

# Jesus, The Way

## Finding Jesus, The Way

### INTRODUCTION:

- I. In this series of sermons which we began last Sunday morning, I'm attempting to present Jesus as "THE WAY" to many blessings.
  - A. In fact, Jesus IS the source of EVERY spiritual blessing that God has to offer.
    1. The apostle wrote: **Ephesians 1:3** – *Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ.*
  - B. But how can we be sure that we have found the TRUE Jesus and are truly His disciples?
    1. Jesus made it clear that simply BELIEVING in Him does not constitute true discipleship.
      - a. **John 8:31** – *Then Jesus said to those Jews who believed Him, "If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed."*
    2. So, how can we be sure that we're following the REAL, TRUE Jesus, and not some CARICATURE, or MISREPRESENTATION of Jesus, that's been presented to us erroneously by others who

are sincerely mistaken themselves – such as our parents,  
preachers, churches?

- II. The only way we can know if we've found the TRUE Jesus, who is THE WAY, we need to begin with the only reliable source of information about Him: THE BIBLE!
  - A. So let's turn to the Scriptures and see what they reveal about the REAL Jesus.
    - 1. Most everyone is familiar with the gospel accounts of the life of Jesus in Matthew, Mark, Luke and John.
      - a. We can certainly find Jesus there.
    - 2. And we can certainly find Jesus in the rest of the New Testament.
    - 3. But let's start by spending some time examining a part of the Scriptures where most would NOT expect to find Jesus.

**BODY:**

- I. Many people who are not familiar with the Scriptures find it amazing that Jesus can actually be found in the first half of the Bible we call the OLD TESTAMENT.
  - A. Although these inspired writings were completed hundreds of years before Jesus was born, the Old Testament contains a wealth of information about Him.

1. Jesus even made this point on at least two occasions after His resurrection.
  - a. The first time was to the two disciples with whom He was walking while on the road to the small village of Emmaus.
    - (1). **Luke 24:27** – *And beginning at Moses and all the Prophets, He expounded to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning Himself.*
  - b. The second time Jesus affirmed that the Old Testament Scriptures spoke of Him was later when He met with His apostles.
    - (1). **Luke 24:44-47** – Then He said to them, *"These are the words which I spoke to you while I was still with you, that all things must be fulfilled which were written in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms concerning Me." And He opened their understanding, that they might comprehend the Scriptures. Then He said to them, "Thus it is written, and thus it was necessary for the Christ to suffer and to rise from the dead the third day, and that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in His name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem."*

2. Years later, the apostle Paul reminded the young evangelist Timothy of the value of the Old Testament Scriptures and the information they provide about salvation through Jesus Christ.
  - a. **2 Timothy 3:14-15** – *But you must continue in the things which you have learned and been assured of, knowing from whom you have learned them, and that from childhood you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.*
- B. So how is it that we find Jesus in the Old Testament? Simply because in the Old Testament we are able to see Jesus through the eyes of prophecy!
  1. For example, from the prophet ISAIAH we can learn about:
    - a. The BIRTH of Jesus: **Isaiah 7:14** – *"Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall call His name Immanuel."*
    - b. The SUFFERING of Jesus: **Isaiah 53:4-6** – *Surely He has borne our griefs And carried our sorrows; Yet we esteemed Him stricken, Smitten by God, and afflicted. But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; The chastisement for our peace was upon Him, And by His stripes we are healed. All we like sheep have gone*

*astray; We have turned, every one, to his own way; And the LORD has laid on Him the iniquity of us all.*

- c. The SOVEREIGN RULE of Jesus: **Isaiah 9:6-7** – *For unto us a Child is born, Unto us a Son is given; And the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the increase of His government and peace There will be no end, Upon the throne of David and over His kingdom, To order it and establish it with judgment and justice From that time forward, even forever. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this.*

