

Jesus is the Answer! John 14:1-6

"Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me. 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. And if I go & prepare a place for you, I will come again, & receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also.

And whither I go ye know, & the way ye know. Thomas saith unto him, Lord, we know not whither thou goest; & how can we know the way? Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, & the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me."

A pastor was giving the children's message during church. For this part of the service he would gather all the children around him & give a brief lesson before dismissing them for children's church. On this particular Sunday, he was using squirrels for an object lesson on being industrious & making preparation.

He started out by saying, "I'm going to describe something, & I want you to raise your hand when you know what it is."

The children nodded eagerly. "This thing lives in trees (pause) -- & eats nuts (pause)..." No hands went up. "And it is gray (pause) -- & has a long bushy tail (pause)..." The children were looking at each other, but still no hands raised. "And it jumps from branch to branch (pause) -- & chatters & flips its tail when it's excited (pause)..."

Finally one little boy tentatively raised his hand. The pastor breathed a sigh of relief & called on him. "Well," said the boy, "I **know** the answer must be **Jesus** ... but it sure sounds like a **squirrel** to me!"

Well, there are **three fundamental questions** I would like each one of **you** to **entertain** in your mind & heart this morning. Here are the questions: **Are you saved? Are you sure? Are you satisfied?** The **amazing & wonderful thing** about these questions is that Jesus Christ is the **answer** to all three of these questions!

In one simple, yet profound statement, Jesus declares Himself **as the answer to life's deepest needs!** In the words of Jesus found in **John's Gospel 14:6**, Jesus makes one of His great "**I AM**" statements. He says: "**I am the way, the truth, & the life.**" These words from the lips of Jesus, contain the most profound & life changing statements the world has ever heard! To the fundamental questions of life, Jesus responds with a personal pronoun: "**I AM!**"

People everywhere are searching, seeking, straining. But so often they have found themselves in blind alleys, or on dead end streets. While all the time the answers to life are so simple that many overlook them. **For the answers to the questions of life & death are found in the person of Jesus Christ**, who said, "I am the way, the truth, & the life." Let's reflect upon those three Questions I have asked you:

1. The first question is -- Are you Saved? You may ask, "How can I be saved?"

This is the question **Nicodemus** came asking, when he came to Jesus by night. This is the question the **Rich Young Ruler** came asking, when he desired to know, "What must I do to inherit eternal life?"

This is the question that millions, through all the ages, have asked over & over: "**How can I be saved?**" Jesus answers it with the simple statement: "**I am the way!**"

When the angel announced His birth, he said, "Thou shall call His name Jesus -- for he shall save His people from their sins" (Matt. 1:21). **The very name of Jesus means "Savior"!** Jesus Himself said, "I am the door, by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved" (John 10:9). When the Philippian jailer asked Paul & Silas the question, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" they declared back to him, "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, & thou shalt be saved!" (Acts 16:31).

I'm not preaching the Baptist way; the Nazarene way; the Pentecostal way; the Presbyterian way; the Lutheran

way. I am simply preaching the **Jesus** way! There is one & only one way to be saved: -- **Jesus is the way!**

It is said in Italy, that “**all roads lead to Rome**”. That statement has been used by some to suggest that “all roads lead to heaven.” Choose any of many roads, any path, any religion will get you there, as some would say! But the **Bible** declares that “There is a way that **seemth** right unto man, but the end thereof is the way of destruction” (Proverbs 14:12). In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus reminds us there is a Broad Way & a Narrow Way. The Broad is the way that leads to destruction. The Narrow is the way which leads unto life.

In the grounds of Hampton Court Palace (the former home of the flamboyant King Henry VIII, in London, England) there is a maze built of hedges. In the middle of the maze is a seat where those who are tired of finding their way back out can rest & think things over. **There is also a bell there**. By ringing the bell the lost person can summon for help. In response to the ringing of the bell, a man will appear who knows the way out. **Following him**, & soon the perplexing paths will resolve into an orderly way. **The solution lies in the man!** My friends, Jesus says to one & all, “**Follow Me**” & as we do, we shall be **saved**, for Jesus Christ is “the Way!”

2. The second question I'd like to ask you is, **Are you Sure? You may ask me, “How can I be sure?” Jesus declares, “I AM THE TRUTH!”**

There are a lot of things in life about which we will never know the full, or the total truth. But when it comes to the truth we need to know: the truth about **life**; the truth about **God**; the truth about **eternity**; the truth about **salvation**; **then Jesus Christ is the One we need to know!**

One thing we can be sure of, **every word Jesus has ever spoken is totally & completely the truth**. He is the **TRUTH!** We can be sure that what He has spoken **is** the truth!

As sincere as I may be, I may at times mislead you; not intentionally; not on purpose; but I do make mistakes. I may not always tell you the truth you need to hear. It is all right for us to question the answers given us by men; there are so many false teachers, false prophets, false religions. **We need to be sure; we must be sure!** Our soul is **too valuable** to leave to the whims & fancies of others! But in Jesus Christ, we can be **sure!** He will not lead us astray! He will not lie to us. He cannot lie! In Him we can put our anchor -- & safely ride the waves of life!

