

Don't all religions lead to heaven?

The problem of exclusivity.

*"I am absolutely against any religion that says one faith is superior to another. I don't see how that is anything different than spiritual racism." – Rabbi Shmuley Boteach*

We have confused cultural pluralism with metaphysical pluralism.

*"One of the biggest mistakes humans make is to believe there's only one way. Actually, there are many diverse paths leading to God." – Oprah Winfrey*

Christianity is exclusive.

"I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one can come to the Father **except** through me." *John 14:6*

"There is salvation in **no one** else! God has given no other name under heaven by which we must be saved." *Acts 4:12*

When Adam sinned, sin entered the world. Adam's sin brought death, so death spread to everyone, for everyone sinned. *Romans 5:12*

Because one person disobeyed God many became sinners. But because **one other person** obeyed God many will be made righteous. *Romans 5:19*

The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, "Look, the Lamb of God, who **takes away** the sin of the world!" *John 1:29*

All religions cannot lead to God because of the law of non-contradiction.

Two contradictory statements cannot both be true at the same time.

Which religion best represents truth?

He never sinned, but he **died** for sinners to bring you safely home to God. *1 Peter 3:18*

...he was shown to be the Son of God when he was **raised** from the dead by the power of the Holy Spirit. *Romans 1:4*

...if Christ has not been raised, your faith is **futile**; you are still in your **sins**. *1 Corinthians 15:17*

*"I came to the conclusion that it would take more faith to maintain my atheism than to become a Christian." – Lee Strobel*

## One Year New Testament Devotionals

Small group discussion questions related to the weekend message will resume during our next 10-week group cycle starting the week of April 15. Use these One Year New Testament questions to discuss with your small group or answer individually.

### Devotional Thought

The reading this week reveals a story of two sisters, Mary and Martha. This story provides two excellent models: one of worship and one of service. Many have criticized Martha for her desire to serve others. They would say her "busyness" kept her from sitting with Mary to hear the teaching of Jesus. Instead of valuing one over the other, we should probably consider how to have a balance of both. Many churches today are full of people who "sit and consume" and never prioritize serving or applying what they have learned. What changes do you need to make to balance worship and service in your life?

### April 1: Luke 9:28-50

What different ambitions and motivations can you see in people today? What kind of teamwork might Jesus be looking for among His followers? What is one step you can take to align your ambitions with the ambitions of Jesus? How can you foster a spirit of teamwork at Emmanuel in the weeks ahead?

### April 2/3: Luke 9:51-10:37

What sorts of things spark your enthusiasm? When you look at others, what are loyalties you see in people that keep them from being able to give their lives to Christ? What are the costs you've experienced in following Jesus? In your opinion, why is it necessary for each follower of Christ to expect a high cost?

### April 4/5: Luke 10:38-11:36

Why do you think Jesus chose the illustration of light and darkness? What things, people, or situations tend to fill you with darkness? What kinds of things can you do to make your life a lamp for yourself and others? What is one step you can take this week to keep old habits or tempting situations from darkening your life?

### April 6/7: Luke 11:37-12:34

In what ways do people show that they care more about how they look to others than about what they are really like on the inside? Can you think of a time when you tried to change the way you acted outwardly rather than changing the way you related to God? How can you remind yourself of the importance to worship God and serve others? How could your focus on God and others not only shape your behavior but also shape your heart?