



# How is Jesus *The Way*?

**John 14:6:** (NASB) *Jesus said to him, I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through me.*



On the night before his crucifixion and literally hours before he would begin a sleepless ordeal of beatings, humiliation and accusation, Jesus took his precious time to give comfort to his truest followers. He spoke of what would happen, of God’s care for them and of His love and devotion to them. He taught them to serve, be humble and to live with joy. Jesus also told them how to be faithful and let them know that he -Jesus - was the key to it all. Jesus said that he is the way. What did he mean by that?

This is the first of a three-part series on this text. Why? Because if we can grasp how Jesus IS the

way, the truth and the life then we can truly grasp how to find and follow “the way,” how to understand and apply “the truth” and therefore how to step into and live “the life”!

Let’s look at the theme text context: Judas had just been revealed as the betrayer. Perhaps in these precious moments of teaching, Jesus showed us a little bit about the way, the truth and the life.



## The Way

**John 13:30-38:** (NASB) <sup>30</sup>*So after receiving the morsel he went out immediately; and it was night.* <sup>31</sup>*Therefore when he had gone out, Jesus said, now is the Son of Man glorified, and God is glorified in him; <sup>32</sup>if God is glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself, and will glorify him immediately.*

The betrayal would bring persecution and death - sacrificial death would bring God’s glory! Judas leaving the room started a chain of events that would create the momentum leading to the crucifixion and he knew it. This was such a little thing but Jesus saw the betrayal in the big picture - as a path to God’s glory.

<sup>33</sup>*Little children, I am with you a little while longer. You will seek me; and as I said to the Jews, now I also say to you, where I am going, you cannot come.* <sup>34</sup>*A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another, even as I have loved you, that you also love one another.* <sup>35</sup>*By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.*

Jesus prepared them for a separation from him (there would be growth through difficulty) and he gave them a new commandment to love one another. This is how they could be like Jesus and this is “the way” for us. He was “the way” by paving the path to God’s glory through suffering and persecution, and by giving us this new commandment to love one another. We could see this commandment in his life.



### "Just like you," (chorus) Lecrae

*I just wanna be like you,  
Walk like, talk like, even think like you  
The only one I could look to  
You're teaching me to be just like you  
Well I just gotta be like, like,  
I just gotta be like you*

## The Truth

<sup>36</sup>Simon Peter said to him, Lord, where are you going? Jesus answered, where I go, you cannot follow me now; but you will follow later. <sup>37</sup>Peter said to him, Lord, why can I not follow you right now? I will lay down my life for you. <sup>38</sup>Jesus answered, will you lay down your life for me? Truly, truly, I say to you, a rooster will not crow until you deny me three times. **John 14:1:** (NASB) <sup>1</sup>Do not let your heart be troubled; believe in God, believe also in me.

It makes sense that Jesus would comfort Peter after revealing he would deny Jesus. (Remember the chapter divisions were not in the original text.)

Jesus knows the truth of our faults and how God's truth is still accomplished with those faults. The error in judgment on Peter's part would become the stepping stone of his becoming a strong example for the early Christian church. Jesus needed to take that error and build upon it something much stronger.

Peter is such a great example for us. When we make mistakes, it should also help us to grow stronger in the Lord. Peter is so easy to relate to! He made many obvious mistakes.

Jesus understands the truth of our lives. He can prophetically look at God's plan and see how things will work out for us and ultimately the good of mankind.

## The Life

**John 14:2-6:** (NASB) <sup>2</sup>In my Father's house, are many dwelling places; if it were not so, I would have told you; for I go to prepare a place for you. <sup>3</sup>If I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to myself, that where I am, there you may be also. <sup>4</sup>And you know the way where I am going.

Our life now is to prepare for the life that Jesus is preparing for us later.

<sup>5</sup>Thomas said to him, Lord, we do not know where you are going, how do we know the way? <sup>6</sup>Jesus said to him, I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through me.

Jesus said, "You know more than you think you know - learn these details so you can live a life that is pleasing to God!"

## How is Jesus The Way?

**HE IS  
The Way  
TO WHERE?**

### The way to eternal life:

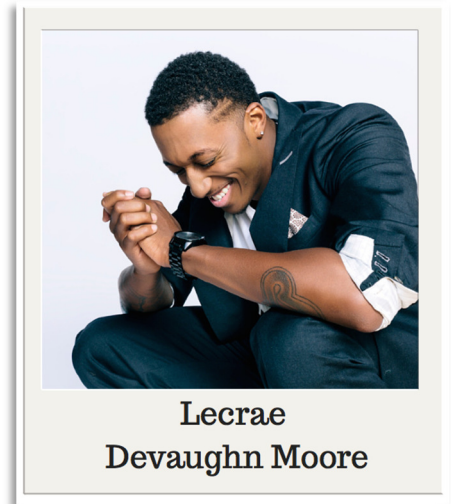
**John 14:1-2:** (NASB) <sup>1</sup>Do not let your heart be troubled; believe in God, believe also in me. <sup>2</sup>In my Father's house, are many dwelling places; if it were not so, I would have told you, for I go to prepare a place for you.

