

## **The Way Back to God**

Sunday, January 19<sup>th</sup>, 1986

### **John 14:1-6**

*“Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me. 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. 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. And whither I go ye know, and the way ye know. Thomas saith unto him, Lord, we know not whither thou goest; and how can we know the way? Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.”*

Let’s read today, from the Book of John. This is a familiar passage of Scripture taken from the 14<sup>th</sup> Chapter of John. I’m going to read verses 1 and 6. This is our subject for today: “THE WAY BACK TO GOD.”

In John 14:1, the Scripture says as the Master is speaking to His disciples; *“Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God believe also in Me. I am the way, the truth, and the life; no man cometh to the Father but by Me.”*

The disciples of our Lord had a lot to be troubled over. They had a lot of things to cause them anxiety. In the first place, their idea of an earthly kingdom had been dashed to pieces. They had expected Jesus Christ to restore the glory of Israel, the glory of David’s throne.

They even talked about who was going to sit on the right hand and the left hand of Christ when He came into His Kingdom. These hopes had been dashed to pieces and they were troubled.

Their Lord and Master was soon to be crucified. He told them that He was going to Jerusalem and that He would suffer many things of the Scribes and Pharisees and be put to death. He told them that on the third day He would rise from the tomb. He said, "I am leaving you in a world filled with hatred, persecution and evil." That troubled their hearts.

He told them that one of them would betray Him. Judas would be the one who would sell Him for 30 pieces of silver. He didn't name the one who would betray Him but He did tell them that one of them would.

He told Peter, "*Simon; before the cock crows this night, you will deny, not only once, or twice, but three times that you even know me.*" That troubled him and I'm sure it troubled the other disciples.

Again He said, "*The religious world will kill you. They will hate you and persecute you. They will throw you out of the synagogue. They will exclude you from organized religion. The day will come when those who kill you will think that they do God a service.*"

They were troubled and they had a lot to be troubled about. That is when the Master said to them, "*Let not your hearts be troubled.*" They certainly were troubled. Here comes the comfort and here come the instructions and the way out of this trouble, doubt, fear and confusion.

The Master said, "*You believe in God; believe also in Me. I am the way, the truth, and the life. No man cometh to the Father but by Me.*" Thomas said, "*Lord; we don't know where You are going; how can we*

*know the way?"* They were so confused, troubled and anxious. Thomas said, *"How can we know the way?"*

Our Lord said; *"I am the way, the truth, and the life. No man cometh to the Father but by Me."* I could begin the message right there and end it right there; that is the answer; *"I am the way."*

Christ said, *"I am the way to God; I am the truth of God and I am the life of God. No man cometh to the Father but by Me."* It doesn't matter if you are Jew, Gentile, old or young, rich or poor, male or female. *"No man cometh to the Father but by me."*

He emphasizes this all the way through the Word. Christ says, *"I am the door."* There is one Door (*"The Door"*), not several doors, but one Door; *"by Me if any man enter in he shall be saved. Go in and out and find pasture."* He said, *"I am the water of life; I am the bread of life."* He also said, *"I am the good Shepherd, the chief Shepherd and the great Shepherd. I am the resurrection and the life. He that believeth on me though he were dead, yet shall he live."*

What the Master is saying is this; there is never a prayer that ever reaches the Father except through Christ. There is never a blessing that came from heaven except it was through Christ. There is never a sin, (not one) ever forgiven except through Christ. There was never a cry for mercy that was ever heard except in Christ. There was never a sinner saved except by Christ. There was never a name recorded in the Lamb's Book of Life except in Christ. There was never a believer raised from the dead except by the power of Christ. There was never a person that entered glory except by Jesus Christ.

He said, *“I am the way; I am the door; I am the bread; I am the water and I am the resurrection and the life.”* Everything is vested in the Lord Jesus Christ. Everything meets in the Lord Jesus Christ. He is the one door to God, the one way to God.

Now then, His disciples were troubled. They were so anxious and fearful and so full of doubt. They didn't know where He was going. How were they to know the way? Let me tell you something; if you believe in God, if you really do or I really believe in God as He is revealed in His Word your heart has to be troubled too.

I'm not talking about the God of your imagination or the God of your denomination; I'm talking about the God of creation, the God of the universe, the Living God, the God of the Bible. If you experience no anxiety and no trouble in regard to your relationship with God it is because you do not know God and you have no conception, whatsoever, no understanding of who God is.

God is holy, and is perfectly, immaculately, holy. He is infinitely and unchangeably holy. You and I are sinful. We are absolutely opposite from God. God is Almighty and we are weak. God is truth, every man by birth and nature is a liar.

