

WHAT JESUS SAID – THEN AND NOW

I AM The Way

INTRODUCTION: Can you tell that Vacation Bible School begins tonight? Isn't this set great! Wow!

So, in advance, let me say to you **THANK YOU!**

- Thank you to all you moms who have cared for, loved on, cleaned up after your own kids all day long and then come down to church for six nights to clean up, care for, and love on other people's kids in the name of Jesus.
- Thank you to all of you men and women who work a full time job, but you have chosen to come down here beginning tonight to work with children and teens in Vacation Bible School.
- Thank you to all of you retired folks who have not retired from God's work and will give of yourselves night after night to minister to children so they can learn of Jesus.
- Thank you to you teens, to those of you who will be workers with children just like our adults, and to those of you who will be a part of Youth VBS, but will not be just an attendee, but a real helper, supporter, one who brings other teens who do not know the Lord so that they can be saved and begin to grow in Christ.
- Thank you, church, for seeing the value of VBS, for putting your money, time, effort, prayers, and every ounce of energy you possess in this evangelistic/discipleship event into for our community. Your being this kind of church is just another of the dozens of reasons that I love you. **THANK YOU!**

Because folks, let me tell you. You are like the little boy who brought the fish and the loaves. God is not just going to bless what you do like He would bless the lunch of the little boy if he shared it with a hungry friend. No, God is going to greatly multiply what you do. He is going to take the little bit that any one of us is able to do and cause its value and impact to explode.

Friend, God is going to take

- the hours of preparation you have already invested
- the time and tiredness you will give to him nightly this week in VBS
- the patience that you may have to sometimes dredge up from the depth of your being as some of these little tykes test you for all your worth

God is going to take that and cause their lives to be different for eternity!

Some of these kids who you minister to this week are going to live with God in His eternal kingdom forever, because of you and what Jesus does with your investment in their lives beginning tonight!

And some of them are going to have very different lives in this world as well because God multiplies your love, anoints your words, blesses your example in their lives to make them what He has purposed them to be.

Isn't that exciting?!

And I love the motto this year, taken from Isaiah 30:21 "This is the way, walk in it."

And Isaiah's words remind me of Jesus' words, "I am the way."

But let us read those words in their context. They come from one of my favorite passages of Scripture.

TEXT: John 14:1-7 1 "Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me. 2 In My Father's house are many mansions; if *it were* not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. 3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, *there* you may be also. 4 And where I go you know, and the way you know." 5 Thomas said to Him, "Lord, we do not know where You are going, and how can we know the way?" 6 Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me. 7 "If you had known Me, you would have known My Father also; and from now on you know Him and have seen Him."

I. THE WAY

- A. **The way to forgiveness** Acts 26:15-18 15 So I said, 'Who are You, Lord?' And He said, 'I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. 16 But rise and stand on your feet; for I have appeared to you for this purpose, to make you a minister and a witness both of the things which you have seen and of the things which I will yet reveal to you. 17 I will deliver you from the *Jewish* people, as well as *from* the Gentiles, to whom I now send you, 18 to open their eyes, *in order* to turn *them* from darkness to light, and *from* the power of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and an inheritance among those who are sanctified by faith in Me.'
- B. **The way to righteousness** Romans 3:21-22 21 But now the righteousness of God apart from the law is revealed, being witnessed by the Law and the Prophets, 22 even the righteousness of God, through faith in Jesus Christ, to all and on all who believe. For there is no difference;
- C. **The way to successful living** John 20:31 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.
- D. **The way to eternal life** John 3:16 For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

II. THE TRUTH

- A. **Jesus is the Living Word, the Living Truth.** John 1:1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

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.

B. He says, “Thy Word (the Bible) is truth.” John 17:17 Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth.

C. The focus of the Written Word is the Living Word. (The focus of the Bible is Jesus.)

1. The Books of the Law foreshadow Him.
2. The Books of History reveal the need for Him.
3. The Books of Song and Poetry worship Him.
4. The Books of Prophecy declared His coming.
5. The Gospels tell of His life, death, and resurrection.
6. The Acts chronicle the difference He made in the lives of those who believed.
7. The Letters extol His majesty and instruct His followers concerning His life and character.
8. The Revelation comforts us in the certainty that He is coming again!

The whole of the Bible is wholly about Jesus!

This truth is so important, let me slow down and go over it again with you.

D. The focus of the Written Word is the Living Word. (The focus of the Bible is Jesus.)

1. **The Books of the Law foreshadow Him.** Example - Passover
2. **The Books of History reveal the need for Him.** Example – the pattern in the Judges
3. **The Books of Song and Poetry worship Him.** Example – Ps. 22 foreshadows the cross
4. **The Books of Prophecy declared His coming.** Example - in Bethlehem, taken to Egypt, raised in Nazareth of Galilee
5. **The Gospels tell of His life, death, and resurrection.** Example - Birth, life, ministry, cross, tomb, arose
6. **The Acts chronicle the difference He made in the lives of those who believed.** Example - Paul
7. **The Letters extol His majesty and instruct His followers concerning His life and character.**

Ephesians 3:20-4:2 20 Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us, 21 to Him *be* glory in the church by Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen. 1 I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you to walk worthy of the calling with which you were called, 2 with all lowliness and gentleness, with longsuffering, bearing with one another in love,

8. **The Revelation comforts us in the certainty that He is coming again!**

Revelation 19:11-16 11 Now I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse. And He who sat on him was called Faithful and True ... 14 And the armies in heaven, clothed in fine linen, white and clean, followed Him on white horses. ... 16 And He has on *His* robe and on His thigh a name written: KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS.

III. THE LIFE

A. Eternal life

B. Abundant life

1. Life with purpose
2. Life with fulfillment

IV. THE ONLY WAY, ONLY TRUTH, ONLY LIFE

A. The bold claim to exclusivity grates in the minds of modern humans.

B. Jesus' claim is very clear and unequivocal. 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.

C. And it is true.

1. Jesus is the only way to a right relationship with God.
2. Jesus and His Word is the ultimate truth by which all hypotheses, theories, and philosophies are to be tested.
3. Jesus is the only One Who provides life eternal and abundant.

Acts 4:12 Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved."

Philippians 2:9-11 9 Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name, 10 that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, 11 and *that* every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

CONCLUSION: Have you come to Him. Is He your way, your truth, your life? Has He brought you into relation with the Father? Are you subjecting your ways, your understanding, your lifestyle to Him as Savior and Lord?