

THE WAY, THE TRUTH, AND THE LIFE**John 14:1-14****(Read John 14:1-14)**

INTRO: In June of 1988 Kathy, Sheila and I set out on a three week road trip adventure to California and BIC General Conference. Our first stop was in good old Ohio so that we could attend a wedding that has the distinction of being the hottest in the record of human existence (or at least it seemed like that). Can anyone tell me what the temperature was that day, Keith & Deb Dohner?

Our first several nights' lodging was taken care of as we stayed at Ken & Debbie Danielson's house here in Ashland. When our trip commenced on Monday, our next stop was in eastern Minnesota at Whitewater State Park where we set up our tent and camped for the night (yes that's a long drive from Ashland but I let Kathy drive so we would get there much faster . . .). We just stopped in at the Park office, asked for and received a campsite – no problem. The next night was a different story as we arrived in Rapid City, South Dakota which is near Mount Rushmore. We stopped at every hotel, motel, and campground we could find from Rapid City to Mount Rushmore and back. We even looked on the rarely viewed north side of the mountain and there was no room in the inn – ANYWHERE!!!! Everybody else in all of the northern tier of the Continental United States had decided to travel to Mount Rushmore at the same time, just days before Independence Day to visit that magnificent stone monument. They all got there before we did and they got the rooms and the campsites and we felt like Mary and Joseph in Bethlehem. In fact I wondered if Joseph had the same voice reminding him constantly from the general direction of his dear wife that said over and over and over again: "I TOLD YOU SO! I TOLD YOU WE NEEDED TO CALL AHEAD FOR RESERVATIONS!" I'm betting he did. I'm betting that voice sounded a lot like Mary's voice while the voice I heard was decidedly similar to Kathy's voice. Well, it turned out that a well-timed stop at a Holiday Inn where a cancellation happened at the very moment I was at the desk meant that we had a room (that we paid dearly for) and would not have to drive out into the wilderness of Wyoming as we had decided we needed to do.

Kathy's and my travel adventures in those ensuing years have been fun and for the most part spontaneous, with one notable exception, we have never again taken a room that was not reserved well ahead of time. Our way is plotted and planned and we always know where we will be laying our heads on any given night. We never know what we might see or what stops we might make as we drive through new country, but we always know what our destination is at the end of the day.

Today's I AM statement alludes to our destination at the end of the day and he is the only way to it. Let's look at how Jesus is THE WAY, THE TRUTH AND THE LIFE because it is a crucial message for a humanity who is wandering around in the wilderness.

Let's start with this promise. . .

God's got this

- Jesus puts it this way, *Do not let your hearts be troubled*. John 14:1a. In other words, don't give in to worry. Now this is what Jesus says, and as Christ Followers we know it to be true in our heart of hearts, but do we really own it? Really? The disciples who were with Jesus day in and day out were becoming more and more anxious – the people who wanted Jesus gone were becoming more and more bold and they could feel the tension. To make matters worse, if you look at the end of Chapter 13, Jesus has indicated that he's going away and Peter makes some rash promises and then asks, where are you going? That's why Jesus responds as he does in our text.
- They were with Jesus all the time and he still has to assure them, with *Let not your heart be troubled* as the KJV puts it. There is plenty to worry us today, but the admonition is the same, *You believe in God; believe also in me*. John 14:1b Let's take him at his word, God's got this.
- And he's got a big, big house. Here's the promise – "There's room for you!" Lionel Whiston points out that "*Many rooms implies room for all*." In other words, as many as will come will find a room. It won't be like Rapid City, South Dakota on June 28, 1988. It's a mansion and there are plenty of room for those who put their trust in Jesu.
- So, trust Jesus in all things because he is taking care of our eternity – and he's coming back. That's a promise! It's been 2000+ years and he still hasn't returned? I don't know why, but I'm glad I got included in the opportunity.

- But it's only for those who know and proclaim . . .

