The Nature of John 14:6

Zanesville, OH | April 28, 2019 | John Pollard | Sermon Notes

**Foundational Scripture:** John 14:6

**Intro**:

* Almost everyone knows what the text of John 14:6 says. Even the most adamant atheist is able to divulge this verse from memory. Most people, if not all, may know what it says but unfortunately not everyone is convicted of its significance and what they must do in relation to what Jesus said. Jesus Himself boldly asserted in John 14:6: *“Jesus said to him, ‘I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me.’”* You do not have to be an English scholar to recognize the exclusivity and the significance of such a phrase. Even to the common Jew this was astonishing and considered blasphemous. After all, it was for sayings such as these Jesus was crucified on the cross. The point of this sermon tonight is to demonstrate the nature of what Jesus said in this verse which is a matter of Heaven and Hell. This statement in John 14:6 is the sixth of seven *“I AM”* statements declared by Jesus in the gospel of John. This in and of itself motions us to consider the importance of what our Lord is saying. In each of these statements including this one, Jesus equates Himself with YHWH and thus illustrates that He indeed in deity; the creator and sustainer of all life (Jn. 1:1-3).
* Closely connected to that declaration, Jesus states He is the way, the truth and the life. If Jesus indeed is the great *“I AM”* (and He is) then these three assertions are only logical and consistent with who He is as the giver of all righteousness, truth and life. I want you to observe the use of the article *“the”* with these three declarations. The use of that article suggests that these things can only be found in Jesus and absolutely no one else. These exclusive claims are what bothered the Jews and the religious authorities so much to the point they sought the cruelest death for Jesus. They could not fathom that Jesus was the Messiah. They did not believe that He was the Son of God and the rejected the premise that He stood on equal footing with YHWH, the great *“I AM.”*
* But on what basis did they reject Him? May I suggest to you that they rejected Jesus not merely because of what He said but rather how it made them feel. Jesus was very pointed and open with the religious leaders in particular calling them sinners, blind guides and hypocrites. Jesus called them out not because he wanted to hurt their feelings but because He wanted to save their souls! I would also suggest to you that those who have not submitted to Christ today and those who do not serve Him are doing so for the same reasons the Jews crucified Jesus. Generally speaking people do not like having to be reprimanded and told what to do. They do not like having their feelings hurt. Are hurt feelings really what we are willing to hang our eternal destiny on? Are we going to reject Jesus and fail to adhere to His teachings simply because we don’t like it and we don’t want to make changes? I suppose that if we do then Heaven really doesn’t mean as much to us as we so often claim. **But if Heaven is our ultimate goal then observe the nature of John 14:6:**

1. **Jesus is *The Way***
   1. Jesus claims absolute exclusivity in terms of the pathway to righteousness and all that is good (Psa. 1:1-3; 23). Jesus’ statement about Him being the way is really an answer to Thomas and the rest of the disciples concerning where He was going after His death.
   2. Jesus being *“The Way”* truly sums up God’s plan from the foundation of the world to bring man back into fellowship with Him (Eph. 1:3-10) The use of this phrase is not coincidental nor is it merely trivial. Jesus is making an argument that He was God’s plan all along. That through Him we could walk together hand in hand once more (1 Jn. 1:5-7) was the fruition of al God’s promises.
   3. Jesus is *“The Way”* back to God; He is the way back to the garden of Eden. Jesus is exclusively the way to God and without Him we will forever be lost in darkness and sin. He is the Good Shepherd that leads the sheep to the fold and the door through which we enter.
2. **Jesus is *The Truth***
   1. Jesus claims absolute exclusivity to all that is true and holy (Jn. 8:40; 17:17; 18:37; Heb. 6:18). This is a powerful statement not only because it claims absolute truth and holiness but also because it is predicated on whether or not Jesus fulfilled all His claims.
   2. Anyone can say anything they want but can they show they mean what they say. Do they have the ability and the power to follow through on such exclusive claims? Jesus’ claims were among some of the most striking and most pointed:
      1. **Jesus claimed to be the Creator (Mk. 4:35-41)**
      2. **Jesus claimed to be the Son of Man (Dan.7:13-14; Mk. 14:61-64)**
      3. **Jesus claimed equality with God (Jn. 5:17-24)**
      4. **Jesus claimed to be YHWH (Jn. 8:58)**
      5. **Jesus claimed to be a King (Jn. 18:36)**
      6. **Jesus claimed to forgive sins (Mk. 2:5, 9-11)**
      7. **Jesus claimed to have authority (Matt. 28:18; Mk. 2:10)**
   3. Jesus claiming to be exclusive of all truth and of all that is holy is extremely significant because that could only be said of the God of Israel. And that’s exactly His point. Jesus is indeed that very God and He is God among men.
   4. He is truth because He did everything He said He would from the beginning and not a jot nor a tittle passed before everything was fulfilled in Him. So, how did Jesus show He was the truth? Was He able to follow through on all those lofty claims?
3. **Jesus is *The Life***
   1. The answer is seen in His statement that He is *“The Life.”* Jesus performed many signs so people would observe and witness the works of God. He performed miracles with the intention of pointing people to the reality that salvation, that life could only be found in Him. In one sense the miracles were proof that Jesus’ claims were true but they were not proof enough.
   2. Jesus’ miracles alone would not prove sufficient to support His claims made throughout His life and ministry let alone this verse (Jn. 14:6). And so as a result, there was something else Jesus had to do. He had to willingly give Himself to His enemies to suffer a brutal death.
   3. Jesus claims absolute exclusivity to the origin of all life and the ability to impart everlasting life because He rose from the dead. He died but rose never to die again. This could only mean that He has supreme power over death and His ability to give life is seen in His own resurrection from the dead (Col. 1:16-18; Rev. 2:7).
   4. Jesus was able to support all His claims and He Himself being the truth through His death and resurrection. This was the climax of His life and the key point being made to all His disciples and all His associates.

**Conclusion:** Jesus said, “*He is the way, the truth and the life”* but He didn’t stop there. He climaxed His statement by stating absolutely no one will get to God unless it happens through Him. This statement is closely connected with a previous *“I AM”* statement found in John 10:7. That Jesus should even suggest such a thing could only mean He would accomplish something no one in the history of mankind would ever do and that’s exactly what happened.

Jesus was not just crucified but He rose from the dead! The crucifixion alone is not enough to support Jesus’ statement here in John 14:6. Many people have died for their cause or for their beliefs and their respective religious agendas. However, not a single one of them has risen from the dead never more to die except Jesus the Christ. The fact that Jesus did not remain in the tomb and that He appeared to more than 500 witnesses seals His testimony of having supreme rule and supreme say over mankind and how we live.

If Jesus is indeed the creator of the universe and all living things including His greatest creation which is man (and He is), then I would imagine He would have some say in how we ought to conduct our lives with regard to Him. It is unfathomable to think that Jesus’ role did not stop at the creation but it continued in that He became flesh and submitted Himself to the same things we experience every day. He died and rose from the dead and that ultimately gives Him authority over every single thing including our lives.

Therefore, if Jesus states no one can go to the Father except through Him then we better ensure we go through Him. That is why Peter and John were so adamant about who they were fearful of in the book of Acts (Acts 4:12). That is why Paul when he found some folks at Ephesus in Acts 19 ensured they were baptized into the name of Jesus Christ. There is absolutely no one else in history like Jesus and there will never be anyone like Him. Jesus is the only way to Heaven but friends even the vilest of sinners can be saved through Him. May we accept this statement of Jesus and may we live by it all the days of our lives.