We do not need to guess! When we accept & receive Jesus as our Lord & Savior, His spirit bears witness with our spirit, that we are a child of God (Romans 8:16). **It is not a hope-so salvation! We can have a know-so salvation!**

Mrs. Joseph Knapp, whose husband was the founder of Metropolitan Life Insurance Company, composed some notes into a beautiful tune, & asked her close personal friend, Fanny Crosby, “**What does this tune say?**” Fanny responded immediately: -- “Why, that says --

Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine; Oh, what a foretaste of glory divine!

Heir of salvation, purchase of God, Born of His Spirit, washed in His blood.

This is my story, this is my song, Praising my Savior all the day long.

This is my story, this is my song, Praising my Savior all the day long.

My friends, with Jesus Christ living in your heart, you too can have that “Blessed Assurance” for Jesus is “the Truth!”

3. The third & final question I ask you this morning is, **Are you Satisfied? You may ask me, “How can I be Satisfied?” Jesus says, “I AM THE LIFE.”**

Happiness & satisfaction is one of the great quest of mankind! We ask ourselves: can I be satisfied (or happy)

if I have, a beautiful home? three cars all paid for? plenty of money? And on & on. We so often fall into the trap of thinking that happiness & satisfaction in life comes with **material** things! We act as if comfort & luxury were the chief requirement of life, when all that we need is **Someone**, & not something.

Material things never satisfy for long! As the boss walked through a work area one day, he overheard a lady say, "If I only had \$100, I'd be perfectly satisfied!" Knowing that money never satisfies, he walked up to the lady & handed her a hundred dollar bill. As he walked away, he heard her exclaim, "I wished I'd said \$200." He smiled knowing he had proved his point!

But **Jesus is the only One who can fully satisfy!** Happiness & satisfaction are really by-products of a life completely & fully surrendered to Jesus Christ. The great theologian St. Augustine use to say: "Man is made for Thee, oh God, & is restless until he finds his rest in Thee."

Without Christ we only exist! Without Christ life is so empty; so void of meaning & real purpose. But with Christ , life takes on meaning & purpose & direction. A satisfied life is one lived in fellowship with God through Jesus Christ our Lord. **A Christ filled life is a truly satisfying life!**

I read about a group of tourist who visited a large American city. They had come from a remote undeveloped desert area of the world. One of the things that impressed them the most in the hotel where they stayed was the seemingly endless flow of running water that came from the faucets. In their arid homeland, fresh water was scarce & very expensive, so they never ceased to be amazed at being able to turn a handle & get all the water they wanted.

In fact, when it came time for them to leave, the men were found with wrenches in their hands, preparing to remove the taps & take them back to the desert with them! They thought if they could just get those faucets into their dwellings, all their water problems would be solved. They didn't realize that a proper connection to an abundant source was necessary, & that without being hooked into an efficient supply system, a faucet in itself is **useless!**

The mistaken idea of these men of the desert reminds me of some spiritually needy people. They have the "plumbing" but they are **not connected** with the only Source that can **satisfy** their thirsty souls. They believe that by turning on the faucets of church membership, or good deeds, or positive thinking, & the pursuit of the finer things of life, their deepest cravings will be satisfied. But these **earthly taps** will never deliver what is really needed! The only way to receive true peace of mind & heart, is to establish a **correct relationship** with God through faith in Jesus Christ! **Jesus is the right connection!** He is the fountain of life which fully satisfies. *Oh, I have found it, the **Crystal Fountain**, Where all my life's deep needs have been supplied; So freely flowing from Calvary's mountain, **And now my soul is fully satisfied!***

CONCLUSION: I ask again those all important questions: Are you saved? Are you sure? Are you satisfied? To **your** questions: How can I be saved? How can I be sure? How can I be satisfied? **Jesus replies, by saying, "Follow me!"** In Christ, & in Christ alone, we can be **saved!** In Christ, we can be **sure!** In Christ , we can be fully **satisfied!**

Jesus Christ is rest for your soul. Jesus Christ is peace for your inner man.

Jesus Christ is light for your path. Jesus Christ is bread for your hunger.

Jesus Christ is healing for your whole being. Jesus Christ is the supply for all your needs.

Jesus Christ is God's will for your life. Jesus Christ is the beginning & end of your faith.

Jesus Christ is the solution of your problems. Jesus Christ is the form of your every need.

Reach out in the darkness, -- & find His hand! **He is ever reaching out to you!**

"I know not the way!" -- despairing I cried.
"I AM THE WAY," Jesus kindly replied.
"I'm searching for truth!" -- was my heart's painful cry.
"I AM THE TRUTH," -- was His gentle reply.
"I long for life! -- Oh, where can it be?"
"I AM THE LIFE. -- Thou shalt find it in me!"

Are you saved? -- Are you sure? -- Are you satisfied?
Jesus is the Answer! -- He was crucified!
He died to save you. -- His Word can make you sure.
The Holy Spirit satisfies. -- His grace can make you pure.
Give your life to Him -- And let Him make you free.
Saved -- Sure -- & Satisfied!
Jesus Christ can do all three!
(Richard Ruder)

Do you believe the Lord Jesus when He says, "I AM THE WAY, THE TRUTH & THE LIFE"?? If you **do** believe Him -- what are you doing about it?
Only trust Him; only trust Him. Only trust Him now. He will save you; He will save you. He will save you now.

Rev. Lyle Pettit -- Calvary Baptist Church -- Benson, AZ
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