

Jesus, The Way

Jesus, The Way To God

INTRODUCTION:

- I. In our series of studies that we've entitled Jesus, The Way, we've been focusing on Jesus as the WAY to the many blessings we're able to enjoy as children of God.
 - A. In our last lesson, we saw that Jesus provided the way to the forgiveness of our sins by His sacrificial death on the cross.
 1. Our sins have separated us from God, because God's HOLINESS makes it IMPOSSIBLE for Him to have fellowship with that which is sinful, impure or IMMORAL.
 2. And because the NATURE of God demands JUSTICE against those who VIOLATE His commandments, the SINNER stands CONDEMNED before God.
 3. However, when our sins are forgiven through the blood of Jesus Christ, we are no longer the objects of God's wrath.
 - a. **Romans 5:9-10** – *Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him. 10 For if when we were enemies we were reconciled to God*

through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life.

- B. As wonderful and as NEEDFUL as being justified by the blood of Jesus may be, we need more than this.
 - 1. We need the kind of close friendship that existed between God and Adam before SIN entered the world.
 - 2. But if a close relationship is to exist between ourselves and God, we need to understand more about the NATURE of God so that we can feel comfortable in approaching Him AS our God and Father in heaven.

- C. However, there is a major problem with this.
 - 1. When we contemplate the VAST DIFFERENCE between the nature of GOD verses the nature of MAN, we can see that establishing a close relationship and feeling comfortable in God's presence is not going to be easy.
 - 2. However, Jesus gives us some hope. He assures us that the IS a way to the Father in heaven, and HE ALONE is that way.
 - a. **John 14:6** – *Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me."*
 - 3. But just how IS Jesus the true and living way to God the Father?

BODY:

- I. To understand how Jesus is the way to God we need to first understand a few things about the difference between the nature of God and our nature.
 - A. The Scriptures present God as being the very essence of PURITY and HOLINESS.
 1. But in addition this, the Scriptures present God as being OMNIPOTENT (all powerful), OMNICIENT (all knowing), and OMNIPRESENT (whose power, influence and authority is everywhere).
 - a. In other words, God not only possesses unlimited holiness, this Supreme Being also possesses unlimited power, wisdom and knowledge.
 2. As such, God is the creator of all things, the sustainer of all things, the knower of all things, and is therefore, eternal, immortal, and invisible.
 3. In fact, this Supreme Being fills the entire universe with His presence.
 - B. On the other hand, the Scriptures present humankind with just the OPPOSITE nature and attributes as God.
 1. We, on the other hand, are mortal, sinful, and we're limited in knowledge and understanding.

2. We are also the ones who have been created, and are sustained by God who supplies all our needs.
- C. Because this difference between God and humankind is SO OVERWHELMING, this difference caused the great men and women in Biblical times to be filled with AWE in God's presence.
1. In the **139th Psalm**, David reflects on the OMNIPOTENCE, OMNISCIENCE, and OMNIPRESENCE of Almighty Jehovah.
 - a. **Psalm 139:1-16** – *O LORD, You have searched me and known me. 2 You know my sitting down and my rising up; You understand my thought afar off. 3 You comprehend my path and my lying down, and are acquainted with all my ways. 4 For there is not a word on my tongue, but behold, O LORD, You know it altogether. 5 You have hedged me behind and before, and laid Your hand upon me. 6 Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is high, I cannot attain it. 7 Where can I go from Your Spirit? Or where can I flee from Your presence? 8 If I ascend into heaven, You are there; if I make my bed in hell, behold, You are there. 9 If I take the wings of the morning, and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea, 10 Even there Your hand shall lead me, and Your right hand shall hold me. 11 If I say, "Surely the darkness shall fall*

on me," even the night shall be light about me; 12 Indeed, the darkness shall not hide from You, but the night shines as the day; the darkness and the light are both alike to You. 13 For You formed my inward parts; You covered me in my mother's womb. 14 I will praise You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made; marvelous are Your works, and that my soul knows very well. 15 My frame was not hidden from You, when I was made in secret, and skillfully wrought in the lowest parts of the earth. 16 Your eyes saw my substance, being yet unformed. And in Your book they all were written, the days fashioned for me, when as yet there were none of them. (Psalm 139:1-16)

2. However, whenever man approached God in all His Glory, it was TERRIFYING!
 - a. Moses as he appeared before God in the burning bush:
Exodus 3:5-6 – *Then He said, "Do not draw near this place. Take your sandals off your feet, for the place where you stand is holy ground." 6 Moreover He said, "I am the God of your father — the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob." And Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look upon God.*

