

MEN'S BREAKFAST - WHICH WAY TO GO? THERE IS ONLY ONE RIGHT WAY

1. Can you remember a time when you got lost? What happened?
2. What are some widely accepted "truths" that you believe to be false?
3. In what ways do you resemble your parents?

Jesus Comforts His Disciples

¹ "Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God ; trust also in me. ² In my Father's house are many rooms; if it were not so, I would have told you. I am going there to prepare a place for you. ³ And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am. ⁴ You know the way to the place where I am going."

Jesus the Way to the Father

⁵ Thomas said to him, "Lord, we don't know where you are going, so how can we know the way?"

⁶ Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. ⁷ If you really knew me, you would know my Father as well. From now on, you do know him and have seen him."

⁸ Philip said, "Lord, show us the Father and that will be enough for us."

⁹ Jesus answered: "Don't you know me, Philip, even after I have been among you such a long time? Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'? ¹⁰ Don't you believe that I am in the Father, and that the Father is in me? The words I say to you are not just my own. Rather, it is the Father, living in me, who is doing his work. ¹¹ Believe me when I say that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; or at least believe on the evidence of the miracles themselves. ¹² I tell you the truth, anyone who has faith in me will do what I have been doing. He will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father. ¹³ And I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Son may bring glory to the Father. ¹⁴ You may ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it."

DISCUSSION: We continue in the upper room discourse, basically chapters 13 to 17. One commentator says that today's passage is one of the most critical passages in the Bible. Why would he say that?

1. What did Thomas ask Jesus? (14:5)

2. What did Jesus tell Thomas that He was? (14:6)

3. What deep need does Jesus claim to meet through his answer to Thomas's question

4. What does it mean to say that Jesus is the way?

5. What does it mean to say that Jesus is the truth?

6. What does it mean to say Jesus is the life?

7. Whom did Jesus say that His disciples would know if they really knew Him? (14:7)

8. Put Jesus' statement in 14:6-7 in your own words.

9. Whom did Philip ask Jesus to show them? (14:8)

10. What does Philip's question tell you about him?

11. After being with Jesus for over three years, what have both Thomas and Phillip failed to realize about him?

12. What did Jesus ask Philip in response to Philip's request to be shown the Father? (14:9)

13. How does John 1:18 (NLT) "No one has ever seen God. But the one and only Son is himself God and is near to the Father's heart. He has revealed God to us." relate to what Jesus says in 14:9?

14. How did Jesus characterize His relationship with the Father? (14:10-11)

15. What ultimate desire does Jesus claim to satisfy through his answer to Philip's question?

16. What evidence did Jesus use to prove that He is in the Father and the Father is in Him? (14:11)

17. What did Jesus say that those who had faith in Him would do? (14:12)

18. Why did Jesus say that anyone who had faith would do greater things? (14:12)

19. Why did Jesus say that He would do whatever His believers asked in His name? (14:13)

20. Is Jesus statement a recommendation as to a prayer formula? I.e. Always end a prayer "in Jesus name," or it won't work? What do you think he is saying here?

21. What did Jesus say that He would do for His followers? (14:14)

22. Look at 13:36, 14:6, 8, . What problems are the disciples struggling with?

23. With what tone of voice do you imagine Jesus speaking in verses 9-14? What evidence does Jesus give for his claims?

24. Do you think the promises Jesus makes in verses 12-14 are "blank check" promises about prayer? In verse 12, does he mean the church will do works greater in power? Greater in *scope*? How could this be?

John 13:36 (NLT) Simon Peter asked, “Lord, where are you going?” And Jesus replied, “You can’t go with me now, but you will follow me later.”

John 5:24 (NLT) “I tell you the truth, those who listen to my message and believe in God who sent me have eternal life. They will never be condemned for their sins, but they have already passed from death into life.

John 3:3-5 (NLT) 3 Jesus replied, “I tell you the truth, unless you are born again, you cannot see the Kingdom of God.” 4 “What do you mean?” exclaimed Nicodemus. “How can an old man go back into his mother’s womb and be born again?” 5 Jesus replied, “I assure you, no one can enter the Kingdom of God without being born of water and the Spirit.

John 10:30 (NLT) The Father and I are one.”

John 6:61-69 (NLT) 61 Jesus was aware that his disciples were complaining, so he said to them, “Does this offend you? 62 Then what will you think if you see the Son of Man ascend to heaven again? 63 The Spirit alone gives eternal life. Human effort accomplishes nothing. And the very words I have spoken to you are spirit and life. 64 But some of you do not believe me.” (For Jesus knew from the beginning which ones didn’t believe, and he knew who would betray him.) 65 Then he said, “That is why I said that people can’t come to me unless the Father gives them to me.” 66 At this point many of his disciples turned away and deserted him. 67 Then Jesus turned to the Twelve and asked, “Are you also going to leave?” 68

Simon Peter replied, “Lord, to whom would we go? You have the words that give eternal life. 69 We believe, and we know you are the Holy One of God.”

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



REFLECTION:

1. If Jesus is the Way, do you feel you are on a bumpy dead-end street, or on a four-lane highway? Why?

2. In light of 14:6, how would you respond to some-one who says, "there are many ways to God"?

3. In what way is faith in Jesus Christ exclusive or narrow?

4. In what way is Christianity an exclusive belief system?

5. How is Jesus the way, the truth, and the life in your life?

6. How are we related to Jesus Christ and God the Father?

7. What does it mean to know someone?

8. What does it mean to know Jesus and God?

9. What "greater things" are we doing today?

9. What can we ask Jesus to do?

10. What should our motivation be when we make requests of Jesus?

11. How can we bring glory to the Father?

12. What can you do this week to deepen your relationship with Christ?

13. What can you do today to bring glory to God?

14. Whom do you need to tell about the way Jesus offers a relationship with God?