This is the ultimate end result of the way.



**Child of the streets, Rapper Lecrae Shares His Testimony, CBN**

- (Reporter) When Lecrae was a small child his father abandoned him and his mother. He found a sense of belonging in the hip-hop culture on the streets.
- (Lecrae) My uncles were young and wrapped up in the streets and gangs and drugs and just promiscuous. I idolized it. I wanted to be the gang member my uncle was. I wanted every tattoo he had. I saw my first gun and all these different things and I thought this must be what it is to be a man! And I'm just sitting on their laps soaking all this in. Wow! I was a child of rap and hip-hop seeing this world come up around me.



Lecrae  
Devaughn Moore

**The way to a life of faith:**

Mark 9:20-24: (NASB) <sup>20</sup>They brought the boy to him. When he saw him, immediately the spirit threw him into a convulsion, and falling to the ground, he began rolling around and foaming at the mouth. <sup>21</sup>And he asked his father, how long has this been happening to him? And he said, from childhood. <sup>22</sup>It has often thrown him both into the fire and into the water to destroy him. But if you can do anything, take pity on us and help us! <sup>23</sup>And Jesus said to him, If you can? All things are possible to him who believes. <sup>24</sup>Immediately the boy's father cried out and said, I do believe; help my unbelief.

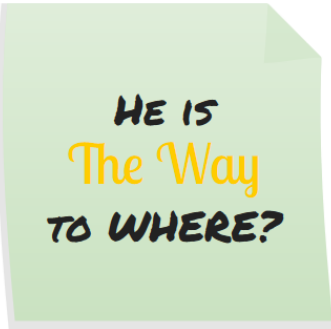
Faith has to define our everyday life. Learning the life of faith is not just a statement or a feeling in the moment. A life of faith can be OUR way or it can be THE Way - we just need to be sure as to where our faith finds its foundation.

Everybody leads a life of faith regardless of religion. We have faith in the things around us, faith in what we pursue, faith that what we are doing is better than what we are not doing, and so on. Drug addicts have faith the drug will take away their pain for the moment. People put their trust in education and money. What do we put our trust in? Can we elevate our trust to something eternal - a life in Jesus?



**"Just Like You," (Verse 1) Lecrae**

*I loved the way you used to come through,  
 Teach me to do the things that men do  
 True,  
 You showed me stuff I probably shouldn't have seen,  
 But you had barely made it out your teens,  
 And took me under your wings  
 I wanted hats, I wanted clothes just like you,  
 Lean to the side when I rolled just like you  
 Didn't care if people didn't like you,  
 You wanna bang, I wanna bang too  
 Skyline, pyru  
 You would've died, I would've died too,  
 You went to prison, got sick, lost your pops,*





*Yeah, I cried too  
You never know who's right behind you*

This is very profound - we are examples to others. If we are following Christ, others can follow us following Christ. But if we are not, we can cause harm to others. Lecrae began by following the wrong way.

**HE IS  
The Way  
TO WHERE?**

**The way to a place of nourishment and peace:**

**John 10:7-10:** (NASB) <sup>7</sup>So Jesus said to them again, truly, truly, I say to you, I am the door of the sheep. <sup>8</sup>All who came before me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not hear them. <sup>9</sup>I am the door; if anyone enters through me, he will be saved, and will go in and out and find pasture. <sup>10</sup>The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.

All who came before me are thieves and robbers - the scribes and Pharisees who had a responsibility they did not fulfill.

I am the door - the shepherd of the sheep would literally sit in the doorway of the sheepfold to guard them. The scribes and Pharisees were supposed to be the guardians of the fold but were not. Jesus is our protection. He is the door and the way. This should bring us peace and nourishment.

Everyone wants to know where they can go for their security - for many the destination is actually a dead end.

**The way to a life of courage:**

**Matthew 10:24-31:** (NASB) <sup>24</sup>A disciple is not above his teacher, nor a slave above his master. <sup>25</sup>It is enough for the disciple that he become like his teacher, and the slave like his Master. If they have called the head of the house Beelzebul, how much more will they malign the members of his household! <sup>26</sup>Therefore do not fear them, for there is nothing concealed that will not be revealed, or hidden that will not be known... <sup>28</sup>Do not fear those who kill the body but are unable to kill the soul; but rather fear Him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell (Gehenna). <sup>29</sup>Are not two sparrows sold for a cent? And yet not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father. <sup>30</sup>But the very hairs of your head are all numbered. <sup>31</sup>So do not fear; you are more valuable than many sparrows.



**HE IS  
The Way  
TO WHERE?**

Jesus is telling us, "Get yourself ready because the path you are going to walk on is the one I already walked. It won't be an easy path. They already accused me of being the father of devils and other heinous things. If they are going to accuse me, you can be sure you are next. Be ready! This is going to happen. Do not fear them!"

That is difficult because we cannot always stop fear from welling up, but we can control what we do when that happens.

Our courage is founded in the fact of Almighty and eternal care for our wellbeing.