- b. The Israelites at Mount Sinai: **Exodus 20:18-21** – *Now all the people witnessed the thunderings, the lightning flashes, the sound of the trumpet, and the mountain smoking; and when the people saw it, they trembled and stood afar off. 19 Then they said to Moses, "You speak with us, and we will hear; but let not God speak with us, lest we die." 20 And Moses said to the people, "Do not fear; for God has come to test you, and that His fear may be before you, so that you may not sin." 21 So the people stood afar off, but Moses drew near the thick darkness where God was.*
- c. Isaiah, when he saw the throne of God in a vision: **Isaiah 6:1-5** – *In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, high and lifted up, and the train of His robe filled the temple. 2 Above it stood seraphim; each one had six wings: with two he covered his face, with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew. 3 And one cried to another and said: "Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts; the whole earth is full of His glory!" 4 And the posts of the door were shaken by the voice of him who cried out, and the house was filled with smoke. 5 So I said: "Woe is me, for I am undone! Because I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst*

*of a people of unclean lips; for my eyes have seen the King,
the LORD of hosts." (Isaiah 6:1-5)*

D. How then can we hope to EVEN BEGIN to comprehend God and approach Him in a close relationship?

1. Job understood this difficulty perhaps better than anyone.
2. He was undergoing unimaginable suffering, and wanted so badly to plead his case before God.
3. But there was no way he could approach God because the difference between him and God was so great, and there was no MEDIATOR to stand in the gap and represent BOTH sides.
 - a. Speaking about God, Job says: **Job 9:32-33** – *"For He is not a man, as I am, that I may answer Him, and that we should go to court together. 33 Nor is there any mediator between us, Who may lay his hand on us both."*

E. However, this is where Jesus enters the scene.

1. He alone is able to bridge the gap between God and man.
2. Jesus is TRULY the way to God.

II. But, HOW is Jesus the way to God? How does Jesus help us COMPREHEND God and APPROACH God?

- A. The way Jesus helps us COMPREHEND or UNDERSTAND the nature and character of God is because Jesus is God HIMSELF – possessing all the qualities and character of God the Father and God the Spirit.
1. The apostle John opens his account of the gospel by declaring the DEITY of Jesus.
 - a. **John 1:1-5** – *In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He was in the beginning with God. 3 All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made. 4 In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. 5 And the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it.*
 2. But John goes on to reveal that God the Son – the Word – became flesh by taking on Himself the form of man.
 - a. **John 1:14** – *And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.*
 3. Therefore, in coming to earth and taking on the form of man, Jesus declared or manifested the character and attributes of God the Father to us.

- a. **John 1:18** – *No one has seen God at any time. The only begotten Son, who is in the bosom of the Father, He has declared Him.*
4. This is why Jesus told His disciples: **John 14:7** – *"If you had known Me, you would have known My Father also; and from now on you know Him and have seen Him."*
 - a. But Philip didn't understand, and therefore asked Jesus:
John 14:8 – *"Lord, show us the Father, and it is sufficient for us."*
 - b. And so, Jesus replied: **John 14:9** – *"Have I been with you so long, and yet you have not known Me, Philip? He who has seen Me has seen the Father; so how can you say, 'Show us the Father'?"*
 - c. What Jesus was trying to tell His disciples is that when they see all the wonderful, compassionate, loving, merciful qualities of Jesus, they know that God the Father possesses the same wonderful, compassionate, loving, merciful qualities.
5. This is why the apostles of Jesus affirmed that He was the complete manifestation of God the Father.

- a. **Colossians 2:9** – *For in Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily...*
 - b. **Hebrews 1:1-3** – *God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, 2 has in these last days spoken to us by His Son, whom He has appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the worlds; 3 who being the brightness of His glory and the express image of His person...*
6. Therefore, we are able to comprehend the character of God the Father by understanding the character of Jesus.
- a. As we study the gospels, we see Jesus and His attributes – His power, wisdom, holiness, love, mercy, and His divine wrath.
 - b. As we see Jesus, we see God the Father and His attributes!
7. But this raises a question. Why is it necessary for us to COMPREHEND God?
- a. The answer is simply this – when we don't KNOW the TRUE God, or when we DENY the true God, we will CREATE a god of our own.
 - b. Speaking of the pagan religions and their love of idols, the apostle Paul wrote: **Romans 1:22-25** – *Professing to be*

wise, they became fools, 23 and changed the glory of the incorruptible God into an image made like corruptible man — and birds and four-footed animals and creeping things. 24 Therefore God also gave them up to uncleanness, in the lusts of their hearts, to dishonor their bodies among themselves, 25 who exchanged the truth of God for the lie, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator...

