

TALK 6

• Is Jesus Really the Only Way?

John 14:1–11

1. Jesus alone can bring us to the Father. (John 14:1–7)

- “Most people in our culture believe that, if there is a God, we can relate to him and go to heaven through leading a good life. Let’s call this the “moral improvement” view. Christianity teaches the very opposite. In the Christian understanding, Jesus does not tell us how to live so we can merit salvation. Rather, he comes to forgive and save us through his life and death in our place. God’s grace does not come to people who morally outperform others, but to those who admit their failure to perform and who acknowledge their need for a Savior.”⁸ – Tim Keller

2. Jesus alone is fully God and fully man. (John 14:8–11)

- Exodus 3:13 - “If I come to the people of Israel and say to them, ‘The God of your fathers has sent me to you,’ and they ask me, ‘What is his name?’ What shall I say to them?” God said to Moses, “I AM WHO I AM.” And he said, “Say this to the people of Israel, ‘I AM has sent me to you.’”
- John 10:30–33 “I and the Father are one. ‘The Jews picked up stones again to stone him. Jesus answered them, ‘I have shown you many good works from the Father; for which of them are you going to stone me?’ The Jews answered him, ‘It is not for a good work that we are going to stone you but for blasphemy, because you, being a man, make yourself God.’”

How can we test Jesus’ claim that He is God? There are three possibilities:

- He was not God and He knew it. (Liar)
- He was not God and He didn’t know it. (Lunatic)
- He is God. (Lord)
- “A man who was merely a man and said the sort of things Jesus said would not be a great moral teacher. He would either be a lunatic, on a level with the man who says he is a poached egg, or else he would be the Devil of hell. You must make your choice. Either this man was, and is, the Son of God; or else a madman or something worse... but let us not come up with any patronizing nonsense about His being a great human teacher. He has not left that open to us. He did not intend to.”⁹ – C.S. Lewis
- **The teaching of Jesus:**
 - “Love your enemy, do good to those who hate you.” (Luke 6:27)
 - “Do unto others as you would have them do to you.” (Matthew 7:12)
- **The works of Jesus:**
 - John 14:11 - “Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me, or else believe on account of the works themselves.”
- **The love of Jesus:**
 - “When you’ve eliminated the impossible, whatever remains, however improbable, must be the truth.”¹⁰ – Sherlock Holmes
 - “We are faced then with a frightening alternative. The man we are talking about was (and is) just what he said or else a lunatic or something worse. Now it seems to me obvious that he was neither a lunatic nor a fiend; and consequently, however strange or terrifying or unlikely it may seem. I have to accept the view that he was and is God. God has landed on this enemy occupied world in human form.”¹¹ – C.S. Lewis

Discussion Starters

- How did you feel about the talk?
- Did anyone try reading the Bible in the last week? How did it go?
- What do you think about Jesus being the only way to get to God?
- Do you think it is arrogant to claim to be the only way, or loving and humble to command make a way?
- What do you think about the statement, “all religions are basically the same”?
- How does the “Liar, Lunatic, or Lord” argument affect what you think of Jesus?
- What do you think about Jesus being fully God and fully man?

Book Recommendation

- *Mere Christianity*, C.S. Lewis