



Hebrews Sermon Series
To Be Used: Session 7: Only Jesus Saves
Potential Sermon Title: Jesus is the Way
Passage: Hebrews 7:23-28

Connection to Hebrews 7:23-28

Jesus tells us that He is the Way (John 14:6). Jesus not only points the way to salvation, but He is the way of salvation.

Note: This is the first of three consecutive messages that will use John 14:6 in relation to the appropriate passage in the Hebrews study.

Introduction/Opening:

Provide a short overview of the development of maps over the past 70 years (a person's lifetime). Ideas might include Rand McNally Road Atlas, Mapquest, Yahoo Maps, Google Maps, GPS devices, etc.

Point out three major issues with any map:

- A map must be updated.
- A map is a scaled model of something much larger.
- A map is a scaled model of something designed by someone else.

Outline

1. The Way of God is permanent. Hebrews 7:23-25

Just as God showed his eternal essence in Exodus 3:14; Jesus is the eternal way. God may use different methods, but He has always shown the way of salvation for His people (e.g. Abram, Israelites, disciples). Jesus, as the permanent high priest, always intercedes for His people.

2. The Way of God is perfect. Hebrews 7:26-28

Jesus is the Way and nothing else is needed. In following Jesus, we will arrive at the proper destination. Other roads are detours that never get us there. The generation of Israelites spent 40 years wandering and did not enter the promised land, because they didn't follow the Way. Yet, He still cared for them! Because Jesus is our perfect high priest, even if we find ourselves lost, we know where to turn to get back on the right course.

3. The Way of God is personal. Hebrews 7:28

Jesus response was not simply directional, but it was personal. Directions may change due to detours or circumstances, but the way to the Father, through Jesus, does not. Compare a statement such as, "Take a left where the old oak used to be." The limit of the law is that it can provide direction, but it can't help us follow. Jesus didn't just leave us with a set of instructions, He said, "Follow Me."

Conclusion

Consider the three issues regarding any map mentioned at the beginning compared to Jesus being the Way.

- **A map must be updated.** A few years, or at least decades, ago most travelers might buy a road atlas. Now many use just a GPS. But either way, a GPS must have updated information, as does an atlas. But the Way to the Father has not changed. And it will not. There are no shortcuts or roadblocks with Jesus.
- **A map is a scaled model of something much larger.** The salvation provided to the Israelites points the way to an eternal salvation. Just as the Israelites followed the cloud by day and the pillar of fire by night in hopes of one day reaching the promised land, we are to follow the Way to our eternal destination.
- **A map is a human representation of something designed by someone else.** Many people believe many false things about how one gets to heaven. They take the Map of Good Works. Or maybe the Map of All Beliefs lead to the Same Place. But these are human representations of a map designed by Someone else – God.

During our journeys, we'll take many detours. But that's because we follow the permanent map. Or we follow a human representation rather than the one designed by the original Maker. But, once we know the Way, any time we make our own detour, there's an entrance ramp awaiting our return. And the toll has already been paid.

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