

John 14:1-14

Last Sunday we reflected on the 'I Am' proclamation of Jesus as the 'Gate', this Sunday we consider another 'I Am' proclamation of Jesus as the 'Way' and the 'Truth' and the 'Life'. In this instance we encounter not one but three elements of who Jesus is. Once more the disciples take a little while for the penny to drop! Jesus goes to great lengths to make it clear that He is the only means through which we gain access to God the Father and all the promises of His Word. Jesus is the promised Word that walks with us and keeps us walking in the 'Way' of the Lord, as Isaiah prophesied:

*"And when you turn to the right or when you turn to the left, your ears shall hear a word behind you, saying, "This is the way; walk in it" **Isaiah 30:21.***

John 14:1-14

¹"Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. ²In My Father's house are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? ³And 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. ⁴And you know the way to the place where I am going."

Jesus begins with reassurance because when we look at the context in which Jesus is speaking, we realise that He was preparing the disciples for His coming death. We know that death is not the end, but His disciples did not have the benefit of hindsight as we do. Therefore, Jesus was also preparing them for His resurrection and ascension. Jesus is alerting His disciples to the journey He is about to make; a journey that has a beginning, a definite path to follow, and a destination to reach. It's a journey that Jesus intends all His followers to make and like all journeys it requires some effort from the traveller.

First is our willingness to believe in who Jesus is. Second is our trust in what He has taught us. Third is our faithful obedience to the Word of God, His Father. Here Jesus says, "I go to prepare". Jesus has prepared the 'way' to eternal life and although the details may be unseen and unknown, it is not an unsure way; it is a 'dead certainty'! There are few verses in scripture that explain eternal life, but they are rich with promises. We need not fear because Jesus has promised when everything is ready, He will "come again" and will "take us to Himself" when it is our time to be with Him and see Him face to face. Heaven is as sure as our trust in Jesus.

John 14:1-14 continued:...

⁵Thomas said to Him, "Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?" ⁶Jesus said to him, "I am the Way, and the Truth, and the Life. No one comes to the Father except through Me. ⁷If you know Me, you will know My Father also. From now on you do know Him and have seen Him." ⁸Philip said to Him, "Lord show us the Father, and we will be satisfied." ⁹Jesus 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'? ¹⁰Do 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. ¹¹Believe 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.

Thomas is confused and confesses he does not know where Jesus is going or how to follow. The first part of Jesus' reply states, "I am the way." This suggests some kind of doorway or path that leads from one place to another. A progressive transition from one given point to

another given point. As the Way Jesus is our path to the Father. This is one of the most fundamental and important passages in scripture because it asks, “How can I find God?” and gives us a clear answer, “Only through Jesus”. Jesus is the way because He is both God and man; therefore, uniting our lives with His unites us with God. Trust in Jesus and He will take you to the Father and all the benefits of being God’s child will be yours.

The second part is joined by ‘and’ which suggests it does not stand alone but is part of the whole. Jesus is the Truth and as such He is the reality and fulfilment of all God’s promises. When we live in Truth we honour the One True God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. When we corrupt Truth the lies we tell and the actions we perform entangle others in our sin which is destructive and painful and dishonours the Lord. The third part is also joined by ‘and’ which completes a trinity of elements that will re-connect us with our heavenly Father. As the Life, Jesus joins His divine life to our finite life, both now and eternally. The transition from this life to eternal life is made possible in and through Jesus Christ.

Jesus is the only way to the Father; He is the visible, tangible image of the invisible God and the complete revelation of what God is like. To find God by going through Jesus means being faithful to His teaching of God’s Word and living according to His example. Philip is now confused and asks Jesus to show him who the Father is. Jesus sounds disappointed in His reply that Philip has not yet grasped Truth and Jesus explains that to know Him is to know God. The testimonies of the gospels tell us that the search for God, for Truth, and reality is fulfilled in Christ ([Colossians 1:15](#); [Hebrews 1:1-4](#)).

John 14:1-14 continued:...

¹²Very 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. ¹³I will do whatever you ask in My name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. ¹⁴If in My name you ask Me for anything, I will do it.”

Now we hear Jesus drawing particular attention to the application of what He has just revealed to His disciples. Those who believe in Jesus will not only mirror His works on earth but exceed them. The reason He gives for this affirmation is because He is leaving them, and this finite world, to be with God in heaven. Again, we know this means the pouring out and indwelling of the Holy Spirit, released into the world and over God’s people because of the sacrifice that Jesus gave for us. It is a sad fact that many who believe in God and Jesus Christ still have difficulty in accepting the person of the Holy Spirit. Some say that miracles ended with the apostles, that dreams, visions, words of knowledge and divine wisdom are mere fantasy or the delusions of schizophrenia. Not so! Such a view directly contradicts what Jesus promises in this passage.

Not only are we given the potential to perform miracles but also promised that whatever we ask of Jesus, in His name, He will do. Now that deserves a ‘wow!’ And a ‘Praise the Lord!’ But do we believe it? This does not mean we can ask for selfish desires or anything that would be against the Word and Will of God. But it does mean that we can respectfully ask Jesus for anything in accord with God’s will and purpose and expect it to be granted. In fact the Lord God Almighty is waiting to grant such requests in order that He may be glorified in His Son Jesus Christ that the whole world may see, hear, and know that He is God. This gift is not for our glory but the glory of God! Those who give their lives to the Lord are to work as His witnesses to all people throughout all the earth. The words of God spoken by the prophet Micah tell us what is required: “He has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what

does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?" (Micah 6:8). Jesus is, "the Way, and the Truth, and the Life."

Hymn/Song: Breath of Life

O Breath of Life, come sweeping through us, revive Your Church with life and power;
O Breath of Life, come, cleanse, renew us, and fit Your Church to meet this hour.

O Wind of God, come, bend us, break us, till humbly we confess our need;
Then in Your tenderness remake us, revive, restore; for this we plead.

O Breath of Love, come, breathe within us, renewing thought and will and heart;
Come, love of Christ, afresh to win us, revive Your Church in every part.

Revive us Lord! Is zeal abating, while harvest fields are vast and white?
Revive us, Lord, the world is waiting; equip Your Church to spread the light.

Poem: Journey ©Janice Morgan 1997



I was told of a journey just today

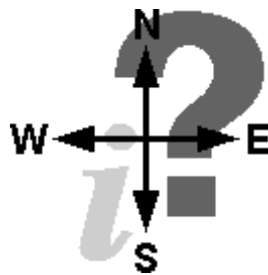
And I know that others have passed this way

The first guy to make it wore sandals and a skirt!

But I'm in my trainers and really cool shirt

Yet this dude who first travelled will journey with me

'cos HE promised to take me where HE went to be



Jesus is the Way and the Truth and the Life ([John 14:6](#))