

I AM THE WAY, TRUTH, AND LIFE

Christ's time on earth is coming to an end. Jesus has one last evening left with His disciples. He washes their feet. He eats with them. **He warns them of a traitor.** Judas exits the room and chooses a dangerous road to follow at night.

Read **John 13:31-38**.

He specifically tells a confident Peter that in fact he would betray Him three times. **Luke 22:31-34** *"Simon, Simon, behold, Satan demanded to have you, that he might sift you like wheat, but I have prayed for you that your faith may not fail. And when you have turned again, strengthen your brothers." Peter said to Him, "Lord, I am ready to go with You both to prison and to death." Jesus said, "I tell you, Peter, the rooster will not crow this day, until you deny three times that you know Me."*

Sometimes we're so confident about the road we're on. Like Judas. Or even like Peter. But, to our surprise, we're heading towards a cliff or dead end. God help us lest we reach the point of no return. Peter's confident about some theoretical road, but he failed. Judas (don't know what he was thinking or how he thought it would turn out), but he was confident. He failed miserably.

At this point the disciples have been told about a traitor among them, that Peter will deny Jesus three times, and that Jesus is going somewhere they can't yet follow. This was, no doubt, a very sober and disturbing moment.

Vs. 1-4

- Jesus is calling them to believe in Him and the Father. It's in this way that our hearts aren't troubled during times of uncertainty. Jesus reminds us that He and the Father would take care of them - that He was preparing something for them all.
- It's true that we have a home with God right now in the church, but I believe this references His His second coming when He brings us to the eternal home with God.

Vs. 5-7

- It's not that Thomas is afraid to follow Jesus (**11:16**). He doesn't fully understand.
- "Jesus does not here claim to have access to the way, or to know the truth, nor yet to be in contact with the life of God. He says that He is the way, truth, and life." *Daniel King, Sr.*

- The Way

- We don't shrink back at Jesus' statement. There are many religions, but only one Jesus. There's only one empty tomb. However, this statement was made to His apostles and His disciples need to hear this truth more than anyone.
- **Where do you want to go?**
- **Does it matter if you know where you want to go, but don't know how to get there?**
 - **Acts 9:1-2** But Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest and asked him for letters to the synagogues at Damascus, so that if he found any belonging to the Way, men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem.
 - Paul had no idea what was in store for him, did he?
 - **Acts 24:14-15** But this I confess to you, that according to the Way, which they call a sect, I worship the God of our fathers, believing everything laid down by the Law and written in the Prophets, having a hope in God, which these men themselves accept, that there will be a resurrection of both the just and the unjust.
 - Crazy how things change, isn't it?
- **I think many times the way is too hard for the majority of people.** Why? The road has to be going our way - the direction we think it should go. It's hard to trust the way. The way seems to get off at times (in our judgement). That evening they followed Jesus down a path, but they didn't understand where it would lead. Once it became evident . . . all the sheep scattered from the Shepherd. We're not so different. Very confident in speech, but our actions . . .
 - *"Enter by the narrow gate. For the gate is wide and the way is easy that leads to destruction, and those who enter by it are many. For the gate is narrow and the way is hard that leads to life, and those who find it are few."* **Matthew 7:13-14.**
 - *He went on His way through towns and villages, teaching and journeying toward Jerusalem. And someone said to Him, "Lord, will those who are saved be few?" And He said to them, "Strive to enter through the narrow door. For many, I tell you, will seek to enter and will not be able. When once the the Master of the house has risen and shut the door, and you begin to stand outside and to knock at the door, saying, 'Lord, open to us,' then He will answer you, 'I do not know where you come from.' Then you will begin to say, 'We ate and drank in Your presence, and You taught in our streets.' But He will say, 'I tell you, I do not know where you come from. Depart from Me, all you workers of evil!' In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth, when you see Abraham and Isaac and Jacob and all the prophets in the kingdom of God but you yourselves cast out. And people*

will come from east and west, and from north and south, and recline at table in the kingdom of God. And behold, some are last who will be first, and some are first who will be last.'" **Luke 13:22-30**