God is righteous. *“Our righteousnesses are filthy rags.”* The Scripture says, *“God is just and holy and will in no means clear the guilty.”*

David was troubled; he said, *“When I consider the heavens, the sun, the moon and the stars, and the things which thou hast made; what is man that thou art mindful of him?”* That really troubled David; he

could not understand how a holy, eternal, infinite, almighty God could even be mindful of the creature called “*man*.”

Job was troubled; Job said, “*Lord; I’ve heard of thee by the hearing of the ear and now mine eye seeth thee; wherefore, I hate myself; I abhor myself; I repent in sackcloth and ashes.*”

Isaiah was troubled; he said, “*In the year that king Uziah died; I saw the Lord high and lifted up. His train filled the temple; the cherubims and seraphims covered their faces and covered their feet and cried; Holy, Holy, Holy.*”

Isaiah said, “*Woe is me; I am undone*” (cut off). That is what the word “*undone*” means; I am cut off because “*I am a man of unclean lips and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips.*” Yes, the disciples had every right to be troubled. Christ said; “*You believe in God?*” If you believe in God you have a right to be troubled.

One of the marks of the rebels our day is this; “*There is no fear of God before their eyes.*” The Old Testament says, “*The beginning of wisdom is the fear of the Lord.*” People in the Old Testament who were called friends of God were identified in this manner; they were ones who feared the Lord.

I will tell you this my friends; God, apart from a Mediator, apart from an Advocate and a suitable sin-offering, and a Great High Priest, is an angry, offended, holy and sovereign God. You don’t want anything to do with an immaculate, absolute, God, nothing whatsoever.

God apart from a Mediator is not to be approached. Unless a man can see God in and through a Mediator, the terrors of God’s holiness, the

terrors of God's righteousness and majesty would overwhelm us. *"No man can look on God and live"* even Moses, the Seraphims and the angels; *"no man can look on God and live."*

We dare not come into God's presence without an Advocate or a Mediator, without Christ. That is what I am talking about; if you know God, there has to be in your heart, a fear of the Lord. If God is who He says He is, if God inhabits the heavens, if God almighty makes all things to move and *"in Him they live and move and have their being"* then you have to be anxious and troubled.

There will be pestilences, diseases, wars and rumors of wars. These things come and go at His command; He said in the Book of Job, *"They do."* Then you have to be anxious and troubled.

*"How can we know the way"*, Thomas asked? Do you know the way; do you know the way to God? Do you know His way? Have the secrets of His grace been opened unto you? Has the Holy of Holies been opened to you? Do you know the way to God? *"Can you by searching find out God?"*

Is that way open to you? Do you rashly, unadvisedly, rush into the presence of Him who is holy or do you wait to find from Him the way to God?

The Lord Jesus revealed the Way; He said, *"I am the way."* God in His awesome holiness and man in his utter depravity, there is a way to bring the two together. There is a place where *"righteousness and peace kiss one another."* There is a place where *"mercy and truth meet together;"* Christ said, *"It is in me; I am the way."*

*“No man cometh to the Father.”* That is where we want to come isn’t it? That is where we want to be, in the presence of the Father, *“but by me.”* This is the message of the whole Bible.

Abel knew that Christ was the way, his brother didn’t. Abel brought a lamb, a sin offering, a blood offering, because he knew that *“the blood of Christ cleanseth us from all sin.”* He looked to Christ by faith down through the years. He knew that the way to God was through the blood of the Lamb.

Moses knew that Christ was the way. Christ said, *“Moses wrote of me.”* When they slew the Passover and put the blood on the lintel and doorpost, Moses was saying; *“Christ is the way.”*

When they lifted up the brazen serpent in the wilderness, he was saying, *“Christ is the way.”* When the Holy of Holies was entered by Aaron the high priest and put the blood on the mercy seat, he was saying, *“Christ is the way”*

Every piece of furniture in that tabernacle said that *“Christ is the way”* from the altar where the lamb was slain, to the basin where the priest washed his hands and feet, to the candlestick, (Christ the Light of the world), to the showbread, and to the incense.

*“Christ is the way”* to the mercy seat covering the broken law. The blood spilled upon that mercy seat is saying, *“Without the shedding of blood, there is no remission.”*

Abraham knew that *“Christ was the way.”* Abraham’s son said, *“Father, where is the lamb?”* He said, *“My son; God will provide Himself a Lamb.”*

Job knew that “Christ was the way.” He said, *“I know that my Redeemer liveth and He will stand on this earth and though after my skin, worms destroy this body, yet, in my flesh I will see the Lord and not another; I myself.”*

Isaiah knew that “Christ was the way;” he knew Christ, by His wounding, by His sacrifice and by His death. He said, *“He was wounded for our transgressions. He was bruised for our iniquities. The chastisement of our peace was upon Him; by His stripes we are healed.”*

