looking for a private meeting with God so He can know God. They had heard the prophets had such marvelous encounters. Jesus rejects both requests. He instead makes a radical statement about how to know God. Jesus does not point His followers to a path but to a person, namely, Himself: “I am the way.”
- Jesus is not claiming to have uncovered some hidden truth the disciples can understand to know God. He is not telling His disciples to practice profound principles to reach God. He is not even telling them they can encounter God at a certain physical location.
- He is claiming something much stronger than that. We cannot work our way to God at all. Instead, God has come to us in Jesus Christ. Jesus declares anyone who has seen the Him has seen the Father (v.9). If they could not believe it from His words, they could certainly know it by looking at what Jesus had done. Jesus reveals the character and personality of God in us (cf. John 1:18). We are to place faith in Christ as the way to the Lord because it is only through Him that we can know the Lord as He truly is.

QUESTION???

- How have you tried to make following Jesus harder than the simple Way He showed us?

3. JESUS, THE WAY TO POWERFUL LIVING (VV. 12-14)

- Christ then notifies His disciples that placing their faith in Him will cause them to lead lives that exhibit the power of God (vv. 12-14). We will do greater works than those Christ did in His earthly ministry because He is with the Lord. It is important to note that Jesus says that the works testified of His relationship with the Lord. These were not gratuitous or pointless displays of power, but a demonstration of His authenticity as God.
- Placing all our trust in Jesus produces two results. First, faith in Christ yields fruitful lives that both demonstrate our relationship with Him and glorify the Father (John 15:8). Christ comes to give us “abundant life,” promising to do anything we ask in His name, to the glory of the Father. Of course, this is not a blank check given to us with which we can expect to receive all of our wildest desires. When we ask for things in Jesus’ name, we are to ask for things that are consistent with His character and purpose. Putting all our trust in Christ guarantees that we will experience power-filled lives because He aims to glorify His Father’s name.
- Second, placing faith in Christ gives us the power we need to live out the Christian life. Before ascending into heaven, Jesus delivers a parting promise to His disciples: the Holy Spirit will come to them. The only way we can live powerful lives that reflect Christ’s presence is by the Holy Spirit dwelling in us. The Holy Spirit gives us power, desire, an knowledge to live the Christian life, and the Spirit is only accessible through faith in Christ.

QUESTION

- **How do we cultivate the faith that God will see us through the things outside of our experience?**

THE PEOPLE, PLACE AND TIMES

- **Phillip.** He was one of the Twelve Disciples whom Jesus called directly. Phillip, along with Peter and Andrew, was from Bethsaida of Galilee (John 1:44)
- **Thomas.** Also called Didymus, or “the twin”, Thomas was one of Jesus’ twelve disciples. He is the one who said that he would not believe that Jesus was resurrected from the dead unless he could touch the nail prints in Jesus’ hands and the wound from the spear in His side.

BACKGROUND

- During His ministry, Jesus repeatedly prepared the disciples for His approaching suffering and death. Jesus tells the disciples that one of them would betray Him (John 13:21). At the same time, He also informs the disciples that He will soon be leaving them and that they could not follow Him (v. 33).
- Undoubtedly, these things disturbed the disciples. When Peter asks Jesus where He was going, Jesus responds that Peter cannot follow Him now but will follow Him afterward. It is not difficult to see why the disciples would have been troubled.
- They were coming to grips with the fact that the One they had given up everything to follow was now telling them that He was about to leave them to go to a place where they could not follow. It must have seemed as if they were losing the very reason for which they had existed for the past three years.

LESSON IN OUR SOCIETY

- We live in a society where many consider it arrogant to claim that there is only one way to the truth. Accordingly, a popular view is that all religions are the same. This is not the view expressed in Christian Scripture. Anyone who studies religion beyond the surface knows that the truth claims or theologies are different across religious traditions. It is a great irony that it is in Western secular societies that used to be most Christian that claims of sameness are most often made. These claims can disregard the ways diverse peoples around the world articulate their own faith traditions.
- It is a different sort of arrogance to dismiss the distinct faiths of millions of people in order to impose on them convenient uniformity and false tolerance. To water all religions down to being “all the same” is to not take them seriously for what they profess. That does not mean different faiths do not have similarities; they do. Many faiths agree on some aspects of ethics or prescribed actions. Many of them have similar values and behaviors: for instance, the desire to pursue peace, the condemnation of violence, the importance of care for others, and the value of all life.
- Yet the truth claims remain distinct. Jesus declares there is only one way to God, through Him Jesus. As Christians we must embrace the claim of Jesus, recognizing that we are claiming something different than other religious freedom.

MAKE IT HAPPEN

- We cannot get to God, but God has come to us. Our God loved us enough to come to us in the flesh. As Christians, we can boldly claim that our way, our truth, our life is not a principle, place, or pursuit but a person, Jesus Christ. Jesus invites us to seek Him for wisdom and guidance.
- For us, His way is always the best way. Take time this week to pray, read Scripture, and seek God for His wisdom concerning your day or more important decisions. He is faithful to give wisdom if we posture our hearts to obey His directions.