

# Jesus: Our Way in Times of Trouble

John 14:1-6

Ric Bruce, Guest Speaker

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1. At the heart of John 14:1-6 is a message that belief in Jesus overcomes doubt and distress in times of trouble.
2. On that fateful night, Jesus shared some heavy truths with His disciples, ones that would rock their world.
3. Feeling troubled or distressed is not inherently wrong; even Jesus felt this way. Jesus commanded His disciples not to be overcome by it.
4. Faced with losing Jesus, the comfort that He would return to get them to take them to where He was must have filled the disciples with hope.
5. Jesus' teaching, His ministry, His life, His PERSON, were all collectively "the way".
6. Jesus is the path to God. He doesn't merely show the way; He is the way; His death paved the path; the author of Hebrews calls him the trailblazer or a forerunner.
7. Jesus is the ultimate reality, the embodiment of divine truth.
8. True life is freedom from the bondage of sin and death, and no vacation or diet drug can give you that.
9. Jesus invited His disciples – and He invites us – to come to the father through Him. His arms are open wide to anyone who seeks truth, life, and a way to God.
10. Our ultimate destination is not just a place: Heaven; but a person: Jesus Christ Himself. Jesus is the way, the guide, and the destination.
11. You can use passages like John 14 to comfort and encourage others as they face times of trouble, doubt and distress.
12. Commit to a church community like New Hope where you can give and receive support, encouragement, and accountability.
13. Acts of kindness and service reflect Jesus' love and bring His hope to others. The way of Jesus involves service and sacrifice – the way of the cross.
14. Communion reminds us of several key truths we discussed today:
  - a. Communion comforts and assures believers
  - b. Communion points forward to a bright future in Heaven
  - c. Communion declares truth in a memorable way
15. Communion is first and foremost a declaration of faith in Jesus as the only way to the Father. It is a time for believers, followers of "the way", to reaffirm our belief in our trustworthy bridegroom's imminent return.

# DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

What stood out to you most about the message and scriptures?

Many reject the absolutes found in the Word of God, claiming it is harsh, rigid and callous. Christians often take the opposite approach, focusing only on forgiveness, love and heaven. Read John 1:14 and then consider what Jesus said about Himself in John 14:6. How can knowing what Jesus said about His role, purpose and the future:

- help you respond to claims that the Bible is too authoritative and rigid?
- have greater discernment and preparedness when truth is diluted?
- pray with more fervor and specificity?

The sermon reminded us that the disciples could not fully comprehend what Jesus meant about laying down His life for them. Eventually, they would “get it” and soon turn the world upside down. The awe-inspiring truths in scripture are endless. What are some that have had the greatest impact on your faith journey?

Feelings can be “fickle” at times, but they can impact our thoughts and actions. Ric noted that we probably all “feel lost at times”. What are some of the areas in which you could use a divine “roadmap” with milestones to keep you on the path? (e.g. parenting, use of resources, career/work decisions, relationships, finances, etc.) Have you ever been off the path and not realized it? What steps have you found helpful to redirecting your steps?

Read these additional verses about how Jesus is:

- THE WAY, giving us access to the Father (Ephesians 2:18, 3:12)
- THE TRUTH, the embodiment of divine truth (John 1:14, John 18:37)
- THE LIFE, providing freedom from bondage to sin and death (John 5:26, I John 5:12)

Discuss the important and essential role each of these foundations provide to Christ followers. How are each unique? How do they interconnect and work together?

Jesus knew the disciples would face doubt and distress. He attempts to comfort and instill commitment through this powerful exhortation of hope. If a loved one told you not to worry because they were going away to prepare a place for you and would return so you could be together, how would that affect your sense of self-worth? ... Your relationship? ...The future you envision? Read I Corinthians 2:9 and thank God for His unconditional love and the promise of His return.

## TODAY'S WORSHIP

Praise  
How Great Thou Art  
House Of The Lord