

John 14:1-14

14 “Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. ² In my Father’s house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? ³ And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. ⁴ And you know the way to the place where I am going.” ⁵ Thomas said to him, “Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?” ⁶ Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. ⁷ If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him.”

⁸ Philip said to him, “Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied.” ⁹ Jesus said to him, “Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, ‘Show us the Father’? ¹⁰ Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own; but the Father who dwells in me does his works. ¹¹ Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; but if you do not, then believe me because of the works themselves. ¹² Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father. ¹³ I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. ¹⁴ If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it. ¹

“And you know the WAY to the place where I am going.”

That’s what Jesus said, “you know the WAY to the place where I am going.”

Well, if out-of-the-blue during a church Council meeting, if I said that, everyone’s face would be perplexed. What are you talking about? What do you mean? How the heck should I know where you are going?

And I’m sure that was exactly what Jesus’ disciples were saying that day...on the day of the Last Supper—Maundy Thursday. Because that was the evening when this conversation took place.

We might think, well, of course Jesus means that he is going to sacrifice himself on a cross to die for your sins and for mine, to do what God so obviously wants him to do.

Only that really would be crazy! No, Jesus does not want to die. Jesus wants to live just like the rest of us. And remember what the Apostle Paul wrote in Philippians, “Jesus emptied himself and took the form of a servant.” Emptied himself, meaning Jesus’ direct communication link with the rest of the Godhead was severed. Jesus couldn’t read God’s mind, anymore than you or me. So, bottom line, Jesus may have an idea of what God wants, but there was no lightning flash and a booming voice telling him. Jesus’ motivation was to simply to remain faithful to what he knew God wanted: someone who would honor God by serving God and his brothers and sisters...seeking their good...building a better world for all.

¹ [The Holy Bible: New Revised Standard Version](#). Thomas Nelson Publishers, 1989, p. Jn 14:1–14.

So, back to when Jesus said, “you know the WAY to the place where I am going.” No, his disciples didn’t. Did Jesus need more oil? Was Jesus going to visit a school for children? It was Thomas, the twin, who finally gave voice to what they were all thinking: “Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?”

Thomas is that much maligned apostle—called “the doubter”. Bah! Thomas was a man of heroic faith and courage. In chapter 11, when Jesus speaks of his friend Lazarus dying and that he must go to Bethany (near Jerusalem) to awaken him. It is Thomas, who understands that being so close to Jerusalem and the Temple authorities will bring Jesus to danger, probably death...and them along with Jesus. Still, it is Thomas who knowing that he and the others would probably end up dying with Jesus, still says, “Let us also go, that we may die with him.”

Courage! Yes, courage...and insight that many of the other disciples didn’t have.

You say, ‘Well, Peter gave his great confession of faith declaring when asked, “You are the Messiah, the Christ”, and Jesus blessed him saying, “Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father in heaven.”²’

Yeah, but Thomas’ confession was greater! When Jesus appeared after the resurrection in that locked room, and showed Thomas the wounds in his hands and side, Thomas declared, “MY LORD, AND MY GOD!” Such faith.

So it is this Thomas who asks Jesus, “Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?”

Thomas, as a disciple, went with Jesus everywhere. Thomas, as a disciple, learned the best way to do Jesus’ work within the world...how to bring healing, how to open the scriptures, how to unite people, how to encourage communities to work together to better their lives...even with those pesky Romans hanging around.

Jesus said, “YOU KNOW THE WAY.” And yet, Thomas asks, “How can we know the way?” Jesus said, “YOU KNOW THE WAY...to live together as disciples, to bring healing to others, to interpret scripture, to unite people, to encourage people...YOU KNOW THE WAY.

Friends, the WAY is not a physical road. It is how you live.

Did you know that the early Christians were known as “The People of the WAY” ...Jesus’ Way.

Be warned, this WAY...Jesus’ WAY...may not be easy or safe. Do you remember that Jesus himself almost stoned to death in one village, and indeed later died in Jerusalem on a cross. The Way may not be easy or safe. Remember how St. Paul was stoned by a crowd after healing a cripple and preaching in Lystra. After that they dragged him out of the city like another dead

² [The Holy Bible: New Revised Standard Version](#). Thomas Nelson Publishers, 1989, p. Mt 16:17.

body. And what did Paul do when he had regained consciousness? He kept on and went to visit the next town.

So where goes Jesus and People of the Way? We go out and leave our comfortable places and reach out, helping out, those in the hard places of life.

Yes, we go out, but we have divine help. The Holy Spirit is with us. We worship in community to give each other strength and to recharge our own batteries. This sacred meal is proof of that. We are a forgiven people who can try, try, try again to imitate Christ in the world.

And is it worth it? You bet it is!

Verse 6, “⁶Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.”

Jesus said, “I am the WAY” ...of how you can do things, ...of how you can LIVE ...to the glory of God, the Father.

Jesus is the WAY. It is Jesus’ way of living, which bring new LIFE, which is never false or a lie— but Jesus’ WAY is TRUTH. It is real.

To say that none come to the Father except through Jesus...is to reinforce the whole concept that Jesus is—in fact—the WAY we should live.

To say that none come to the Father except through Jesus...is to say that none come to the Father except one who follows the WAY...in TRUTH ...which brings new LIFE.

Friends, the invitation is given you this day: Join those who live in TRUTH and share new LIFE, by living day by day in the manner, and mission of Jesus Christ our Savior.

Amen.