We received an email this week from a listener: I have been listening to your discussions on the Bible and am very enlightened because what you're talking about makes sense. However, I have been taught so much misleading information from religious opinions for many years that my thinking is now changing and I no longer desire to listen to any of them and their interpretations of God's word. I am seeing things in a different light.

Our objective at Christian Questions is to have you think about the Bible in a way you might not have before. We try to let the Bible interpret itself by studying the Scriptures topically.



**We know where The Way leads -  
but why is Jesus The Way and WHY would we want to go?**



**The first and most basic why - sin was not erasable by any other method other than perfect justice:**

Hebrews 10:1-4: (NASB) <sup>1</sup>For the Law, since it has only a shadow of the good things to come and not the very form of things, can never, by the same sacrifices which they offer continually year by year, make perfect those who draw near. <sup>2</sup>Otherwise, would they not have ceased to be offered, because the worshipers, having once been cleansed, would no longer have had consciousness of sins... <sup>4</sup>For it is impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins...

The people could atone for sins for the next year, but they could not have them erased. The sacrifices temporarily "bought them time" to keep them in relationship with God.

Hebrews 10:9-10: (NASB) <sup>9</sup>then he said, BEHOLD, I HAVE COME TO DO YOUR WILL. He takes away the first in order to establish the second. <sup>10</sup>By this will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ **once for all.**

The one offering of Jesus paid the price to eradicate all sin in the future. The perfect man (Jesus) gave his life for the perfect man (Adam) - justice was satisfied.

The Old Law merely covered over sin through sacrifices; Jesus bought us from sin by his sacrifice. This is how Jesus is The Way. That was the only way to get rid of sin.

**We each must find our own "why" for following The Way even as it exposes our sinful self:**

Luke 5:3-4: (NASB) <sup>3</sup>And he got into one of the boats, which was Simon's, and asked him to put out a little way from the land. And he sat down and began teaching the people from the boat. <sup>4</sup>When he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, Put out into the deep water and let down your nets for a catch.

Jesus is in the process of drawing his Apostles and this is the third time Jesus suggested Peter follow him. Perhaps there is a deeper meaning spoken here by Jesus? He was going to show Peter a picture of what Peter's life would soon look like as a *fisher of men*.



**Busted - Bible luck charm, *Rapper Lecrae Shares His Testimony, CBN***

- (*Lecrae*) I knew my ways were unfulfilling. I chased power, I chased pleasure, I chased possessions, I chased just something satisfying and I knew I kept getting let down. I knew it was insanity and I was never going to find fulfillment, but I didn't know what else to look for.
- (*Reporter*) He kept a Bible in his car as a good luck charm. One night police caught him trespassing and in possession of drugs. He was cuffed and sat in the police car waiting to go to jail.
- (*Lecrae*) The police officer goes into my car and he saw the Bible and he came back to the police car and said, "Son, you got a Bible in your car." I said, "Yes Sir." He said, "You know what that Bible is about?" And I was like, "I need to." He said, "Today I'm going to let you go because I want you to get into that Bible and I want you to start living it." That really did something to me, and that really rocked me, and I didn't want to get into any kind of trouble like that again.



**Luke 5:5-11:** (NASB) <sup>5</sup>Simon answered and said, Master, we worked hard all night and caught nothing, but I will do as you say and let down the nets. <sup>6</sup>When they had done this, they enclosed a great quantity of fish, and their nets began to break; <sup>7</sup>so they signaled to their partners in the other boat for them to come and help them. And they came and filled both of the boats, so that they began to sink.

Imagine the bewilderment as they called for help - this was impossible! This was a message!

**Now the message of The Way and Peter's "why" becomes clear:**

<sup>8</sup>But when Simon Peter saw that, he fell down at Jesus' feet, saying, go away from me Lord, for I am a sinful man, O Lord...And Jesus said to Simon, do not fear, from now on you will be catching men. <sup>11</sup>When they had brought their boats to land, they left everything and followed him.

Go away from me, Lord - Jesus' mere presence exposed Peter's sinful reality.

This time they left everything they had and followed Jesus.



**"Just Like You," (Verse 1, continued) Lecrae**

*I got a little son now and he do whatever I do  
 But it's something deep inside you,  
 That tell you it's gotta be more than doing what other guys do,  
 They had nobody there to guide you  
 But I followed your footsteps and this shouldn't surprise you,  
 You realize you, you realize you, you,  
 Yeah, I just wanna be like you*



A caller from Connecticut contributes **Matthew 22:14: For many are called, but few are chosen. Matthew 4:19: Follow me and I will make you fishers of men.** The Way is a way of sacrifice and by invitation.



Another personal WHY regarding the necessity for The Way:

The context here is Jesus "thinning the crowd" by speaking to them in difficult terms:

John 6:66-69: (NASB) <sup>66</sup>As a result of this many of his disciples withdrew and were not walking with him anymore. <sup>67</sup>So Jesus said to the twelve, you do not want to go away also, do you? <sup>68</sup>Simon Peter answered him, Lord, to whom shall we go? You have words of eternal life. <sup>69</sup>We have believed and have come to know that you are the Holy One of God.



