

**The Way**  
**John 14:1-14**  
**May 7, 2023**

A few years ago when they were coming out with those devices that would give you directions to get you where you wanted to go, I put in the address to a roommate I had in college who lived on a farm in Southeast Missouri. I had been there before but it had been awhile. We took the “advice” of the machine and drove where it said. We drove and took turns and then on the last turn we kept getting farther and farther back in the woods. I knew it didn’t feel right but it said that was the way to go. We continued on until we came to a clearing, only the clearing was and opening to a creek and a gravel bar. Above us, just ahead was a bridge, yes across the creek which couldn’t be crossed with our suburban. The directions got us close but Oh so far. We ended up back tracking and following a real live, or rather printed map.

The text for today tells of a way, the way too. It is a text that many of you will hear read at a funeral as it tells of Jesus preparing a place for all who believe and put their trust in Him as their Savior. Jesus is telling this to Thomas, you know the one who wouldn’t believe Jesus was alive unless he saw and touched for himself. He must have been from Missouri, too.

It was not only Thomas who needed to be educated but also Philip, who didn’t quite understand who the Triune God was. The church hadn’t yet set down the words of the creeds even though all that would be set down was to come shortly. Philip needed to understand, as much as he could that there is only one God, yet He is more complex than any of His creatures, even mankind who were made in His image. Yes, God is only one as was taught in the Old Testament but as we have come to know, He is one God and yet three persons, Father, Son and Holy Spirit who can’t be divided as our human minds might like to do.

Jesus pointed out that to understand a little about this, Philip and the others needed to look at the works that were done. He even points out that those who believe in Him will do even greater works than He did.

Today, we are going to look at Jesus as who He said He was when He said when asked what the way was to where He was going. Jesus responded “ I am the way, the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. . . ?

I am the way. We might use a GPS device or these days, our phones to find our way to the destination we are wanting to go to in this world but what about the world to

come? They were wanting to know the way to where Jesus was going. He wasn't traveling to Nazareth, no, He was only traveling the road to the cross after a time on the Mount of Olives.

Were those there that evening in the upper room only thinking of Jesus going to some town in the area? Probably but as they thought over the happenings on the evening of Easter and in later days, they would see Jesus travel, not on the roads to some city but travel up, into the clouds as He ascended back to the home He once knew, travel to rule as King of Kings and Lord of Lords.

Thomas was wanting to know the GPS coordinates yet GPS was a tool that could not point to the way. No, GPS was not the tool to use. Even an old time map is no good when it comes to the way of Jesus, no Jesus is the way. He is the map to where He went and to where we want and know is the way to life everlasting.

Jesus told those there that He was the way. Yes, He is all the truth and the life for all. He has laid it all out in His Word for He is the Word made flesh. He was there in the beginning as we have understood from Genesis which we are studying in the Sunday morning class held here in the middle room on Sunday mornings. He is the way, the only way for us sinful human beings to get anywhere close to the heavenly home awaiting all who believe.

Jesus begins with these words: "Let not your hearts be troubled." Why those words? What was troubling them or would be troubling them? They were about to lose their hope, the hope they had that Jesus was the one promised to Adam and Eve when they had sinned and wondered about their very lives. They were counting on the Son born of a woman to make things right again and if Jesus was dead, they would have to wait for another son.

All of their hopes were tied up in Jesus being the way and yet in a day, those hopes would be dashed as Jesus would be lying in a tomb. What hope could they have in a dead man? None.

Jesus would die at the time of what was written about, even though the words Jesus spoke might not have been understood until later but Jesus spoke the truth. He was the only way out of this life of sin. He was truly the way out. Truly the way of life, eternal life in Him.

Jesus was telling all those in the upper room that He was the way. They didn't understand. Oh, they may have thought Jesus was the way and that He was the Messiah that evening and yet by the next evening they must have had great doubts. It

may have been like those disciples who couldn't handle Jesus saying they must eat His flesh to be saved. (John 6:66)

Yes, Jesus gives His body and blood, just as He did that night in the upper room and just as He did on that cross that resulted in His death. He is the way. It is His way of coming to Him. The three persons of God knew that when it was decided to create the heavens and the earth and all that is in them. The Triune God knew that man would sin and would need a Savior and even though He knew that, He created anyway so that we would know the love of God, who only, could love so much that He would suffer for us, to save us, allowing us to enjoy life, eternal life with Him.

He didn't need us to be complete or anything like that. No, He had all He needed. Yet, in order for us to know Him and enjoy what He wants us to have, He knew He would come to go to the cross to suffer and die so that we would not have a future of death and suffering but would, by the way of Jesus, have life.

We know what He has done. We have the map, the GPS of Jesus to direct the way to Him and to life. We have it and we know that Jesus is the only way to heaven. We know that we can not do enough of our "good" to get us there. The thing of it is so many think their GPS, their device is going to get them there but we know that they have a treasure map that doesn't point to any treasure at all but to the wasteland of hell.

Those that evening had all sorts of hope for themselves. They were celebrating the Passover as they looked for the deliverance of God. It was at that first Passover that they were given the direction by God to take the blood of the lamb they were going to eat and place it on the doorframe as a marker to the angel of death to pass over that house and all within. That blood of the lamb saved them from death and on this night, they would celebrate that night long ago only to witness the shedding of the blood of the Lamb of God Who takes away the sins of the world, on that cross, the next day.

The way for the Israelites to be saved from death required the blood of the lamb. The way for those of Jesus' day and for all people was in the blood of the Lamb Jesus whose blood would take away the sins of the world, sins that could only lead to death, eternal death in hell.

We know the way but do you always count on He being the way? If you decide to go your own way, are you any better off than those who don't know Jesus? You may say we are believers and He will forgive us. Yet, as we have read in the Old Testament and how many who said they were God's people and in the New Testament, many were

wrong for they chose another way, another god who for many was themselves just as if they were looking to gods of wood and stone.

People, when asked if they are “good” will tell you they are, basing it on comparison to those we all know are not good. They see good as good enough and sorry to say too many believers think along those lines as well. The thing of it is, none of us are good as Jesus said, “Why do you call me good, only God is good.”

If we are counting on our goodness then we are lost in our sins and trespasses. Without Jesus we don’t have the way to eternal life on the last day. We are still in our sins with no hope of eternal life. Just because you say you are saved doesn’t mean you are, no, you are saved only by the blood of Jesus who is the way, the truth and the life.

You will partake of that saving blood in a few minutes. You will take that body and blood along with the bread and wine. Yes, once again you will have those sins removed, washed clean, enjoying the forgiveness that He brings. You will partake along with others who know what they are taking in His meal for them. It is real food, real drink that you will partake. Through it you will know what He says is true that He and He only, is the way the truth and the life and through Him you have life.

What will you do with that life of thanksgiving? He said here in John that you will do even greater works because of the Holy Spirit that dwells in each of you. Yes, He was talking of the Apostles who went out to the world where even the shadow of Peter was said to heal. It even applies to you too as through you, many more will hear of eternal life found in Jesus. Jesus had a few thousand that He touched, how many more have been touched through believers over the years who by the Holy Spirit brought Jesus to them.

The words of this text are likely to be read when you die to encourage those who are mourning your death. They will need to be reminded that those who believe have a better home awaiting them than they even have now. Their home will be a permanent home, made for them by Jesus.

He is coming again and will judge the world, unbelievers to spend their days in their home in hell and those who trust in Him and His salvation for them in their home in heaven with Him.