Jesus is the ONLY way

- Verses 4-6 point out that the Way is not as much a road as He's a person, full of grace and truth. In fact, He is the very living embodiment of truth.
- The man I quote on the front of the bulletin, Stephen Altrogge puts it this way, "*Jesus is gloriously inclusive and wonderfully exclusive. Jesus invites everyone to come to the Father so that they might receive eternal life, experience the power of the resurrection, know God as their shepherd, and walk in the brilliant light that Jesus provides. But Jesus also offers himself as the only way to experience these incredible realities. There are not many paths to God, not many roads up the divine mountain. Jesus, and only Jesus, is the way, truth, and life. Salvation runs exclusively through him, and he offers it freely to all. This makes Jesus infinitely worth of praise. He is God's ONLY solution for our sin problem, and for that reason deserves all praise and honor and glory.*" (End Quote)
- To know Jesus at Christ is to know and see God (v. 9). Those who really know him, know the Father. The way, the truth, and the life = the true and living way. Floyd Filson points out "*To perceive who he really is and what his words and works really mean is to see the Father present and active.*"
- In verse 5, Thomas does what he does best – he doubts. But he also does another thing he does best in that you always know what he's thinking because he's the only one who has the courage to ask what everyone else is thinking. So he asks, "*How do we know the way?*" And Jesus replies, "*Isn't it enough that you know me?*" One commentator points out that Thomas suffers from a literalism which closes his eyes to possibilities but Jesus overcomes that with *I am the way, the truth, and the life.* . . .
- Another commentator, Jack Kelley, points out, "*There is no other way into the presence of God than by accepting the Lord's death as payment in full for our sins. As Peter said, "Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved."* (Acts 4:12) *Jesus is the only remedy God has provided for man's sin problem. He is the only way to eternal life. This is the truth of God's Word.*" (End Quote)
- That scripture from Acts 4 is one that you already know is one of my life verses, so let me give it to you here. Peter & John are before the Sanhedrin being taken to task for healing a man in the name of Jesus and Peter responds with, *Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to mankind by which we must be saved.* Acts 4:12.
- Let me quote one more source as I finish out this crucial point that Jesus is the only way. Jennel Hout says this: "*There should be no confusion here. This is a bold statement. Jesus is THE way, THE truth, and THE life. There are not multiple ways to God the Father; there's One. And Jesus Himself is the ONLY Truth. Any ideas or concepts or philosophies that go against Jesus' teachings or the Word of God (the Bible) are not truth. Many people seem to be searching for truth, and they'll go to great lengths to find it; Jesus is the Truth they are looking for. Only in Him do we find true Life! In John 8:32, Jesus said, "And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free." He was talking about Himself in this statement. When we come to know Jesus (the Truth), we will find freedom. Jesus sets us free!*
- That, Church, is the joy of a journey where Jesus is the GPS. When the GPS doesn't work, it's frustrating (Ask Jason & Lydia about our trip to Stonehenge from London back in 2012). But when we have a way that works, it's awesome When Kathy and I travel, the fun of finding new things, places, and adventures is what joyfully carries us on. We plug our destination and drive, we know we'll arrive out our lodgings that night and the hours until then are full of promise.
- Finally, Jesus points out that . . .

Everything glorifies God

- First of all, a theme that runs all through this text, is that the Father and the Son are a complete union. It's a profound truth that to know Jesus is to know the Father. The key point of this passage then is that while we look for God in lightning and thunder, in Jesus, God reveals himself as the way, the truth, and the life. He is revealed in the Son. So, when you see the Son, you have seen the Father.
- Because of that, Jesus promises that his remarkable deeds will be exceeded by his followers. It's not bragging, it's merely a picture of the power of the infilling of the Holy Spirit, that what Jesus did, his

disciples (that's us) will do more. Such power could seem dangerous, until you realize the works of Jesus are a pattern for us so that all we do is for the glory of God. Thus, in Jesus's words, *Very truly I tell you, whoever believes in me will do the works I have been doing, and they will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father. And I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. You may ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it.* John 14:12-14.

- That means that prayers offered that are consistent with his name will be carried out by the Father. Prayers offered selfishly, are not consistent with the name of the Son. God glorifies the Son and Christ Followers glorify the Father.

Conclusion: So that's it ABC. In a tempestuous world that feels like perpetual hurricane season – we can have the peace of knowing we are in the eye of the great I AM. This is our Father's world – let now your hearts be troubled Christ Followers, because, He's got this.

But remember, He's the only way. It's not exclusivity, it is the way, the truth, AND the life. Whoever chooses that exclusive way, is included. He's the only way.

And finally, God gets ALL the glory. God glorifies the Son, and we glorify the Father. Amen.