Simeon knew “Christ was the way;” he took up that child in His arms and lifted his eyes toward heaven and said, *“Lord; now let us thy servant depart in peace, according to your Word; I have seen your salvation.”* I will tell you this, my friends; that is the message of the Gospel; *“I have seen thy salvation.”*

I didn’t see thy salvation in the Law and I didn’t see it at Sinai. I didn’t see it at the Jordan River. I didn’t see it anywhere but in Christ. *“He that seeth the Son and believeth on Him hath everlasting life.”* Simeon saw the Lord, he saw the Lord’s Christ; *“mine eyes have seen thy salvation.”*

The apostles knew that Christ was the way, they said; *“There is none other name under heaven given among men whereby we must be saved,”* the name of Christ. I’m not talking about the names of Calvin and Luther, any of the founders of the churches, or any of the so-called messiahs.

It is not the Allah, it is not Mohammad, Buddha, Confucius or any of these; it is Christ Jesus our Lord; *“that is the name which is above every name. That is the name which the Father hath given Him. That is the name before which every knee will bow and every tongue will confess that He is Lord.”* He said, *“I am the way.”*

You can call me “radical” that is all right. You can call me “fanatical,” “radical” or “narrow-minded” if you wish. Call me what you will but the Scriptures plainly declare *“I am the way, the truth, and the life.”* Christ says, *“No man cometh to the Father but by me.”*

You might say, “But surely, God will make another way somehow.” Christ says *“no man cometh but by me.”* But surely, my mother has been such a fine mother, Christ says, *“no man but by me.”* But surely, I can come by the priest or the preacher, evangelist or missionary; Christ says, *“No man cometh to the Father but by Me.”* Isn’t that what it says? You know that is what it says.

*“He that believeth on the Son hath life. He that believeth not the son, (whatever he believes, whatever he does), shall never see life. The wrath of God abideth on him.”*

The apostles said, *“Lord, we don’t know where you are going, so how can we know the way?”* He said, *“I am the way and the truth,”* the only truth which is Christ. *“I am the life,”* the only life. Outside of Christ there is death, darkness, destruction and eternal condemnation. Our Lord says; *“I am the way.”*

You may try another way. If a man comes up with any other way he is a thief and a robber. John wrote, *“He that believeth on the Son hath life; he that believeth not shall never see life. This is the record, God*

*hath given us eternal life and this life is in His Son. He that hath the Son of God hath life and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life.”* I don’t know how it can be clearer. In Hebrews 9:22, the Scripture says; *“Without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness.”*

If you choose to approach God my friend, by your own merit, that is your privilege. If you choose to approach a holy God by your own works and your own righteousness, God Himself declared, it is not sufficient but rather in His sight, *“they are filthy rags.”*

If you choose to approach God by your religious form, ceremony, baptism, communion or some sacraments or whatever means, that is your privilege; you are welcome to try it. The Word of God plainly declares that if the Bible is going to be your rule of faith and practice, Christ says; *“I am the way, the truth, and the life. No man cometh to the Father but by Me.”*

I want to give you four or five things about Christ the Way, the way back to God. *“Your sins have separated you and your God.”* I want you to listen very carefully as I present them to you.

First of all: Faith in Christ is the way to God. Christ is the Way; He is God’s Way. That is what I am saying, He is God’s Way. Listen to Isaiah 7:14; *“Behold, the Lord Himself will give you a sign; a virgin shall conceive and bring forth a Son and thy shall call His name Immanuel,”* (God with us).

This is God’s Way. This is God’s purpose, God’s plan and is God provided. In Isaiah chapter 28:16, God said; *“Behold, I lay in Zion for a foundation, a precious corner stone, a tried stone, a sure foundation.”*

*He that believeth on Him shall never be ashamed.*” That is what God says.

Christ is God’s Way. He is God’s Way from all eternity. The Scripture says, *“Christ is the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.”* It has always been God’s Way. God has never had any other way to save sinners or any other way to redeem the lost.

God announced Christ coming to Adam right after Adam fell, he said; *“The woman’s seed will bruise the serpent’s head.”* The woman’s seed is Christ.

The whole tabernacle service as I told you earlier in this message, pictures sinners and the redeeming work of the Lord Jesus Christ.

God’s Bible is your guide and that is how faith cometh *“by hearing the Word of God.”* There is no other guide or way. Can you by looking at the stars find God? You can see His power but not His work of redemption. It is very plain from the Word of God that Christ is the Way, *“for God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son.”* He is God’s Way.

In Galatians 4: 4 and 5 it says, *“In the fullness of the time, God sent His Son into the world made of a woman, made under the Law, to redeem them that were born under the Law.”* God sent Him. So, this is what I am saying; Christ is God’s Way. He is the way to God and He is God’s Way.”