The crowd did not realize he was speaking symbolically when talking about *eating his body and drinking his blood*.

His true followers realized there was no other place to go! *Who else has the words of eternal life?* In a small beginning, they began to see The Way.

Is your life empty without The Way of Jesus? That is the way we should be looking at our Christian lives.

We know where "The Way" leads and we know why, but HOW do we get there?



 Fine line, *Rapper Lecrae Shares His Testimony, CBN*

- (Reporter) For a year, Lecrae walked a line between "college partier" and committed Christian. His life was spinning out of control and he knew it. He was finally stopped in a massive car accident that left him evaluating his double life.
- (Lecrae) I came out without a scratch. My car had flipped over, it was dented in and damaged up and here I am without a scratch on me, and I said, "Okay God, I need to change."
- (Reporter) Later that night, he gave his life completely over to God.
- (Lecrae) I was radically changed. To realize that I had been living a lie. To realize that I was unsatisfied, and I would never be satisfied until I came to Jesus was so revolutionary for me that I wanted everyone to taste it. I wanted everyone to see how awesome God was.



The Way is a narrow one:

Matthew 7:12-14: (NASB) <sup>12</sup>In everything, therefore, treat people the same way you want them to treat you, for this is the Law and the Prophets. <sup>13</sup>Enter through the narrow gate; for the gate is wide and the way is broad that leads to destruction, and there are many who enter through it. <sup>14</sup>For the gate is small and the way is narrow that leads to life, and there are few who find it.

We get there by setting our hearts and minds with great intention upon the difficult path.



### "Just Like You," (Verse 2) Lecrae

*Now all I see is money, cars, jewels, stars  
Womanizers, tough guys, guns, knives, and scars,  
Drug pushers, thugs, strippers, fast girls, fast life  
Everything I wanted and everything I could ask life  
If this ain't living and they lied well,  
Guess I married an old wives' tale*

*Wow, fail*

*I don't know another way to go,  
This is the only way they ever showed*

*I got this emptiness inside that got me fighting for approval 'cause I missed out on my daddy  
saying, way to go*

*And get that verbal affirmation on know how to treat a woman,  
Know how to fix an engine,*

*That keep the car running*

*So now I'm looking at the media and I'm following what they feed me,*

*Rap stars, trap stars,*

*Whoever wants to lead me*

*Even though they lie they still tell me that they love me,*

*They say I'm good at bad things at least they proud of me*

How many millions of people are stuck in that spot? "Being good at bad things" is not what you want out of your life. The Scriptures set a distinct process for getting out of the wrong way and into The Way.

We follow The Way by humbly realizing who we are, what we have done and moving forward. How do we leave the stuff in our lives behind?

**Fortunately, the Apostle Paul gives us step-by-step instructions!**

**Philippians 3:7-14:** (NASB) <sup>7</sup>But whatever things were gain to me, those things I have counted as loss for the sake of Christ. <sup>8</sup>More than that, I count all things to be loss in view of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them but rubbish so that I may gain Christ...

How do we get there? We weigh the value of our life before truly knowing Christ against the value of our life IN Christ. (Hint: There is no comparison!)

<sup>9</sup>and may be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own derived from the Law, but that, which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which comes from God on the basis of faith,

We accept the fact that whatever was, however good or accomplished it was, is of no comparison to the purity and loftiness of righteousness found in Christ!

<sup>10</sup>that I may know him and the power of his resurrection and the fellowship of his sufferings, being conformed to his death; <sup>11</sup>in order that I may attain to the resurrection from the dead.

<sup>12</sup>Not that I have already obtained it or have already become perfect, but I press on so that I may lay hold of that for which also I was laid hold of by Christ Jesus.

We resolve to conform to Christ in his suffering - even though we are weak and laden with sin, we are resolved because we have been called to do so.

<sup>13</sup>Brethren, I do not regard myself as having laid hold of it yet; but one thing I do: **forgetting what lies behind and reaching forward to what lies ahead,**





We release the chains of our past, for how can we truly reach forward to what lies ahead if our hands are bound up in holding and bound up in carrying past failures or even past victories? All things are new!

*14* press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.

We pursue with single-minded focus and energy the goal of the call of Christ!

This process gives a whole new meaning to the saying "let go and let God." This process brings us from "what we were" to "what we can be."

- WEIGH** the value of life before Christ to life in Christ
- ACCEPT** whatever was is not the same as what can be
- RESOLVE** in your mind to do something about it
- RELEASE** the chains of the past
- PURSUE** the call of Christ!



A caller from Connecticut suggests you have to have faith and patience, especially through difficult times.