- Ultimately, I think it requires humility and sacrifice. We're too comfortable. Too spoiled. Too full. You know, when you're full you don't want to eat. Brethren, when you think you've got it figured out - you stop asking for directions. If you think you've come to enjoy all that life has to offer you, then you stop looking for the Way. You're no longer looking for the path, because you're living as though you've already reached the final destination. How foolish. How sad.
- *"Persecution has now subsided and there is so little stress that I feel the peaceable kingdom may be about to set upon us. What, dear Clement, is a Christian to do when we have so much that we feel so little need of Christ? Who can say? Jesus once blessed the poor in spirit. I remember Lenia the Leper of Bythinia. Perhaps Jesus blessed the poor in spirit because in our poverty we acknowledge need and turn toward Him who is the source of plenty. Now we have plenty and see our abundance rising from our own ability to provide for ourselves. The things that God gives us do not cause us to love Him. Ever more we treasure the gifts and not the giver." The Philippian Fragment (Page 30-31).*

- The Truth

- We live in a time, because of our technology, that we have so many answers available in the blink of an eye. Yet, most people can't trust what they hear or read. Isn't that funny?
- Christians don't have to worry about it because truth has been preserved for us in His word. How amazing . . . they had the Word walking among them. Jesus made no apologies. What He spoke came from the Father. It was trustworthy.
- **Yet, for those who claim to want truth so desperately, we reject it when we get it!** Why? Because people, like the road, want truth that suits their purpose. Truth that doesn't challenge. Truth that doesn't require change. Truth that reveals we're not as wise as we thought. Truth. It's so difficult to deal with the truth at times. And we're good about telling others about truth, but yet reject it ourselves. Truth can produce a lot of humility if we'll allow it.
- **Read Matthew 23:29-39.**
- Many in the world seem to want to tell others about truth without accepting it themselves. Then you have many who do not want there to be an objective truth because they'd have to

change their lives, so they get to be the "yes man" to everyone else. We'll all accept one another and never judge. That's why there's so much division in the world.

- As Jesus told Pilate: *"My kingdom is not of this world. If My kingdom were of this world, My servants would have been fighting, that I might not be delivered over to the Jews. But My kingdom is not from the world."* Then Pilate said to Him, *"So You are a king?"* Jesus answered, *"You say that I am a king. For this purpose I was born and for this purpose I have come into the world - to bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth listens to My voice."* Pilate said to Him, *"What is truth?"* **John 18:36-38** **Listen, don't ask if you don't want to know.**

Vs. 8-11

- I seem to remember Philip's first encounter with Jesus:
 - **John 1:43-46** *The next day Jesus decided to go to Galilee. He found Philip and said to him, "Follow Me." Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. Philip found Nathanael and said to him, "We have found Him whom Moses in the Law and also the prophets wrote, Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph." Nathanael said to him, "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?" Philip said to him, "Come and see."*
- You can sense Jesus' disappointment. Did he still not recognize who Jesus was? Listen, he was wanting a brief glorious glimpse of God in some form, but He'd been walking with Him for 3 1/2 years now.
- "It is enough." Is it enough for you? Our actions will say it all, what we're really interested in.
- We always need to remember the answer to the question: "what would God be like?" **Jesus.**

Vs. 12-13

- The greater works referenced by Jesus can't be miracles since Jesus did everything they did and more. No, this must reference their spreading of the gospel outside of Palestine to the known world. What greater work is there than turning a heart towards God?
- Prayer. What a blessing. As a side note, the evidence for this passage leans towards asking in Jesus' name. Either way, please take note on what Jesus said: "I will do it." In **16:23** He says to ask in the Father's name and He (the Father) will give it to you. Perhaps we're not to make a distinction.