2. There are MANY more prophecies about Jesus just from Isaiah alone – which is one of the reasons he's commonly called "The Messianic Prophet"
  3. But several OTHER Old Testament prophets have a lot to say about Jesus as well.
  4. In fact, it's been estimated that there are more than 330 prophetic statements about Jesus that are found in the Old Testament!
- C. Therefore we SHOULD read the Old Testament Scriptures to find the true Jesus!
1. But as important as they are in helping us to find Jesus, their purpose was predictive – to PROPHECY of the coming Messiah

(Jesus) and, therefore, to prepare the people of Israel for coming of Jesus Christ.

a. This is why the apostle Paul reminded the Galatians:

**Galatians 3:24-25** – *Therefore the law was our tutor to bring us to Christ, that we might be justified by faith. But after faith has come, we are no longer under a tutor.*

2. Therefore, since the Old Testament Scriptures served the purpose to bring us TO Jesus, the only way we can understand Jesus more completely is to go to another section of the Bible.
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- II. Not only do we find Jesus spoken of prophetically in the Old Testament, we also find Jesus in the four GOSPELS of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John.
    - A. The gospels give us the most complete record of Jesus' life and teachings while on earth.
      1. And, by God's Divine Providence, we have been blessed with four different gospels, each with its own unique emphasis. For example:
        - a. The gospel according to MATTHEW was written primarily to a Jewish readership and emphasizes the "teachings" of Jesus – especially the Lord's teachings concerning the kingdom of heaven.

- b. The gospel of MARK focuses primarily on the "miracles" of Jesus, showing His power.
  - c. The gospel of LUKE was written primarily to a Gentile readership (non-Jews) and underscores the "HUMANITY" of Jesus while at the same time affirming the "deity" and "divinity" of Jesus.
  - d. However, the gospel of JOHN focuses on all the evidence that proves Jesus is TRULY the Son of God – proving His "DIVINITY", while at the same time affirming His "humanity."
- B. Even though the four gospel accounts focus on different aspects of Jesus' life and teachings, they all have the same basic purpose.
- 1. The central purpose of the gospel accounts concerning the life and teachings of Jesus are to CREATE FAITH.
    - a. **John 20:30-31** – *And truly Jesus did many other signs in the presence of His disciples, which are not written in this book; but 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.*
  - 2. The gospels help us to see Jesus through the eyes of FULFILLMENT, as they carefully document how Jesus FULFILLED Old Testament prophecy – this is especially true with Matthew's gospel account of the life of Jesus.

3. The gospels also reveal what Jesus actually taught.
  - a. Therefore, no one can truly KNOW Jesus without carefully reading and meditating on the gospels.
- C. When we spend time in the gospels we may be surprised to find out how DIFFERENT the REAL Jesus and His teachings are from the Jesus imagined by so many!
  1. For example, many feel that they are going to heaven when they die; but Jesus taught that the MAJORITY will NOT go to heaven.
    - a. **Matthew 7:13-14** – *"Enter by the narrow gate; for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it. Because narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it."*
  2. Among those who will be surprised at the Day of Judgment will be many who thought they KNEW and SERVED Jesus all their lives.
    - a. **Matthew 7:21-23** – *"Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven. Many will say to Me in that day, 'Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?' And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!'"*

3. Therefore, contrary to simply "BELIEVING in Jesus," the gospels tell us what the REAL Jesus had to say about following Him.
  - a. **Luke 9:23-25** – *Then He said to them all, "If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me. For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will save it. For what profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world, and is himself destroyed or lost?"*
4. And one of the gospel accounts even ends with a charge that many people who think they KNOW Jesus don't take seriously.
  - a. **Matthew 28:18-20** – Jesus said: *"All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." Amen.*
5. The TRUE Jesus left His apostles with the responsibility of teaching those who would become disciples to *"observe ALL things whatsoever I have commanded you."*
  - a. Does this sound like the "Jesus" proclaimed by many today?
6. The concept many have of Jesus seems to be that He allows a sort of "multiple choice" when it comes to obeying His commandments!