## So, is The Way for everybody?

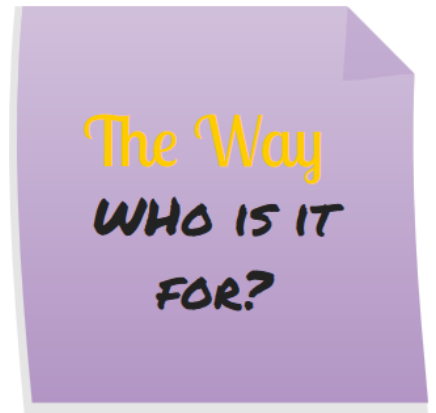
**Acts 4:12:** (NASB) *And there is salvation in no one else; for there is no other name under heaven that has been given among men by which we must be saved.*

Salvation can only come through Jesus. He is the centerpiece to eradicate sin. There is no other name, way, religion, process, thought pattern, imagination - nothing else can do it except the name of Jesus for everybody.

### If that is true, how does this fit in?

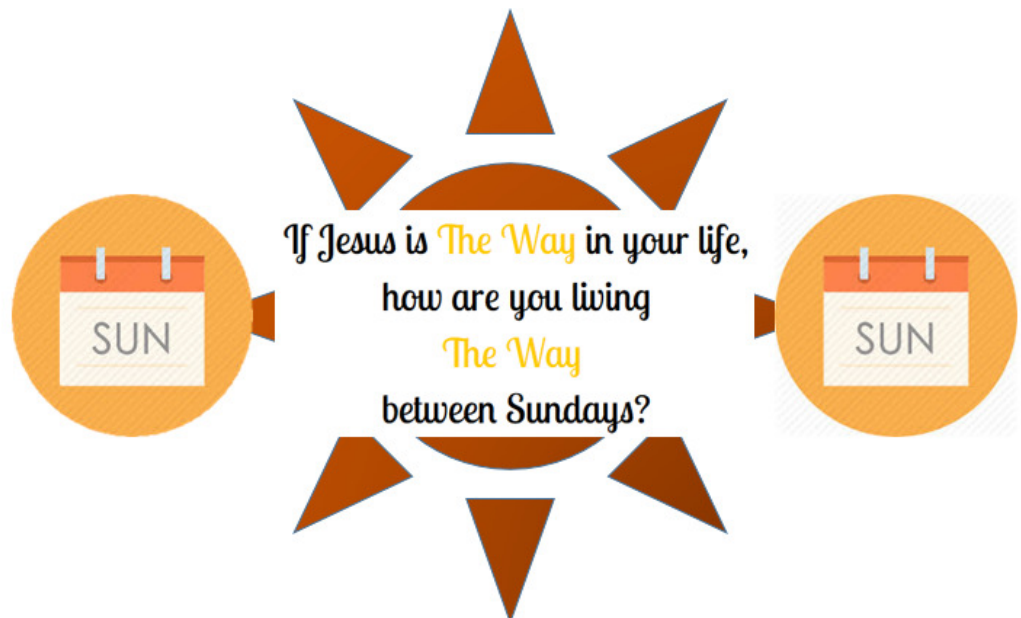
**Mark 4:10-12:** (NASB) <sup>10</sup>As soon as he was alone, his followers, along with the twelve, began asking him about the parables. <sup>11</sup>And he was saying to them, to you has been given the mystery of the kingdom of God, but those who are outside get everything in parables, <sup>12</sup>so that while seeing, they may see and not perceive, and while hearing, they many hear and not understand, otherwise they might return and be forgiven.

If the name of Jesus is everything to everybody, why did Jesus himself say he did not want everyone to know about it?! How does that make sense?



### Rapping for Jesus, Rapper Lecrae Shares His Testimony, CBN

- (Lecrae) *I was changed.*
- (Reporter) *Before long he learned he could blend his passion for God and his ability as a rapper.*
- (Lecrae) *I thought that God and rap would never work. I thought that God wasn't okay with rap. People knew I used to rap and I went to the Bible studies and someone said, why don't you rap about Jesus? On the spot I came up with a rap about Jesus, and they were like, man, that was good. I was like wow, Lord; maybe you can really do something with this.*
- (Reporter) *He began ministering to kids in juvenile detention.*
- (Lecrae) *I ended up there for three years, every weekend, just sharing my heart, sharing Scripture, and rapping at their Praise and Worship on Sundays.*





So why did Jesus not want everyone to understand what he was saying?

**1 Peter 2:9-12:** (NASB) *<sup>9</sup>But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for God's own possession, so that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light;*

Notice how all of these descriptions are for just a specific group, but this group has a job of being a priesthood. Having a priesthood implies there are others to minister to. *Proclaiming Him* -implies an audience. Is this *royal priesthood* designated for the here and now or is there a bigger picture?

*<sup>10</sup>for you once were not a people, but now you are the people of God; you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy. <sup>11</sup>Beloved, I urge you as aliens and strangers to abstain from fleshly lusts which wage war against the soul. <sup>12</sup>Keep your behavior excellent among the Gentiles.*

This is all present behavior...things we are supposed to be doing now - *receive mercy, abstain from fleshly lusts, keep your behavior excellent.*

*...so that in the thing in which they slander you as evildoers, they may because of your good deeds, as they observe them, glorify God in the day of visitation.*

When do they slander? Now! When do they glorify God? Later! We are to do the right things - follow in The Way - now. The rest of the world, later, will glorify God in the future. They do not HAVE to hear the word now. They are NOT lost for all eternity. They WILL glorify God in the day of visitation. (Day of Judgment)

Many other Scriptures verify this.

