

2026-09-27

Jesus is Coming Again

John 14:1-6

You have seen the sign on the back of a Jeep, “All who wander are not lost.” I agree. At least they know they are wandering. They may not know the exact location where they are heading, but they know their way home. Do you remember the lady who was to follow me home from Mesa and ended up in Springerville, 12 miles from the New Mexico border? I turned left and she turned right onto the freeway. As she drove out of town, she kept looking for signs to Phoenix and she never saw any because she was going the wrong way. All she had to do was turn around. Instead, she kept going the wrong way for five hours, hoping to see a sign to Phoenix. Of course, she never saw any signs to Phoenix. When the police found her around midnight during a snow storm parked along the side of a road, she was almost out of gas, had a flat tire, and had no money. Whose name and phone number did she give the police to help her? Mine. Sally, Bill Erwin and I left the next day to drive the five hours to Springerville. We got her car tire replaced and filled the tank with gas. It was still snowing. I was cold. We had a quick lunch and drove five hours home. On our return trip I showed her the signs to Phoenix.

During this last night Jesus had with His disciples, He has been telling His disciples some very significant and important information they needed to know and follow. Some things were a challenge for the disciples to believe, yet eventually they did. The first one was in John 14:1 “*You believe in God, believe also in Me.*” They were and we are to believe in, have faith in Jesus just like they did and we do with God. Some difficult and strange things were going to happen, like the arrest and crucifixion of Jesus. That confused and frightened the disciples. The disciples were to trust Jesus. He knew what He was doing and why He was doing it even when the disciples did not. There are a lot of things that have happened and more things will happen in our lives that are hard to understand. Trust Jesus! Trust God. Believe He is in control and knows what is going on. And keep praying! Keep asking God to help our unbelief (Mark 9:24). Next, Jesus told His disciples that He was going to His Father’s house to prepare a room for them. That sounds like great news. Later (John 14:23) Jesus said He and the Father would return to live in every believer to prepare us for His place (14:17). This is more good news. In this world we are to believe God’s word and love one another the way He loves us (John 13:34).

Then Jesus told His disciples that since He was going away to prepare a place for them, Jesus said, “*I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also*” (John 14:3). This sounds great! The disciples needed some

more good news. What did Jesus mean by this? When was He coming again and receiving them to Himself? Was Jesus referring to His resurrection from the dead? He did come to the disciples again when He rose from the dead. And, in a way Jesus received the disciples in a different way than what we thought. No one seriously thinks Jesus was referring here to His resurrection and the brief encounters with the disciples before His ascension. Preachers do like to use this scripture at funerals and memorial services to encourage those attending that Jesus has come for their loved ones and taken them to be with Him in heaven. Is this what Jesus meant? It is a possibility. Although some people believe angels come and actually guide us to the place God has prepared for us since they are responsible to do this at the Second Coming of Christ (Mark 13:26-27). What Jesus seems to be giving us is the first indication of the rapture. Jesus said, *“I will come again and receive you to Myself.”* Jesus is coming and receiving us. He is not coming to establish His kingdom on earth. Paul described the rapture that believers in Jesus would be caught up to meet the Lord in the air (1 Thessalonians 4:17). At the Second Coming of Christ, Jesus returns to earth to bring judgment and establish His kingdom on the earth (Matthew 13:39-43 / 24:29-31 / 25:31-32).

Jesus finished that thought with, *“That where I am, there you may be also”* (John 14:3). Once Jesus had finished His most difficult work of paying our price for our sin by receiving our judgment, we could be with Him in heaven. Jesus knew that our sins had to be paid for before we could have a right standing with God. Then we could be with Him forever! This would be great encouragement to the disciples because it is great encouragement to us. That is really **what heaven is all about**, being in the presence of Jesus our Savior and Lord. We have made heaven all about reuniting with our family members and being together again with our family. Now, that may happen, but the Bible focuses on **being reunited with God**. Paul wrote, *“We are confident, yes, well pleased rather to be absent from the body and to be present with”* our spouse, our parents, our children, our family? No, Paul said, *“with our Lord”* (2 Corinthians 5:8). We need to keep our focus on a **biblical focus**. Going to heaven is about going to be with Jesus. Are you living daily expecting and excited to live with Jesus? We are to *“seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God”* (Colossians 3:1). We are to *“set your mind on things above, not on things on this earth. For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ who is our life appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory”* (3:2-4). Truly, there is no place like home especially when heaven is our home.