- a. That's certainly NOT true of the REAL Jesus!
- D. Therefore, by reading the gospels, we come much closer to finding the TRUE Jesus and all that He represents.
- 1. But by reading the gospels we also find out that He DID NOT reveal EVERYTHING He wanted to reveal while on earth!
    - a. **John 16:12-14** – Jesus said to his apostles: *"I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come. He will glorify Me, for He will take of what is Mine and declare it to you."*
  - 2. Therefore, since the apostles couldn't receive ALL TRUTH at that time – simply because they wouldn't have understood it – Jesus sent the Holy Spirit to complete the work of guiding the apostles into all the truth.
    - a. So, that simply means to find MORE about the TRUE Jesus AND to learn what His WILL is for us today, we need to turn to the rest of the books of the New Testament.

Therefore, to truly find Jesus and what His Will is for us today, we must also turn to the rest of the books of the New Testament...

II. For example, we can also find Jesus in THE ACTS and in THE EPISTLES or LETTERS that are found in the New Testament.

A. For example, in the book of Acts, we find the fulfillment of Jesus' promise to send the Holy Spirit Who would guide the apostles into all the truth.

1. Only ten days after His Ascension into heaven, we read this about the apostles.

a. **Acts 2:4** – *And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues (other languages), as the Spirit gave them utterance.*

2. As we read through the book of Acts, they see the Holy Spirit guiding the apostles and the early church.

3. Slowly, but surely, the Holy Spirit guided the apostles into all the truth Jesus wanted revealed to all mankind.

4. In fact, the Holy Spirit even revealed things Jesus taught during His earthly ministry that are not actually recorded in any of the four gospels.

a. For example, the apostle Paul reminded the elders of the church of Ephesus of one saying of Jesus.

b. **Acts 20:35** – *"I have shown you in every way, by laboring like this, that you must support the weak. And remember the*

*words of the Lord Jesus, that He said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'"*

B. Therefore, since the Holy Spirit guided the apostles into all the truth, we need to think of the teachings and the writings of the apostles (i.e., the epistles or letters) as though they are teachings and writings that come directly from Jesus Himself!

1. **1 Corinthians 14:37** – The apostle Paul wrote this to the church at Corinth: *If anyone thinks himself to be a prophet or spiritual, let him acknowledge that the things which I write to you are the commandments of the Lord.*
2. **1 Thessalonians 2:13** – And to the church at Thessalonica Paul wrote: *For this reason we also thank God without ceasing, because when you received the word of God which you heard from us, you welcomed it not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God, which also effectively works in you who believe.*
3. During His personal ministry, Jesus Himself said that those who receive His apostles would in fact be receiving Him.
  - a. **John 13:20** – *"Most assuredly, I say to you, he who receives whomever I send receives Me; and he who receives Me receives Him who sent Me."*

C. Therefore, it's important that we understand that the Holy Spirit did in fact guide the apostles into ALL the truth!

1. In other words, the gospels, the book of Acts and the epistles or letters (including Revelation) contain both the teachings OF Jesus as well as teachings ABOUT Jesus that have been COMPLETELY, FULLY, and FINALLY revealed!
  - a. Therefore, there is nothing more that Jesus plans to reveal about Himself or His teaching.
  - b. It's all in the New Testament of Jesus Christ.
2. The apostle Peter told Christians during the first century we have ALL WE NEED to live godly lives.
  - a. **2 Peter 1:2-3** – *Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord, as His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue...*
3. The apostle Paul also spoke of the completeness which the Scriptures provide.
  - a. **2 Timothy 3:16-17** – *All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.*
4. As an example of just how FINAL the apostles' revelation of Jesus and His teachings are, notice what Paul told the Galatians.