**Romans 8:18-21:** (NASB) *<sup>18</sup>For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory that is to be revealed to us. <sup>19</sup>For the anxious longing of the creation (the rest of the world of mankind) waits eagerly for the revealing of the sons of God. (the followers of Jesus) <sup>20</sup>For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of Him who subjected it, in hope <sup>21</sup>that the creation itself also will be set free from its slavery to corruption into the freedom of the glory of the children of God.*

There is a difference between the two groups. One is waiting for the revealing of the other.

*For the creation was subject to futility - there is no more futile way to live than to try to solve all of the world's problems in a sinful state.*

*Not willingly - not because they wanted to be; God put them there. Why? Because there was more to it and included hope.*

*In hope that the creation itself also will be set free from its slavery - they will eventually see the name of Jesus. They will be set free into the same freedom in Christ the true followers have now.*

The name of Jesus is for EVERYONE...just not for all yet. There is more to the plan of God.





The Way is for the true Christian now but its effect will spread to all of mankind!



**"Just Like You," (Verse 3) Lecrae**

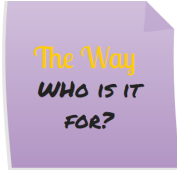
*But God sees through my foolish pride,  
And how I'm weak like Adam another victim of Lucifer's lies  
But then in steps Jesus,  
All men were created to lead but we needed somebody to lead us  
More than a teacher,  
But somebody to buy us back from the darkness,  
You can say he redeemed us,  
Taught us that real leaders follow God,  
Finish the work 'cause we on our job  
Taught us not to rob  
But give life love a wife like he loved the Church,  
Without seeing how many hearts we can break first  
I wanna be like you in every way,  
So if I gotta die every day  
Unworthy sacrifice  
But the least I can do is give the most of me  
'Cause being just like you is what I'm supposed to be  
They say you came for the lame,  
I'm the lamest  
I made a mess but you say you'll erase it,  
I'll take it*



**Here is the privilege of following Christ - it is the privilege of being one of the called:**

**John 15:1-5:** (NASB) <sup>1</sup>I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser. <sup>2</sup>Every branch in me that does not bear fruit, He takes away; and every branch that bears fruit, He prunes it so that it may bear more fruit. <sup>3</sup>You are already clean because of the word, which I have spoken to you. <sup>4</sup>Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself unless it abides in the vine, so neither can you unless you abide in me. <sup>5</sup>I am the vine, you are the branches; he who abides in me and I in him, he bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing.

**Who is it for? The true followers now and the rest of the world later.**



**How do we capitalize on the gift of The Way?**



**Now...right now!**

**1 John 3:1-3:** (NASB) <sup>1</sup>See how great a love the Father has bestowed on us, that we would be called children of God; and such we are. For this reason the world does not know us, because it did not know him. <sup>2</sup>Beloved, now we are children of God, and it has not appeared as yet what we will be. We know that when he appears, we will be like him, because we will see him just as he is. <sup>3</sup>And everyone who has this hope fixed on him purifies himself, just as he is pure.

**To be a child of God in the future you must live as a child of God right now.**



Do I live life **MY WAY** with  
a little bit of  
*The Way*  
sprinkled in for flavor?



Every human being has the opportunity to have Jesus be *The Way*, but the opportunity for most is not right now. Some come through the life of sacrifice now but the vast majority of humanity will walk up what Isaiah calls *the highway of holiness*. They receive the opportunity to come to Christ in an earthly way, not a spiritual way, following the righteousness of God and not following man.

For us now, being in *The Way* means seeing things differently because we have already been reconciled to God. So often Christianity misses this important point. We must **MAINTAIN** the reconciliation by living the life. We cannot fool God. He sees our every day. He sees our thoughts. We need to embrace that in living a reconciled life.

**2 Corinthians 5:16-19:** (NASB) <sup>16</sup>Therefore from now on we recognize no one according to the flesh; even though we have known Christ according to the flesh, yet now we know him in this way no longer. <sup>17</sup>Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come. <sup>18</sup>Now all these things are from God, who reconciled us to Himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation, <sup>19</sup>namely, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and He has committed to us the word of reconciliation.

Because we are reconciled, we can learn to become *ministers of reconciliation* for others in the kingdom. That will be the job of the priesthood in the future - to bless all of the families of the earth.

Our job now is to live *The Way* 24/7, not just on Sundays.



**Love of God, Rapper Lecrae Shares His Testimony, CBN**

- *(Lecrae) If you don't know Him, you're missing out on purpose and the meaning of life in general. So, I am passionate about seeing people spending an eternity with Him. He's awesome. He's just loved on me when I felt like I didn't deserve love, when I felt like I was unlovable. I'm really grateful and I feel fortunate to have a huge family that is beyond race, creed, and culture and have a Father who shepherds us all. When I think about that my mind is blown. There is nothing like it.*

If you are truly a follower of Jesus, you are walking on his path and not another path. Sometimes we like to straddle. Sometimes we like to have one foot on the path of Jesus and the other foot on whatever we would like to do. We will arrange it so the two can walk parallel. But sometimes when our path takes a left and the path of Jesus takes a right...which one do we follow? Usually the answer is the wrong one and we have to find our way through the wilderness to find the right path again.

