

Jesus the Way, Jesus and Prosperity

John 14:1-7

“Lord, We don’t know where you are going, so how can we know the way. —John 14:5

“The just shall live by faith.” (Hab. 2:4, Rom. 1:17, Gal. 3:11, Heb.10:38)

1. Sadducees—religion as **business**.

The Priestly way was not so easy.

First Priest—Melchizedek

Fallible priests—Aaron, Eli, Hophni, Phinehas, and Pashur

Good Priests—Samuel, Ahimelech, Abiathar, and Zadok

Political Priests--Simon Maccabee and Caiaphas

Luxury homes from Caiaphas’ time.

2 and 3 story homes

Water installations (cisterns, baths, and pools,) and

Mosaic floors

The Sadducees did not believe in the resurrection.

Enjoyed the here and now

American Christianity today:

- Prosperity Gospel
- Economic Lift
- Multi-billion dollar business

“Professions in religion do seem to be particularly vulnerable to corruption.”

—Eugene Peterson

"When I die if I leave behind me ten pounds . . . you and all mankind can bear witness against me, that I have lived and died a thief and a robber." —J. Wesley, 1744

2. Essenes—religion as an escape.

Essenes escaped the world in two ways:

1. Living in the community but avoiding the corruption of the day
2. Removing themselves from community living in the desert

John the Baptist and the Essene community.

“The child grew and became strong in spirit; and he lived in the desert until the day he appeared publicly to Israel.” —Luke 1:80

- Born to older parents,
- John’s message, “Prepare ye the way of the Lord,” is an Essene text (Isaiah).
- John’s clothing and diet were plain and simple.
- Baptisms were part of the Essene way of life.

3. Jesus way—a journey of faith, hope, and love.

Jesus way wasn’t to gather together the super holy.

Jesus was popular among the unchurched crowd.

Jesus regularly led his followers into the two primary religious institutions.

- Synagogue and
- The Temple

Journey with Thomas included doubt and faith.

“My Lord and My God.” —John 20:28

- My Lord—obedience.
- My God—worship.

Pappy, as long as I’m with you, I would not be lost.” --Tears in a Bottle, 96.

Jesus’ way is a journey life of faith lived in a relationship with Jesus Christ.