

# THE WAY

Hello and welcome to the final message of our series called THE WAY!

And what an incredible journey it's been! Turn to your neighbor and say you've got this. Turn to your other neighbor and say you're on THE WAY!

P. Mike open this incredible series with a very significant conversation with his followers that would set us on the right path.

In this conversation, Jesus said that His time with them was drawing to an end. He also told them, "Where I am going, you cannot follow now, but you will follow later". One of his disciples in a panic said, "Lord, we don't know where you are going, so how can we know the way?"

If you recall P Mike taught us that in a world of "My truth", "Your truth", and "Half-truths", Jesus said, "I am The Truth". There's the "Fast life", the "Good life", "The Hard-knock life"; Jesus said, "I am The Life". There's the "Easy way" or the "Hard way", "My way" or the "Highway", but when it comes to finding God, Jesus said, what? That's right, Jesus said "I am The Way".

## ***What things are you believing that may not really be TRUTH?***

So in week one we established a crucial foundation of TRUTH in the Person of Jesus Christ! If Jesus is the truth then we must believe that all he has to say is the truth can I get an Amen. Then in week 2 P. Mark addressed one of the most important things we can do before starting any journey and that is to take an inventory of three key things: 1) where you are 2) where you are going AND 3) what will it cost you to get there. This is sooooo important. Why?

Because if you don't have a realistic understanding of what it will take to finish the trip you may not make it all the way and have to turn back. This reminds me of story my dad told me about a hiking trip he and my mom took in Kauai. My dad prided himself on being a walker! But he took on a trail he didn't truly know. And he totally didn't understand what it was gonna take; if you know what I mean.

Long story short they went half way in and then had to turn back. It took almost 6 hours! Needless to say they couldn't finish the trail and my mom was not too happy with my father! I'm just praising God they didn't end up on some news story headline - Hikers gone missing in Kauai!

How many of you know that a 3 mile hike on flat surface is not the same as a 3 mile hike straight up a mountain!

And the same is true with following Jesus. We must each individually examine where we are ..... and fully count the cost of following the Lord.

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***Now that we are concluding our series, Where are you? Where are you Going, and What have you discovered that it will cost you?***

Once we've made the decision to GO then we need to Gear up for the Trip. Pastor Glenn taught us all of the wonderful things we have and will need to finish the journey. Remember his cool Acronym for G.E.A.R.

"G" stood for God's Word ..... "E" stood for our experiences "A" stood for advocate and "R" stood for repellant for all those pesky mosquitos.

Last week P Lori addressed all the different distractions and dangers we will inevitably face on this journey! She encouraged us with 1 Peter 4: 12-13 which says, *"Dear friends, don't be surprised at the fiery trials you are going through, as if something strange were happening to you. Instead, be very glad—for these trials make you partners with Christ in his suffering, so that you will have the wonderful joy of seeing his glory when it is revealed to all the world."*

Let's take a look at our theme verser for our series John 14:6  
Jesus says, *"I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. Jesus boldly says he is THE WAY, THE TRUTH AND THE LIFE.*

P. Mike pretty much covered the TRUTH. P. Mark, P. Glenn, and P. Lori, covered the WAY and if you need a refresher on any of those messages, they are available on our website. Today, I have the honor and privilege of wrapping up by looking at the REWARDS of following in THE WAY which is THE LIFE! Turn to your neighbor and say THE LIFE.

We all start basically at the same place with Jesus - we are saved. But what we don't realize is that Salvation should lead to significance!

Turn to your neighbor and say salvation leads to significance.  
You don't come to Jesus so you can fix your life. You come to Jesus to find your life. A life of significance not because of you but because of the one who is working in and through you. This significance is selfless service to our Savior! Hallelujah  
We all start off on this journey as followers of Jesus, but at some point we make a decision to go all in with Jesus and become HIS disciple! His Student!