Then Jesus said to the disciples, *“And where I go you know, and the way you know”* (John 14:4). The NIV translates this verse, *“You know the way to the place where I am going.”* In the Greek it is simply, *“And where I go you know the way.”* **Where is**

Jesus going? Since Jesus has been talking about heaven, going to prepare a place for His followers and coming back for them, it should be understood that Jesus is still talking about heaven. Jesus is going to the right hand of God the Father in heaven. Just minutes before, we assume, Jesus had told the disciples, “*Little children, I shall be with you a little while longer. You will seek Me; and as I said to the Jews, ‘Where I am going, you cannot come’*” (John 13:33). In this verse Jesus was talking about the cross. Jesus did not want His disciples to go with Him to His cross. Jesus had to bear the cross alone. He would take on Himself the sins of the world (1 John 2:2). The disciples would witness the sacrifice of Jesus, not experience it with Him.

As for the way, Jesus has been explaining **the way** to His disciples and everyone who will listen and pay attention. Jesus said, “*I am the door. If anyone enters by Me, he will be saved, and will go in and out and find pasture*” (John 10:9). Jesus said, “*I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live. And whoever lives and believes in Me shall never die*” (John 11:25-26). If the disciples were thinking, they would know where Jesus is going and they would know the way. Their problem was they did not have the Holy Spirit living in them to help them understand spiritual truths (1 Corinthians 1:11-13). It is very probable that the disciples of Jesus did not fully understand what Jesus had said to them until after Pentecost, when they were filled with the Spirit of God and began to preach His message of salvation through faith in Jesus alone.

Thomas asked the question, “*Lord, we do not know where You are going, and how can we know the way?*” (John 14:5). Thomas had his doubts. When Jesus told His disciples that Lazarus was dead and He needed to go to him, it was Thomas who said, “*Let us also go, that we may die with Him*” (John 11:16). Thomas and probably other disciples thought that if they returned to Judea, they would all be killed. The ruling Jews were looking to kill Jesus. Now that Jesus and His disciples had been in Judea for several weeks and were still alive, Thomas is wondering where Jesus is going next. Jesus had previously told some Pharisees, “*You will seek Me and not find Me, and where I am you cannot come*” (John 7:34). The Pharisees thought Jesus was going to go among the Greeks and teach them (7:35). Jesus was talking about going to heaven to be with God the Father. Unless they change, they would not make it.

Where was Jesus going? He was going to go to lots of places. Jesus was going to be arrested and tried before the Sanhedrin and Rome. Jesus was going to the cross and die. Jesus was going to the realm of the dead, Sheol, Hades. Jesus was going to rise from the dead. Jesus was going to show Himself to His disciples in many places. Jesus was going to ascend to heaven. Since Jesus has been talking about heaven with His disciples, it is only right to understand Jesus was talking about going to heaven.

We should be grateful for Thomas' question. Jesus did not criticize Thomas. Thomas gave Jesus the opportunity to make another profound statement that he could hold onto. Jesus said, *"I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me"* (John 14:6). This is one of Jesus' greatest statements. He did not say He knew the way or that He taught the way. Jesus said **He is the way**. He is the only way. **Only in Jesus are we brought back to God**. Only in Jesus can we discover our true destiny, being made in the image of God.

Jesus is the truth. It is rare indeed to find truth in this world. People search for truth. Truth is found only in God, through the person of Jesus. He as truth demonstrates complete justice. He as truth demonstrates total love (Romans 5:8). Jesus as truth is consistent with everyone showing no partiality (2:11). **Jesus is the life.** Throughout the Gospel of John, life is found in Jesus Christ. *"In Him was **life**, and the life was the light of men"* (John 1:4). In his conclusion John wrote, *"These are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have **life** in His name"* (20:31). **As the way**, Jesus is our means of reaching God the Father. **As the truth**, Jesus is the righteous standard of knowing God the Father. **As the life**, Jesus is our experience of living with God the Father. **Without Jesus** being the **way**, there is no going to God the Father. **Without Jesus** being the **truth**, there is no knowing God the Father. **Without Jesus** being the **life**, there is no living with God the Father. Then Jesus made His exclusive statement, *"No one comes to the Father except through Me."* Absolutely no one can reach the Father, can truly know the Father or experience life with the Father without knowing, trusting, and living in Jesus. Are you daily living with Jesus or do you connect with Him only on Sunday's? Jesus calls us into a daily relationship with Him. That is the way it will be in heaven.

Questions to ask yourself: Are you wandering in your life looking for your life's answers? Do you know the only way to heaven? Are you daily living for Jesus?

Actions to take: If you think there is any other way to heaven, you should take seriously the statements of Jesus. Consider His claims. Eternal life is in Him, trusting Jesus. Joy, peace, and contentment in this world is in Him, trusting Jesus. Set your mind on things above. Put off the old person. Put on the new person. Live for Him.

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