

## ***I Am: Week 6, May 22, 2022***

### ***John 14:1-6***

Throughout John's gospel Jesus makes bold claims about himself. "I am the bread of life. I am the light of the world. I am the door of the sheep. I am the good shepherd. I am the resurrection and the life." These first five of the 'I am' statements in the gospel of John were made to public audiences that included believers, unbelievers, casual observers, faithful disciples, and Jewish religious leaders. The last two 'I am' statements in John are given in a very different context. They are both given within a day of the crucifixion to a small intimate group of Jesus' closest followers. These disciples had left everything to follow Jesus and their high hopes for the future were shaken when Jesus told them what was coming next. Someone was going to betray him into the hands of the religious authorities. He was going away and the disciples could not follow him where he was going. Rather than standing by him to the end, Peter would deny him. And all of the other disciples would desert him. The scene at the last supper in the upper room was filled with uncertainty, suspicion, and a deep sense of trouble on the horizon. Into this room full of troubled hearts, Jesus spoke words of life and truth - words that gave assurance that there would be a way forward through the trouble. That way was Jesus himself. Trusting Jesus was the way through trouble for his first disciples and it is the way through trouble for us today as well. Jesus said "*I am the way, the truth, and the life*" (John 14:6).

### ***Getting into the Text:***

(John 14:1)

- What do you think Jesus was asking his disciples to believe about him in the face of their troubles? (See also John 20:30-31, John 6:35, John 8:12, John 10:9, John 10:11, and John 11:25-26.)

(John 14:2-6)

- Just hours after Jesus spoke these words, he would be arrested, tried, and crucified. Given that context, why do you think Jesus pointed his disciples to his future return and their future life together at this point in John's gospel? How is such a focus on our eternal destiny relevant for us in times of trouble? (See also 2 Corinthians 4:16-18, 1 Thessalonians 4:16-18, Revelation 21:1-5)
- Can you identify with Thomas' confusion in verse 5? Why or why not?
- In response to Thomas' confusion about knowing details like where and how, Jesus pointed to himself. That was an invitation to trust Jesus. How is knowing and having Jesus better than specific answers to our where, when, how, or why questions during times of trouble in our lives?
- Do you think Thomas would have been satisfied with Jesus' answer? Do you struggle to be satisfied with trusting in Jesus' presence and his promises in times of trouble? Why or why not?

### ***Application:***

It is easy to say that we trust in Jesus but meaningful trust in someone is only developed after seeing them give and keep their word repeatedly. Times of uncertainty and upheaval in our lives are opportunities to grow our trust in Jesus. We can always bring our questions and confusion and uncertainty to God in prayer and sometimes he may provide specific answers. Most times he will respond as Jesus did to Thomas and just say "Trust me. I love you and I'm working for you even when you don't see it or understand it. There is a beautiful future in store for us together one day and nothing will derail that. Put whatever faith you have in me right now and let's grow that into bigger faith through practice." What are some ways that you can practice faith and grow your trust in Jesus this week?