- a. **Galatians 1:8-9** – *But even if we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel to you than what we have preached to you, let him be accursed. As we have said before, so now I say again, if anyone preaches any other gospel to you than what you have received, let him be accursed.*
- D. And so, with the all the prophecies in the OLD TESTAMENT about Jesus, and with all the teachings OF and ABOUT Jesus in the NEW TESTAMENT – including the fulfillment of those Old Testament prophecies, we are able to see Jesus through the eyes of COMPLETENESS!
1. All we need to know to follow Jesus as THE WAY is right there in Scripture.
    - a. Therefore, we need LEARN IT, and LIVE IT!
  2. There will be no further revelations – our responsibility is to simply remain true to what HAS been revealed once and for all.
    - a. **Jude 3** – *Beloved, while I was very diligent to write to you concerning our common salvation, I found it necessary to write to you exhorting you to contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all delivered to the saints.*

IV. But having said all this, let me stress that the ONLY WAY we can TRULY find the REAL JESUS is when we truly OBEY HIM! Therefore, we can also find Jesus IN OBEDIENCE.

A. As much as we may learn ABOUT Jesus and His teachings in the gospels, Acts, and in the epistles or letters, we cannot TRULY find Jesus as THE WAY until we begin obeying Him!

1. Jesus Himself stressed the importance of obedience to those who were simply believers.

a. **John 8:31-32** – *Then Jesus said to those Jews who believed Him, "If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed. And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free."*

b. But notice carefully that simply "*BELIEVING on him*" didn't make these Jews TRUE DISCIPLES of Jesus!

c. They could become His disciples and KNOW the truth and the freedom it gives from sin ONLY by continuing in His Word (obeying all that He commanded).

2. On another occasion, Jesus told His apostles of the importance of obedience.

a. **John 14:21** – Jesus said: *"He who has My commandments and keeps them, it is he who loves Me. And he who loves Me*

*will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and manifest Myself to him."*

b. **John 14:23** – Jesus went on to say: *"If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our home with him."*

c. When we keep the commandments of Jesus, He and His Father will abide in us, and we will have truly found Jesus!

3. Or as the apostle John put it:

a. **1 John 2:3-5** – *Now by this we know that we know Him, if we keep His commandments. He who says, "I know Him," and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him. But whoever keeps His word, truly the love of God is perfected in him. By this we know that we are in Him.*

## **CONCLUSION:**

I. So what does all this tell us about finding the REAL JESUS? It means that the WAY we can come to KNOW and EXPERIENCE the TRUE JESUS in our lives is ONLY BY keeping His commandments! Anything LESS than COMPLETE OBEDIENCE is simply knowing ABOUT Jesus.

A. This is especially true when we come to Jesus in faith and repentance, and submit to His command to be baptized.

1. **Galatians 3:27** – the apostle Paul wrote to the churches of Galatia:  
*For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ.*
  - B. And once we have received, or "*put on*", Christ in baptism, we are then IN Christ, where all things are "*new*":
    1. **2 Corinthians 5:17** – *Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.*
- II. When we FIND JESUS by keeping His commandments, all things TRULY ARE "NEW."
- A. In fact, it's IN Jesus Christ that we find all the things we're going to talk about in this series of lessons:
    1. A better life...
    2. Forgiveness of our sins...
    3. Reconciliation with God our Father, and...
    4. The assurance of eternal life.
- III. Have you found Jesus?
- A. Are you following the REAL JESUS, or are you following some imitation of the REAL THING – which AT BEST is a misconception taught by those who are honestly mistaken, or AT WORST is a false Jesus being

promoted by those who are simply seeking NUMBERS rather than DISCIPLES?

1. You'll know if you've found the TRUE JESUS if you've heeded His "Great Commission":
  - a. **Matthew 28:18-20** – *And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." Amen.*
2. Those who have truly found Jesus are:
  - a. Those who accept the authority (power) He has in heaven and on earth...
  - b. Those who have been baptized (upon faith and repentance) as He commanded, and...
  - c. Those who are careful to observe ALL things that He commanded.
3. These are the ONLY ONES who have the assurance: *"I am with you always, [even] unto the end of the world."*
4. They are ONLY ONES who have TRULY "FOUND" JESUS, THE WAY!

B. Have you let Jesus be YOUR WAY to everything that is truly good!

Have you completely trusted and obeyed Jesus, The Way?

1. If you haven't, there's still time:

a. For those of you who have not been baptized into Christ...

b. For those of you who have become disciples' of Christ but find that you love what the world has to offer more than you have loved Jesus...