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I Am the Way, the Truth, and the Life,

John 14:1-11

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Introduction

- Everyone acknowledges that Jesus was a great teacher and admire many of the things he said.
 - Many other teachers have said the same things that people admire Jesus for, so why did Jesus become the most influential person in history? It's because of the controversial statements.

The Exclusivity of Christ

- **Point:** Jesus claims absolute exclusivity to God the Father.
 - Jesus presents himself as the object of their faith, just as they would have faith in God.
 - “Faith needs adequate grounding, however, if it is to experience serenity and to overcome the ‘troubled hearts’ of the disciples. The effectiveness and strength of faith are bound up with the greatness and dependability of the God in whom the faith reposes. ‘ “Have faith in God” means “hold God’s faithfulness” ’ (Hudson Taylor).”¹
- **APP:** Are we willing to stand by the exclusivity of Christ?

The Work of Christ

- Moreover, he reassures them that his going away will be good for them with three major benefits:
 - **Point:** Jesus claims his work will have extraordinary accomplishments.

- His going away will secure their future destiny (4-6).
 - His going away will be through the specific route of death and resurrection; therefore, securing them eternal life and a place in his Father's house.
 - Faith in Jesus is the way to heaven. He is the truth and the life, and the only path to God. Religious pluralism and syncretism do not change this. Jesus alone embodies the indestructible life of God. His salvation is exclusive because of his divine person.²
 - What about truth found in other religions? Since even non-Christians have the law of God written on their hearts (Rom. 2:14) and are able to discern some truths, there might be responses to that search for truth which are valid. But this does not change the necessity of atonement and forgiveness through Christ or the idolatrousness of non-Christian religions.
- His going away will complete his revelation of the Father (7-11).
 - His revelation of the Father is made possible by his total submission and unswerving obedience to the Father.
 - "Furthermore, the act of final obedience is also simultaneously an act of infinite love and of holiness as Christ, the Sent One of the Father, bears the sins of his creatures. So, in a second sense, the revelation of the Father is completed in Jesus' 'going away', since through it alone the wonder of the love of God, and the terror of the holiness of God, are made truly and fully known."³
 - The words and works of Jesus are the words and works of the Father.

The Blessing of Christ

- **Point:** Jesus claims that he is the way to life.
 - In the context of John's gospel, he is declaring to the Hellenistic world that there is an objective truth and inherent meaningfulness to life in Jesus Christ.
 - We live in a similar time of nihilism about life. People say that you can just choose your truth and meaning.
 - "Truth and love are often sought after as the ultimate objectives in life. However, truth can only demand and eventually disappoint, while love is flawed and can let us down. This is why people have become cynical about

both. But in John chapter 1, it is revealed that the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, offering a new perspective.”⁴

- Jesus says that he is the life. He doesn't come to tell them about how to find the life but he gives himself.
 - “The gospel is not instruction. It's an announcement.”

End Notes

¹ Bruce Milne, *The Message of John: Here Is Your King!*, ed. John Stott, Revised Edition., *The Bible Speaks Today* (London: IVP, 2020), 208–209.

² *Ibid.*, 210–11.

³ *Ibid.*, 212.

⁴ Timothy J. Keller, *The Timothy Keller Sermon Archive* (New York City: Redeemer Presbyterian Church, 2013).