In first-century Judaism, they understood that a disciple had four major tasks to perform:

TO MEMORIZE HIS TEACHER'S WORDS  
TO LEARN HIS TEACHER'S TRADITIONS  
TO IMITATE HIS TEACHER'S ACTIONS and  
TO RAISE UP MORE DISCIPLES

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**Would you consider yourself a Disciple of Christ? If so which of the four above listed areas do you feel you excel at, which of the four areas needs improvement and Why?**

Let's read what Jesus says to his disciples in Mathew 28: 18-20

*"I have been given all authority in heaven and on earth. Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Teach these new disciples to obey ALL THE commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age."*

WE'VE ALL BEEN COMMISSIONED to do 4 things on this amazing journey! 1) GO 2) Make disciples. 3) Baptize them Baptize them in the name of ...THE FATHER (Baptism of Love) THE SON (Baptism of Forgiveness) THE HOLY SPIRIT (Baptism of Power) and lastly 4) Teach them to obey ALL the commands (which is to Follow THE WAY)

We will continually have to overcome Disbelief, Doubt, Deception, Discouragement, and Distractions on this journey. BUT KNOW THIS... we must journey on! Turn to your neighbor and say WE MUST JOURNEY ON!

**What are some disbeliefs, doubt, deception, discouragement, and distractions you are currently facing? How can you overcome them?**

Maybe your here this morning an your struggling to journey on and your asking what must I do to keep going when I'm tired and sometimes full of fear? Well lets look at what Jesus does for His disciples to help them continue to GO in John 20:19-23,

*"That Sunday evening the disciples were meeting behind locked doors because they were afraid of the Jewish leaders. Suddenly, Jesus was standing there among them! "Peace be with you," he said. As he spoke, he showed them the wounds in his hands and his side. They were filled with joy when they saw the Lord!*

*Again he said, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I am sending you." Then he breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive anyone's sins, they are forgiven. If you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven."*

Remember, Jesus was sent in the authority of the Father and we are sent in the authority of Jesus, Therefore, we too are sent in the Authority of God the Father! Turn to your neighbor and say walk in God's Authority!



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We also have a complete blueprint to follow, a complete GPS system that will show us THE WAY!!....Jesus, demonstrated to us by His words AND his actions how to accomplish the job he has commissioned us to do. When Jesus breathed on his disciples, this was a precursor TO what many scholars believe was the more familiar main event - the day of Pentecost in Acts chapter 2. In John 16:7 Jesus tells us, *"But very truly I tell you, it is for your good that I am going away. Unless I go away, the Advocate will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you."*

When Jesus breathed on the disciples; he obviously had not left. But in the same way that God breathed on man to give him physical life; Jesus breathed on his disciples to give them an eternal spiritual life. This was a foreshadowing of the Holy Spirit's arrival and His empowering presence on the day of Pentecost.

***What is your understanding of the Holy Spirit? Have you been baptized in the Holy Spirit? If so how does this help you to fulfill the great commission on your life? If not, what do believe is holding you back from experiencing the fullness of the Spirit?***

With the baptism of the Holy Spirit in Acts 2 came the POWER to do God's will on earth. John Piper says it like this, "When Jesus says, 'You will be baptized with the Holy Spirit,' he means you will receive extraordinary power for Christ-exalting ministry"

Maybe you're thinking... but Jesus never got baptized in the Holy Spirit. He was divine, he was God. He was all powerful. But was he? Let's read what Philipians 2:7 says *"Instead, he [Jesus] gave up his divine privileges; he took the humble position of a slave and was born as a human being."*

Yes Jesus was all powerful and divine but he set that aside! Why would he do that you ask? Well because of LOVE! Love for his father that led to ultimate obedience and compassion for His people. Its that same love that will lead us to a life of obedience and a life of significance. John 14: 21, *"Those who accept my commandments and obey them are the ones who love me. And because they love me, my Father will love them. And I will love them and reveal myself to each of them."*

***How have you expressed your love for the Father, through your obedience to the Father?***

Jesus, in obedience, set aside his divine nature because of His love for the Father. And we, out of our love, must also live a life of obedience to the one who gave himself for each of us. And for all of you academics out there, you're probably wondering, "if Jesus was our example, when did he get baptized by the Holy Spirit?"



