



## ONE WAY

### Introduction

Before there were interstate highways, there were state-created highways. Though they varied in number of lanes and speed limits, they connected the United States from one end to the other. The challenge, however, was driving safely across the country. There were multiple paths to get there. Some went through mountains while others went through valleys. The trip could last a couple of weeks or a couple of months, depending on how good the driver was at planning and navigation. For minorities, cross-country travel was even more dangerous. Ultimately, the lack of uniform highway standards across the country and multiple routes made travel inefficient, dangerous, and costly.

Today, the uniformed interstate highways allow people to drive across the country in days instead of weeks and they have a clear route to get there. Though there are alternative, more adventurous routes, travelers often choose the most direct paths because their number one priority is reaching the destination.

## The Word

John 14:1-14 (NIV)

1 “Do not let your hearts be troubled. You believe in God; believe also in me. 2 My Father’s house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you? 3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am. 4 You know the way to the place where I am going.”

5 Thomas said to him, “Lord, we don’t know where you are going, so how can we know the way?”

6 Jesus answered, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. 7 If you really know me, you will know my Father as well. From now on, you do know him and have seen him.”

8 Philip said, “Lord, show us the Father and that will be enough for us.”

9 Jesus answered: “Don’t you know me, Philip, even after I have been among you such a long time? Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, ‘Show us the Father’? 10 Don’t you believe that I am in the Father, and that the Father is in me? The words I say to you I do not speak on my own authority. Rather, it is the Father, living in me, who is doing his work. 11 Believe me when I say that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; or at least believe on the evidence of the works themselves. 12 Very truly I tell you, whoever believes in me will do the works I have been doing, and they will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father. 13 And I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. 14 You may ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it.

## Breaking it Down

The conversation in John 14:1-14 takes place after Jesus washed His disciples' feet and before He went to the Garden of Gethsemane to pray.

### **Jesus used a wedding metaphor to explain His reason for leaving.**

It was Jewish custom for the groom to prepare for marriage by adding a room to his father's house. After the engagement ceremony, the groom would go home, build a room onto his father's existing house, and then return to his wife to finalize the marriage. It was common for the groom to be gone months or even a year to prepare the room and finalize any other payment arrangements for his wife.

### **At least two of the disciples had experienced Jesus but still didn't know Him.**

At this point, the 12 disciples had been with Jesus for years. They had watched His miracles, been given power to perform miracles of their own, and even heard Him confirm He was the Messiah. Yet, Thomas and Philip asked two questions that demonstrated they didn't know Jesus (v.7, v.9).

### **The only way to eternity with God is by following Jesus.**

In verse 9, Jesus says the only way we can get to the Father is by going through Him. Through Him, in this case, means following His teachings. We see confirmation of this understanding by reading the Great Commission (Matthew 28:19). He told His disciples to make disciples. A disciple is more than a learner – they are an active follower, meaning they **do** what is taught (not just learn it).

### **Jesus answers the prayers of His followers to glorify God.**

In verse 12, Jesus made a promise to those who **believe and do**

the works He did. He promised to do whatever they asked in His name. To ask in someone's name means to ask on their behalf. Therefore, Jesus is only promising to grant our requests when we ask for things that He would ask for and He asked for things to glorify God.

## Ask Yourself

After reading the passage, consider these questions.

Why do you think Thomas and Philip struggled to know Jesus?

Why do you think Jesus used a wedding metaphor to explain His reason for leaving?

What do you think Jesus meant by "the Father may be glorified in the Son?"

## Going Further

John's account of Jesus' life includes passages not found in the other gospels; so, it's important to study it along with the other gospels for greater clarity.

**Read Matthew 25:1-13 and Matthew 26:2 (NASB).**

What did Jesus use the wedding analogy to explain in Matthew 25:1-13?

When did Matthew 25 take place in relation to our account in John 14?

**Read Matthew 7:21-27**

What does this passage teach us about being a disciple?

**Read Luke 6:27-49**

What does this passage teach us about what true disciples look like?

## Applying It In Life

The world glorifies choices, but research has shown that too many choices can lead to frustration, anxiety, and even depression. Jesus came so that we could have an abundant life (John 10:10) by following one way: Him. By having one way to reach our goal, He frees us to enjoy the benefits of an abundant life (e.g. love, joy, peace).

Following Jesus means learning and doing what He taught. For example, He taught us to love our enemies, do good to those who hate us, turn the other cheek, and give without expecting anything in return. His teachings also say that we will be known by the work that we do. When we do the work He has called us to do, we demonstrate we are His disciples.

## Notes

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# Bible Reading Plan

We recommend using the New Living Translation (NLT) or New International Version (NIV) when reading these scriptures each day.

## **Day One**

John 13:34-35

## **Day Two**

2 Thessalonians 1:8

## **Day Three**

Romans 6:17

## **Day Four**

Hebrews 6:1-3

## **Day Five**

John 10:10

## **Day Six**

Mark 8:34

## **Day Seven**

John 14:21