Tonight as we continue with our series of messages on The Great I AM statements of Jesus, please turn with me to the fourteenth chapter of John's gospel. And let's read verses 1-6.

**JOHN 14:1-6 (NKJV)**

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.

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Introduction

This discourse is part of Jesus' “farewell address” to His apostles. That discourse begins in John 13 and concludes in John 16. It is commonly referred to as “The Upper Room” discourse. In this very touching scene, Jesus is preparing His apostles for His impending death and departure.

Two of the most sorrowful times in life are when someone leaves us in death and when someone leaves us to move somewhere else.

Jesus is about to do both. He is about to die on the cross and following His resurrection He will be moving back home with His heavenly Father.

As you might expect, Jesus' disciples took this news really, really hard. This is obvious by what Jesus said to them in verse 1........

v. 1 “Let not your heart be troubled.”

In essence, Jesus was telling His men, “Don't let this news rattle your faith; you keep on believing in God, and keep on believing in Me also!”

Jesus then goes on to “counter” the bad news He has given His disciples with three pieces of “comforting” news.
(A) First, Jesus comforts them with the thought of HEAVEN.

v. 2 “In My Father's house are many MANSIONS.”

Some translations say “rooms.” I don’t know about you, but I like the thought of a mansion far more than a room don’t you?

We don’t think nearly enough about heaven. In fact, about the only time many of us ever think about heaven is at a funeral. I believe the LORD would have us think about heaven every day.

Colossians 3:1,2 (NKJV) “If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God. Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth.”

While Jesus doesn’t describe what these heavenly mansions are going to look like, I believe the apostle Paul gives us a clue in I Corinthians 2:9 when he says, “Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, nor have entered into the heart of man the things which GOD has prepared for those who love Him.”

(B) Next, Jesus comfort His disciples with the thought that He is going to heaven to PREPARE a place for them.

v. 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. “

The thought here is of one who goes on ahead to prepare a place of LODGING. In other words Jesus is telling His disciples, “I am going ahead to heaven to get everything ready so you can come stay with Me forever.”
(C) Then the third piece of comforting information Jesus gives His disciples is: “I am coming BACK to get you.”

v. 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.”

ILLUSTRATION: When I say the words “Hurricane Floyd” it immediately brings back vivid images in all our minds. The images that come to my mind when I think about hurricane Floyd are the images of those people stranded on their rooftops with flood waters completely surrounding their homes. And I can remember the look of hope in their eyes as a military helicopter lowered a harness down to them one by one and lifted them into the air and received them inside the helicopter.

How comforting it must have been for Jesus' disciples as well as for you and me, to know that one day JESUS is coming to get us...and we will rise to meet Him in the air.

After Jesus gave His disciples these three comforting pieces of information, He said in verse 4, “And where I go you know, and the way you know.”

At this point, Thomas speaks up and verbalizes the thought that is probably on the minds of all the other disciples: Verse 5, “LORD, we do not know where You are going, and how can we know the way?”

ILLUSTRATION: Think of a time when someone invited you to come to their home for the very first time. Probably the very first thing you said was, “I don't know where you live, can you tell me how to get there?”
**Jesus** was going to a place the disciples had never been to before and He wanted them to come to His home. And so in essence Thomas is saying, “LORD, we don't know where you live, can you tell us how to get there?

Thomas' question opened the door for Jesus to make this “Great I AM” statement:

> v. 6 Jesus said to him, “I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.”

Here we see **three “I AM” statements** in one. My intent was to do all three of these statements in a single message. But as I was preparing this message I soon realized these three brief statements are so rich in meaning the only way to do this passage justice is to preach a separate message on all three statements.

And so in **PART ONE** we are going to consider Jesus' statement: **I AM THE WAY.** What does Jesus mean by that?

First, it means........

I. Jesus is THE WAY to **GOD** the **FATHER**

> v. 6 “I am the WAY, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the FATHER except through Me.”

1. This has been called the most “politically incorrect” statement in the Bible.
You notice Jesus doesn’t say, “I am **A WAY to the heavenly Father.**” Or, “I AM one of **MANY WAYS to the heavenly Father.**” He says, “I AM **THE WAY**, and no one comes to the Father except through Me.”