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Well in Luke 3 it says, *"One day when the crowds were being baptized, Jesus himself was baptized"* in water by John the Baptist... but if you continue to read, it says *"As he was praying, the heavens opened, and [here it is] the Holy Spirit, in bodily form, descended on him like a dove. And a voice from heaven said, 'You are my dearly loved Son, and you bring me great joy.'"*

So THE WAY is to become imitators of Christ! And as we follow in THE WAY our lives become significant because God is reaching people through us, making disciples of all nations. And why should we do this? Because OUR REWARD IS HIS LIFE! Turn to your neighbor and say, OUR REWARD IS HIS LIFE

## **What is HIS LIFE?**

When we think of life we must see it from God's perspective. If our life was measured with this string, this little piece right here would represent our life here on earth and the rest of this string would represent our life in eternity.

So Jesus is inviting us to live a life that goes beyond this life here on earth into eternity. There is nothing more satisfying or significant than making an impact in the lives around us for JESUS! Can I get an Amen!

A man I greatly respect who had an incredible impact on my life said it like this,

"The best use of your life, is to so live your life, that the use of your life, outlives your life." You might want to take a picture of this while I read it to you again, "The best use of your life, is to so live your life, that the use of your life outlives your life."

The Hebrew word Jesus used for life in John 14:6 will give us even a greater understanding of this life. That word was Chayim. In the Hebrew culture they understood this thing called LIFE as this life and the life to come.

## **How might have you put more of my focus on this life instead of the life to come?**

It is written in the plural to imply that life cannot be lived alone. This life was meant to be a life in community with people. Turn to your neighbor and say, YOU'RE MY PEOPLE.

They understood that God's life is never diminished as it is shared with others, but instead grows and multiplies in miraculous ways. You see in the Hebrew culture one life represents a universe of lives! Turn to your neighbor and say, YOU REPRESENT A UNIVERSE OF LIVES!

## **Who are some of the universe of people the Lord is calling you to reach for Him?**

Jesus shares LIFE with you, And you GET TO (NOT A HAVE TO) share his life with others. Hal-lelujah!

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The more people we impact for Jesus the more full of HIS LIFE we become! AND BELIEVE ME when I tell you HIS LIFE IS A BLESSED LIFE. If you want to learn more about this blessed life.. I want to encourage you to read your bible and you will discover all the amazing blessings and promises of God. Try start with Deuteronomy 28!

**Read Deut. 28 and list some of our promised blessings.**

In Conclusion, To help us remember this LIFE I came up with an acronym.

L - LOVE (Loving God and Loving Others)  
I - Intimacy (ONENESS WITH GOD)  
F - Freedom, Fruitfulness and God's Faithfulness  
E - Empowerment (The Spirit Empowered Life)

Remember THE WAY is JESUS, THE TRUTH is JESUS, the LIFE is JESUS

OUR DESTINATION, or THE X THAT marks the spot, is the PERSON OF JESUS!

A life with Jesus, empowered by Jesus, and for Jesus!

**Visualize and describe what life will be like when you reach your final destination with JESUS!**

And as we continue to embark on this journey, I pray that each and everyone of us would boldly declare the words of King David as Peter did on that day of Pentacost (Acts 2: 25-28);

*"I see that the Lord is always with me.*

*I will not be shaken, for he is right beside me.*

*No wonder my heart is glad, and my tongue shouts his praises! My body rests in hope.*

*For you will not leave my soul among the dead or allow your Holy One to rot in the grave. You have shown me the WAY OF LIFE, and you will fill me with THE JOY of your presence!"*