- c. We may not worship an idol made of wood or stone, and fashioned to look like some animal or some mystical creature.
 - d. But we will worship something – whether it's our own wisdom, or material things, or fleshly things – we will put SOMETHING in the place of God.
8. Therefore, to worship the only TRUE God, we need to KNOW and COMPREHEND the true God – and the way we know the ONE and ONLY TRUE GOD is through Jesus.
- B. But not only does Jesus help us COMPREHEND God, He also makes it possible for us to APPROACH God.
- 1. We touched on this briefly in our last lesson.
 - a. When we sin, JUSTICE demands that we pay the ultimate penalty for our sinning against God – we must die.

- b. But when Jesus offered Himself as a propitiation for our sins by dying on the cross He paid the penalty for us – He offered His life in exchange for ours.
 - c. By doing this, He NOT ONLY made US INNOCENT by His blood, He ALSO made it possible for us to now APPROACH God who is supremely HOLY and JUST.
2. Jesus ALSO helps us to approach God in ANOTHER way.
- a. In Old Testament times, the High Priest had a unique function that only HE could perform.
 - b. Once a year the High Priest would take the blood of a sacrificial animal and enter the Most Holy place of the Temple, and sprinkle that blood on the Mercy Seat of the Ark of the Covenant.
 - c. This was done as a sin offering for himself, his family, and all the children of Israel.
 - d. And since the blood of an animal couldn't take away sins permanently, this ritual had to be repeated once every year.
3. However, what is MOST important to understand is that the High Priest stood BETWEEN GOD and THE PEOPLE OF ISRAEL.

- a. The office of High Priest was ordained by God to offer sacrifices on BEHALF of the people of Israel – therefore the High Priest was the PEOPLE’S representative TO GOD.
 - b. But the High Priest also consulted God on matters affecting the children of Israel – therefore the High Priest was GOD’S representative TO THE PEOPLE OF ISRAEL.
4. The writer of the Hebrew letter depicts JESUS as OUR HIGH PRIEST.
- a. When Jesus died on the cross and ascended into heaven, He symbolically offered His OWN blood as a SIN OFFERING for ALL MANKIND.

(1). He only needed to do this ONCE, because the blood of Jesus Christ cleanses sins once and for all time.
 - b. And as our High Priest Jesus revealed GOD’S WILL to ALL MANKIND.
 - c. **Hebrews 9:11-14** – *But Christ came as High Priest of the good things to come, with the greater and more perfect tabernacle not made with hands, that is, not of this creation. 12 Not with the blood of goats and calves, but with His own blood He entered the Most Holy Place once for all, having obtained eternal redemption. 13 For if the blood of bulls and*

goats and the ashes of a heifer, sprinkling the unclean, sanctifies for the purifying of the flesh, 14 how much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without spot to God, cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?

5. Therefore, the Hebrew writer declares that Jesus is not only our High Priest, offering His own blood as a sin offering for all mankind, but a High Priest Who sympathizes with our weaknesses because He was tempted like we are and makes it possible for us to NOW approach the throne of God in heaven.
 - a. **Hebrews 4:14-16** – *Seeing then that we have a great High Priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. 15 For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin. 16 Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.*
 - b. Jesus didn't take upon Himself the form of man so that He could better understand what we go through. He is God the Son – ALL KNOWING.

- c. Jesus took upon Himself the form of man and lived and died, so that WE would know God knows and understands all we go through in this life – especially in dealing with temptation.
- d. Therefore, knowing that God knows all about us, and sympathizes with our weaknesses, He wants us to come boldly to the throne of grace to obtain mercy and find grace to help in our time of need.

CONCLUSION:

- I. Thus, Jesus bridged the gap between man and God, and became the ONLY WAY – the TRUE and LIVING WAY – to GOD in heaven.
 - A. Through Jesus we can both COMPREHEND God and APPROACH God, making it possible to have a close, intimate relationship with our Heavenly Father, and enjoy all the blessings that relationship provides.
 - 1. And what a wonderful relationship it is.
 - a. This is a relationship where God promises: *"I will never leave you nor forsake you."* **(Hebrews 13:5)**
 - b. It's a relationship where God is called: *"the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, 4 who comforts us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort those who are in*

any trouble, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God." (2 Corinthians 1:3-4)

- B. But let us be CLEAR in our understanding.
 - 1. Jesus is the "The Way", the ONLY way to God.
 - 2. And only those who are truly DISCIPLES of Jesus – who have been REDEEMED by the blood of Jesus Christ – have the assurance of this wonderful relationship with God!

- C. How can we be SURE that we have been REDEEMED by the blood of Jesus Christ?
 - 1. By coming to Jesus in FAITH and accepting Him as our Lord and Savior, and by being BAPTIZED into Jesus Christ for the remission of our sins.

- D. And how can we be sure we are able to CONTINUE to have this wonderful relationship with Jesus Christ and with God the Father?
 - 1. By CONFESSING our sins so that the blood of Christ can CONTINUE to cleanse us from our sins.