**Being in The Way means that we entirely focus our whole being on our race to Christ:**

Hebrews 12:1-3: (NASB) <sup>1</sup>Therefore, since we have so great a cloud of witnesses surrounding us, let us also lay aside every encumbrance and the sin which so easily entangles us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, <sup>2</sup>fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith...

*Cloud of witnesses* - those great heroes of faith described in detail in Hebrews 11. These are examples of those who were faithful and served God before Jesus' time. They accomplished great feats of faith. We can draw strength from their experiences to help us run harder.

This is a privilege but also a great responsibility.

...who for the joy set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. <sup>3</sup>For consider him who has endured such hostility by sinners against himself, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart. Jesus and those examples of faith are all we need to keep our hearts on fire! There must be an urgency in our lives.



**"Just like you," (Verse 3 continued) Lecrae**

*They say you came for the lame,  
I'm the lamest  
I broke my life, but you say you'll replace it,  
I'll take it.  
(I just gotta be like, be like, be like.  
Be like, be like, I just gotta be like, be like.  
I just gotta be like you...)*

We have to choose what and where our examples will be and to what we will conform. Jesus is The Way. He is the model we have to conform to.



## **Trouble comes but we who are in The Way can now see it as opportunity!**

**1 Peter 3:13-16: (NASB)** <sup>13</sup>*Who is there to harm you if you prove zealous for what is good? <sup>14</sup>But even if you should suffer for the sake of righteousness, you are blessed. And do not fear their intimidation, and do not be troubled. <sup>15</sup>but sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts, always being ready to make a defense to everyone who asks you to give an account for the hope that is in you, yet with gentleness and reverence; <sup>16</sup>and keep a good conscience so that in the thing in which you are slandered, those who revile your good behavior in Christ will be put to shame.*

*Who is there to harm you - unfortunately, there are a lot of people who will harm you.*

*Even if you should suffer for the sake of righteousness - the righteousness of Christ, but do not be afraid if you have placed your feet on the right path.*

*Those who revile your good behavior in Christ will be put to shame - often times those who revile us are *not* put to shame. But they will be. In the Day of Judgment, Jesus described it that every word and deed will be accounted for.*

*Whatever the difficulty is that surrounds you, make sure your feet are on the path of Christ.*

*Jesus IS The Way. He is the door, the path and the inspiration that we need to find our way, to put on faith and walk the walk!*

*Our lives bring us things we do not expect, but God overrules those experiences for our highest spiritual welfare if our feet are firmly on the path of Jesus.*

*So, how is Jesus The Way?  
For Jonathan and Rick and Christian Questions...  
Think about it...!*

*And now even more to think about...  
only in the **Full Edition** of CQ Rewind!*



### **A little bit of background on Lecrae from Wikipedia:**

Lecrae Devaughn Moore (born October 9, 1979), mononymously known as Lecrae, is an American Christian hip-hop artist, songwriter, record producer and actor. He is the president, co-owner and co-founder of the independent record label Reach Records, and the co-founder and president of the non-profit organization ReachLife Ministries. To date, he has released seven studio albums and two mix tapes as a solo artist, and has released three studio albums, a remix album, and one EP as the leader of the rap group 116 Clique. He produced much of his earlier material along with other early Reach Records releases. Moore, in reference to his label as a Christian rapper, has stated that his music is just hip-hop, though it reflects his Christian faith.

**Early life:** Born and raised by his single mother in Southern Houston, Texas, Moore moved often early in life, living in San Diego, Denver, and Dallas. He has stated that he would go to church with his Christian grandmother, but considered it for "older people" and said it "wasn't for me." Lecrae never met his father, who ended up becoming a drug addict. In the song "Good, Bad, Ugly," Moore reveals that when he was almost eight, a female baby sitter sexually molested him, an incident which Moore believes distorted his view of sexuality, influencing his later promiscuous lifestyle. Experiencing abuse and neglect during his childhood, Moore used his ability to rap as a source of significance. According to Moore, his grandmother would not



allow him to watch rap music videos on television, but he would sneak in late at night. It was in these videos that Moore found individuals to look up to. Moore states that "there were no Martin Luther Kings or Malcolm X's, they had all passed away so I had Tupac." After being shown a gun by his uncle, Moore began looking up to gangsters and turned to a life of crime. Moore remembers taking a BB gun and standing in the street pointing it to a car, frightening the female driver, simply for fun. At the age of 16, he started taking drugs, fighting, was arrested in high school for stealing, and eventually ended up on a gang list. Moore tried "pretty much every drug there was to try" except for heroin and crack cocaine.

