

## "Following The Way"

---

Portions contributed by [Kenneth Sauer](#).

---

Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16

John 14:1-14

Jesus' disciples were anxious and scared. Because, just a few sentences before our Gospel reading from this morning, Jesus said to them: **"I will be with you only a little longer."**

The disciples couldn't imagine life on earth without Jesus. They were afraid for their future. They had left everything to follow Christ. They left careers, homes—everything they owned in order to be with this guy, learn from this guy, follow this guy—and now He is telling them that He is going away.

What are they going to do? Who will they follow now? Who will show them the Way to the abundant life that they have been experiencing ever since they started hanging out with Jesus?

And so Jesus does what Jesus always does, when people are afraid and/or anxious.

He gently spends time telling them: **"Don't worry. Everything is going to be alright."... "You're not going to see me with your eyes much longer, but I will be with you. And you are going to do great things. And I will still be leading you. And you will still be following me. I won't leave you alone. I won't let you get lost. Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God; trust also in me."**

And then He talks about His **"Father's house."**

His Father's house...now that seems to be an odd thing for Him to say...doesn't it? Because, the only other time Jesus has ever used this expression, is when He was talking about the Temple in John Chapter 2.

And the point about the Temple is that the Temple was the place where heaven and earth met. It was the place you had to go to be with God.

But Jesus isn't referring to an earthly Temple like He was in John Chapter 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. 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. You know the way to the place where I am going.”**

Hold on! Wait a second here!

Thomas, who is one to never keep quite when things aren't making sense, speaks up: **“Lord, we don't know where you are going, so how can we know the way?”**

And to this Jesus says something...very profound. He says, **“I am the way.”**

What in the world did Jesus mean by that?

Suppose we are in a strange town and we stop and ask someone for directions. The person that we ask may say something like: “Take the first right and the second left. Go past the park and the Burger King. Then take the third right, and the road you want will be the fourth one on your left.”

We've all been in that situation...am I right? And if you are anything like me, you will be lost before you get half-way there. I would need to make a quick stop at the Burger King, and then ask myself, “Which way did they say from here?”

But suppose the person you ask says this instead, “Follow me. I'll take you there.”

This is what Jesus does for us. Because you see, if we allow Him, Jesus takes us by the hand and leads us. He guides us... and that is every day of our life.

If we follow Him...we will have found the key to this human experience. And we will be in the Father's house. And I don't mean just after we die—I mean right here and right now. Because Jesus is the embodiment of it.

Soon after our passage for this morning, Jesus says that after He is crucified, raised from the dead and Ascends into heaven—in other words—after He **“goes away”**, Jesus will not leave those who believe in Him as orphans or alone.

What in the world? He has just said He is going away, now He is saying that when He does go away He won't leave the disciples alone?

Instead, He says **“I will come to you.”**...**“If anyone loves me...My Father will love them, and we will come to him or her and make our home with them.”**...**“In my Father's house are many rooms; if it were not so, I would have told you. I am going to prepare a place for you.”**

Could it be, at least while we are still living on this earth, that the many rooms in the Father's house are you, are me, and are everyone else who believes?

Later in 1 Corinthians 3:16 Paul proclaims: **“Don't you know that you yourselves are God's temple and that God's Spirit lives in you?”**

And later he writes: **“Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you?”**

So, could it be that those who believe in Jesus Christ are the place where heaven and earth meet? Now that means you watching from your bed, and you watching from your recliner, and you watching from your sofa or desk or dining room table, and it even means me!!!

And collectively we are the very Body of Christ!!! We are the many rooms in the Father's house. God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit make their homes in those of us who will believe.

The truth, the life, through which we know and find the way to God, is Jesus Himself. **“If you really knew me, you would know my Father as well,”** Jesus said to the disciples. **“From now on, you do know him and have seen him.”**

But of course, the disciples still confused, so Phillip says: **“Lord, show us the Father and that will be enough for us.”**

To which Jesus answered: **“Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father.”**

And in John 10:30 Jesus says: **“I and the Father are one.”**

God has come to us in human form. And His name, is Jesus. He came to us because God so loves the world. **“And whoever believes in him will not perish but will have eternal life.”**

And they will know and embody the way, the truth and the life!!!  
Because Jesus lives in those Who will believe.

In 1 Peter Chapter 2 we are told **“you...like living stones are being built into a spiritual house.”**...**“Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God.”**

How does that make you all feel?

In Acts Chapter 9 we find that the earliest name for us—even before we were called Christians—was **“those who belong to the Way.”**

**“Those who belong to the Way.”**...I kind of like that.

I love to think that I—Eric Magner—with all my faults and foibles is **“one who belongs to the Way.”**

I belong to Jesus—The Way. How about all of you?

And because I belong to the Way, my future is secure and is already underway. Because I belong to Jesus, I know the Truth—at least about Jesus being Lord—and because of that, I have life.

And Jesus assures me that His return to the Father makes it possible for me to be included and actually participate in the relationship that Jesus and the Father share. And, in trusting in Jesus, I need not let my heart be troubled.

Now that doesn't mean that those who trust in Christ don't get sad. Jesus' heart was troubled when He saw Mary weeping at Lazarus' tomb. As a matter of fact, we are told that **“Jesus wept.”**

Jesus was sad when He realized that His time had come to be arrested and crucified. He was sad when He declared that one of His own would betray Him.

But these examples point to His disturbance in the face of the power of evil, death and the brokenness of humankind, of those He loves—that is you, me and everyone who has ever lived.

Are we starting to get just, a little bit of a grasp, of how much God loves us?

Because if we can, we are on the WAY---we are experiencing the TRUTH—and if we will accept Christ's love for us—we find Life.

And then, we start doing some of the same types of things that Jesus did, while He was still on this earth...because let's face it—He actually is still here. He lives and dwells in the rooms of those Who believe.

So, if we love Him—we follow The Way. And the Way of Jesus—is the Way of Love. The Way of Jesus is that He washed His disciples' feet and told us to follow His example.

He fed the hungry, and involved His followers in the distribution of the food...He loved the strangers...He welcomed the sinners...He treated the “nobodies” with dignity and with great respect.

When asked what it means to fulfill the greatest commandment to love God and neighbor, He lifted up as an example, a hated man of another race and religion.

He loved the lowly. He ate in the homes of the lonely. His closest friends were hated people—tax collectors and the like. He ate and hung out with prostitutes and all kinds of other people living at the **“underbelly of society.”**

He was God; but He was the most Humble person in the room. He was the Creator of the Universe but looked down on no one. He was the most powerful Person to ever walk this earth, and yet He was homeless. He healed the sick and raised the dead. And He is still doing these things...today.

Is He doing it through you?

There is no greater privilege. There is no other thing that is REAL Life.

No one comes to the Father but by Him. And Praise God for that.

**Amen!!!**