God is the offended party; we have sinned against God. He is the one who will lay down the terms of peace. He has given the terms of

peace and it is *“repentance toward God and faith in our Lord Jesus Christ.”*

Secondly: Christ is the only way to approach God. He is God’s Way and He is the only Way. I want you to listen to this; *“Other foundation can no man lay than that which is laid, Christ the Lord. There is none other name under heaven given among men whereby we must be saved.”* That covers a wide expanse.

The prophets knew no other way; *“To Him give all the prophets witness.”* The apostles knew no other way; Peter said, *“We are not redeemed with corruptible things such as silver and gold from our vain conversations which we received by tradition from our fathers but with the precious blood of Christ.”* The apostles knew no other Way.

The redeemed in glory know no other way; they said, *“Unto Him who loved us and washed us from our sin in His own blood.”* They knew no other way to God.

The reformers knew no other way to God; they said, *“It is the Scriptures alone, grace alone and Christ alone.”*

There is a curse pronounced upon those who preach another way. Paul said, *“If any man preach any other Gospel, even if it be an angel from heaven, let him be accursed.”*

I’m not being narrow, no narrower than God’s Word. There is a way so why look for another way? There is God’s Way and it is the only Way, Christ. What a fool I would be to turn from the only Way and seek another door. There is not another door.

Watch this: Faith in Christ, who is the way to God, is a sure and certain way to be saved. He said in John 6:37, *“All that My Father giveth me shall come to me and him that cometh to me, I will in no wise cast out.”* What a promise; the door is open wide!

The Scripture says *“For whosoever will,”* by God’s grace, come on; He will never shut you out. Christ said, *“My sheep hear my voice; I know them; I give them eternal life and they will never perish.”*

The hymn writer said:

That soul that on Jesus hath leaned for repose,  
I will not, I will not, desert to its foes.

That soul though all hell should endeavor to shake,  
I’ll never, no never, no never, forsake.

The apostle Paul said, *“I know whom I have believed. I’m persuaded that He is able to keep that which I have committed to Him against that day.”* I am not afraid; He is the sure and certain Way because He is God’s Way.

He has the sin offering that I need. He has the righteousness which the Law requires. He has the sacrifice which justice demands; He has it all in His hand.

Listen to this; Christ is the way that is free; it does not cost a thing. He said, *“Ho, everyone that thirsteth; come to the water; He that hath no money; come buy wine and milk without price.”* Don’t bring anything:

“Let not conscience make you linger,

Nor a fitness fondly dream.

All the fitness He requireth  
Is to feel your need of Him.”

You may think that you have been such a terrible person. Christ died for sinners, sinners like you and me. You may think that you can't hold out. You can't but *“He is gracious and able to keep that which I have committed to Him.”*

He can keep us; *“He will present us faultless before the throne of His glory with exceeding joy. This is the record that God hath given us eternal life.”* This is a gift; eternal life is a gift; *“The gift of God is eternal life.”*

*“Come unto me all ye that labor and are heavy laden and I will give you rest.”* Life in Christ is not sold to the highest bidder or to the lowest bidder. Life in Christ is not earned or merited; it is a gift and it is free; *“we are justified freely by His grace.”*

When Christ our Lord died on the cross He said; *“It is finished.”* Everything that the Law requires, that justice demands, heaven requires or the sinner needs, is met in Christ. I'm talking about wisdom, righteousness, sanctification and redemption.

God does not require you to produce righteousness but to receive one already produced. God does not require you to understand His Word but to believe it. God does not require you to make a way to Him but to receive Him who is the Way. That's so; *“I am the way.”*

Last of all: to all who will come, Christ is the Way, Jew or Gentile. God has no way to save the Jew and another way to save the Gentiles. Christ is the Way for all men, male or female, old or young, rich or poor, white or black, learned or ignorant.

Our Lord said; *“Ho, everyone that thirsteth; come to the water. Come; let us reason together, though your sins be as scarlet, though they be red like crimson, I will make them white as snow.”* Do you believe that; do you believe in God?

Does your faith about God or belief about God trouble you; it ought to? My faith about God ought to trouble me. So, what’s the way to God? Christ said, *“I am the way, the truth, and the life. No man cometh to the Father but by Me.”*

Believe on Christ; lay hold of Christ. As the old Puritans use to say, “Embrace the Redeemer; cast all your cares upon Him; He careth for you. Rest in Him.”

Everyone wants something to do. I will not give you something to do. Christ did it all and you will look to Him or you will perish. *“Lord, we know not whether Thou goest; how can we know the way?”*

Christ says; *“I am the way, the truth, and the life; no man cometh to the Father but by Me for He is able to save to the uttermost them that do come to God by Him.”* Will you trust Him?