

DAY 4

JESUS IS THE ONLY WAY

John Wrote about Jesus (*John 14:1-6; 18–20; Acts 1:9-12*)

It's amazing how quickly people believe something to be true just because they read it on social media or heard it somewhere. We've forgotten how to consider the source and discern what is true from information that has been twisted to deliver a desired message. How reliable is the source? How close is the source to the facts or events? What's in it for the messenger?

When we turn to the Gospels, we discover many details about the life and ministry of Jesus. In God's Word we are presented with corroborating facts from four men, two who were disciples and two who were close personal friends of men who knew Jesus well. Three writers were Jewish and one was a Gentile. Four unique personalities wrote as inspired by the Holy Spirit so that we can know God's Son, our Savior. While the first three Gospels give details about the miracles and teachings of Jesus, John's Gospel provides a different approach. John focuses on identifying Jesus as the Son of God and what our response to that truth should be. John describes the time Jesus told them, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me" (John 14:6). Jesus came to pay the penalty for our sins. His way is the only way. His death is the only sacrifice needed. His victory over death and the grave proves that Jesus, who is "the life," can provide eternal life for those who believe in Him.

Pause to reflect: Culture tries to claim that there are many ways to go to heaven. Why is this message so dangerous?

Chapters 18–20 continue John's first-hand account of the final hours leading up to Jesus' crucifixion, the description of His death and burial, and then the glorious account of Resurrection Day. Take a few moments to read John 18–20. If you can, read them aloud. Can you almost hear John's voice describing the harrowing events of those hours and days? John must have wrestled with the roller coaster of human emotions wondering why the Son of God didn't simply say, "Stop." John's reflection on all the details from arrest to resurrection helps us understand the powerful love that drove our Savior to complete His mission. God, the ultimate Author of all Scripture, inspired John to write these things so we may believe. (See John 20:31.)

Pause to reflect: Did you read John 18–20 or skim over verses you've read many times? Why is slowing down to focus on Scripture passages important? Imagine John talking to you. What expressions do you think you would see in his face or what would you notice in his body language? What difference does it make when you listen to someone who knows the truth?

John stood with the other disciples on the Mount of Olives and witnessed Jesus' ascension back into heaven. He heard Jesus promise the power that would come with the Holy Spirit. And he heard the promise that Jesus will return. John wrote it down, at least as much as possible, because if everything Jesus did were written down, "I suppose not even the world itself could contain the books that would be written" (John 21:25).

To verify truth it helps to have multiple sources, which we do. And it helps to have eyewitnesses, which we do. John signs his affidavit, so to speak, in John 19:35, "He who saw this has testified so that you also may believe. His testimony is true, and he knows he is telling the truth."

Pause to reflect: How does knowing the truth about what Jesus did refute culture's claim that there are many ways to get to heaven?