According to CBN, he became a drug dealer and used the Bible his grandmother gave him as a good luck charm. After being arrested for drug possession, the officer saw the Bible and let Moore go on a promise that he would agree to live by it. He eventually turned from drugs to alcohol consumption and a party lifestyle and became a "misfit of a person." He has described himself during this period as a thrill-seeker, he would pull stunts such as jumping from a third-story building, and gained the nickname "Crazy 'Crae". Encouraged by his concerned mother to read his Bible, Moore said that "I remember ripping the pages out of the Bible and throwing it on the floor. I don't want this Bible. I couldn't wrap my hands around this being true or real." He began to drink and smoke more and look for more women "as the emptiness became more profound." At age 17, his personal, financial, and relationship troubles convinced him that he was at a "dead end." Wanting to do what he considered the mature thing, through the influence of his grandmother, he desired to start attending church. A girl Moore attended high school with was there, and she invited him to a Bible study, where he met Darragh, his future wife. Moore was surprised to find that the members of the Bible study "were just people like me. They read the same books and listened to the same music. Their character was just different. They were loving and that's really what drew me in." Moore says that it was at age 19 that he finally decided to live for God, though "it wasn't overnight" and he "spent a lot of time making bad decisions."

Conversion: Lecrae attended a conference after being invited by a friend, though Moore admits that his interest was to meet girls and experience the big city. When he arrived at the conference, Moore was awed by the performance of the Christian hip-hop group, "The Cross Movement." Lecrae says that he saw "guys who had been shot from being in gangs, girls who were extremely promiscuous in the past, I see rappers, dancers and singers; I see people who came from the same background I came from, and they still embodied who they were culturally, but they were all in love with Jesus and I had never seen that before." After hearing Pastor James White of Christ Our King Community Church speak on how Christians are bought with a price and the suffering that Jesus underwent in the crucifixion, Moore says that he remembers articulating "God get me out of this, don't kill me; do whatever you have to do to get me out of this, just don't kill me." Later, Moore was driving on a highway when he turned too quickly and his car went into a roll. He had no seatbelt and the roof and windshield of the car caved in, his glasses were molded into the frame of the car, but he survived completely uninjured. Moore cites this incident as the one which convinced him to commit his life to Christ. Moore went back to his college, the University of North Texas, with a printed version of his testimony to pass out on campus. He started volunteering and performing at a juvenile detention center, and the reception he received convinced him that offering "hope and encouragement" through music was what he wanted to do. However, Moore still struggled in his faith - as revealed in "Good, Bad, Ugly," in 2002 he impregnated a then-girlfriend. Rather than risk scandal, he and his girlfriend had the baby aborted, a decision he says he now deeply regrets.





A few miscellaneous Scriptures that reflect several of the aspects of Jesus as The Way.

**Jesus opened a life path different from any ever seen by man - live UP to it!**

**Ephesians 4:1-8:** (NASB) *<sup>1</sup>Therefore I, the prisoner of the Lord, implore you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling with which you have been called, <sup>2</sup>with all humility and gentleness, with patience, showing tolerance for one another in love, <sup>3</sup>being diligent to preserve the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. <sup>4</sup>There is one body and one Spirit, just as also you were called in one hope of your calling; <sup>5</sup>one Lord, one faith, one baptism, <sup>6</sup>one God and Father of all who is over all and through all and in all. <sup>7</sup>But to each one of us grace was given according to the measure of Christ's gift. <sup>8</sup>Therefore it says, when he ascended on high, he led captive a host of captives, and he gave gifts to men.*

**Jesus in opening that path paid a price, the likes of which we can only begin to understand:**

**Isaiah 53:4-6:** (NASB) *<sup>4</sup>Surely our griefs he himself bore, and our sorrows He carried; yet we ourselves esteemed him stricken, Smitten of God, and afflicted. <sup>5</sup>But he was pierced through for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the chastening for our well-being fell upon him, and by his scourging we are healed. <sup>6</sup>All of us like sheep have gone astray, each of us has turned to his own way; But the LORD has caused the iniquity of us all to fall on him.*

**This price was foreseen as the path to buy mankind back from sin and death:**

**Acts 2:22-24:** (NASB) *<sup>22</sup>Men of Israel, listen to these words: Jesus the Nazarene, a man attested to you by God with miracles and wonders and signs which God performed through him in your midst, just as you yourselves know— <sup>23</sup>this man, delivered over by the predetermined plan and foreknowledge of God, you nailed to a cross by the hands of godless men and put him to death. <sup>24</sup>But God raised him up again, putting an end to the agony of death, since it was impossible for him to be held in its power.*

**The price paid epitomizes the love of God - for He sent His own son for us - we should live in that love:**

**1 John 4:9-11:** (NASB) *<sup>9</sup>By this the love of God was manifested in us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world so that we might live through him. <sup>10</sup>In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins. <sup>11</sup>Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.*

**Even though this can seem foolish to many, its wisdom will be manifest soon enough!**

**1 Corinthians 1:18-19:** (NASB) *<sup>18</sup>For the word of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. <sup>19</sup>For it is written, I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the cleverness of the clever I will set aside.*