2. A lot of people claim to believe in GOD. They may be nice, decent people. And many of them may even go to Church on a regular basis. These people sincerely believe that when they die they are going to live with GOD forever. **And yet they reject JESUS CHRIST the Son.**

3. Jesus clearly teaches us that is impossible! He says, “**No one**....**NO ONE**....can come to the Father except through Me.”

4. If one wants to be in the presence of GOD after he or she dies, they will have to go through Jesus Christ to get to Him. **Jesus is THE WAY to GOD the FATHER.**

Next........

**II. Jesus Is THE WAY to HEAVEN**

1. Here is the major reason why the world hates Christians and Christianity. Many people believe “**All roads lead to heaven and it doesn't matter which one you take.**”
2. Lots of Americans boast about their “tolerance” as though it some kind of a badge of honor. They believe as long as a person is sincere about his or her religious beliefs it doesn't matter what they believe.

Isn't it rather strange they apply this logic to matters of faith, but not to any other area of their lives? They don't want the pilot who flies their airplane to be “sincere,” they want him to be right! They don't want the surgeon who is going to perform surgery on them to be “sincere” they want him to be right! They don't want the pharmacist who fills their prescriptions to be “sincere” they want them to be right!

Why then, when it comes to single most critical issue of their lives, the matter of eternity, are a lot of people willing to settle for “sincerity” instead of accuracy?

5. Remember what Jesus said in.......

**Matthew 7:13,14 (NKJV)** “Enter by the narrow gate; for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it. Because narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it.

6. The reason the way to heaven is so difficult is because the vast majority of people want to try to find another way in than through Christ.
7. Can a devout Muslim read the Koran and find the way to heaven? NO! Can a devout Hindu read the Vedas and find the way to heaven? NO! Can a devout Buddhist study the Sutras and find his way to heaven? NO! You see, it doesn't matter how sincere, how devout, or how religious one is, JESUS CHRIST IS THE ONLY WAY TO HEAVEN.

ACTS 4:12 (NKJV) Nor is their salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.

Next..............

III. Jesus Is THE WAY to PEACE

1. This world is NOT a peaceful place, and sadly many people look for peace in all the wrong places.

* Some look for peace in A BOTTLE OF ALCOHOL.
* Some look for peace in ILLEGAL OR PRESCRIPTION DRUGS.
* Some look for peace in PORNOGRAPHY or ILLICIT SEXUAL RELATIONSHIPS.
* Some look for peace in YOGA or TRANSCENDENTAL MEDITATION.
2. A lot of people believe peace can be found in a certain place like a cabin in the mountains or an island resort or their favorite “fishing hole.”

3. But the truth is THE WAY to true, lasting peace is only through Jesus Christ. To know peace, you must know the PRINCE of PEACE.

Philippians 4:6,7 (NKJV)  Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God, and the peace of GOD, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through CHRIST JESUS.

JESUS IS THE WAY TO PEACE!

JESUS IS THE WAY TO GOD THE FATHER.
JESUS IS THE WAY TO HEAVEN.
JESUS IS THE WAY TO PEACE.

And finally......

IV. Jesus Is THE WAY to JOY

1. People try to find “joy” in lots of things. Some try to find “joy” in their children or grandchildren. Some try to find “joy” in their job or in their money and material things. Some try to find “joy” in their favorite hobbies or pastimes.
2. While those things may bring us a degree of happiness, they cannot bring us true, lasting joy.

**Happiness** is like a thermometer, it goes up and down as our circumstances change.

**Joy** on the other hand is like a thermostat, it keeps our spirit at a steady temperature even when our circumstances are unpleasant or difficult.

3. Where do we find this **JOY**? The apostle Paul tells us in Philippians 4:4 (NKJV) “Rejoice in the LORD always. Again I will say, REJOICE!

4. **JESUS IS THE WAY TO TRUE, LASTING JOY!**

**CONCLUSION**

All of us are here tonight because someone told us **JESUS CHRIST IS THE WAY TO ETERNAL LIFE.** Perhaps it was a parent or a Sunday School teacher or a preacher or a dear friend.

And now it is our duty and responsibility to tell others **THE WAY! They will not SEEK, they must be SOUGHT! They will not COME they must be BROUGHT! They will not KNOW, they must be TAUGHT.**

May God help us to show them “THE WAY.”