



+ **YOU**

Fall 2023
Confident in the Face of Hard Questions

Sermon Title: Truths About Jesus

To be used with Session #1: Does it Really Matter Which “Truth” I Believe?

Scripture: John 14:1-7

Connection with Unit Theme: To complement the Bible study *Does It Really Matter Which “Truth” I Believe?* this sermon will seek to understand specific truths about Christ so that His followers can walk in the freedom He offers. The main point of today’s group study is “knowing the truth of Christ is the only way we can experience freedom.” Today’s sermon will not assume everyone knows these truths. Therefore, we will study the truths that Jesus said about Himself so that we can experience the freedom He is offering.

Introduction: Is there a difference between knowing about something or someone personally versus merely reading about that person or place? One can read about the Grand Canyon or look at pictures on the Internet. But, once you get a chance to see it for yourself, only then do you come to realize how grand it truly is.

Today’s sermon is not about the Grand Canyon, but it is about knowing the truths of Jesus personally. We may have read about Jesus in the Bible or books, but do we know the truths about Him personally? He clearly articulates four vital truths in this passage. If we embrace these truths, then we can experience the freedom that only He offers.

1. Christ calls us to believe in Him (John 14:1).

The context of these verses is important for us to understand and apply the passage. Jesus and His disciples are on their way to Jerusalem as He was soon to go to the cross. Peter had just told Jesus that he would be willing to die for Jesus. In turn, Jesus had informed Peter of his pending betrayal.

With this as background, Jesus called His disciples to believe in Him. The thoughts and emotions of the disciples had to be running high. Jesus had just washed their feet, which was the act of a servant. He had told them He was soon to die. Yet, Jesus did not ask them to believe in what they thought or felt. The Pharisees demanded complete obedience to their laws, thus leading to belief in self. Yet, Jesus stands on the opposite side of the spectrum. He called His disciples, and He still calls us today, to believe in Him and Him alone.

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2. Christ is preparing a place for us (John 14:2)

Jesus not only calls us to believe in Him in the present moment, as He did in the previous verse. He also calls us to believe in Him for our future. If we are being honest with ourselves and one another, we long for something beyond the now. Sure, we can experience joy and happiness in this life. But we also must deal with the truth of death, disease, crime, sin, and a host of other realities in this life.

A truth about Jesus, however, is that He is preparing a place for His followers beyond this world. We know this to be truth because Jesus said it and Jesus is unable to lie (Titus 1:2). Once again, context comes into play. The disciples were soon to experience the most troubling set of circumstances they could have imagined. Yet, Jesus was seeking to comfort them in His words by sharing with them that there is more beyond the here and now. The comfort He offered to His disciples then is the same comfort He offers His followers now.

3. Christ is coming back (John 14:3)

Have any of us ever been left in charge of something and felt like we were in over our head? The boss told us he was running an errand and would be back momentarily. We acted like we were tough, but the churning we felt inside was real. Then, when the boss did return, we felt a great sense of relief.

Jesus is truly the boss. Yes, He returned to heaven. But He is coming back and once again He cannot lie. He offered His disciples the assurance that He was doing this Himself. He was not going to send someone else in His place. He went on to say that upon His return His disciples would be with Him where He is at. This was true for His disciples in that moment, and it is true for His disciples today. Jesus is coming back and when He does His followers will be with Him throughout eternity.

4. Christ is the way, truth, and life (John 14:4- 6)

The key to a proper understanding, and thereby application, of this passage is the word “the.” This word is singular. The passage would be drastically different if Jesus had said that He was “a” way, truth, and life. “A” signifies one of many. But Jesus used the word “the” and this shows only one way, one truth, and one life.

If we return to our first point we studied in this passage from Jesus, we see that He calls us to “believe” and not just “know.” Jesus does not want us to merely know these things about Him. Instead, He invites us to know these things personally and this can be had via a personal relationship with Him.

Conclusion: We may live in a world that tells us we are intolerant or narrow minded when we say with absolute certainty that Jesus is the only way to heaven. First, we are not the one who is saying this; these are Jesus’s words, and we are merely quoting Him. Second, Jesus defeated death and the grave, and this is one mark of His credibility to His claims. He does not want us to believe our own so-called truth. He is trustworthy and we can believe all that He says.

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Author Bio

Tod Tanner has degrees from Texas A&M University, Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary and The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. He has pastored churches in Texas and Tennessee. He and his family reside in Wartrace, Tennessee, and he serves as the Vice President of the Tennessee Baptist Foundation.