

Are We On The Right Way?

“This Is The Way” Series – Part 10

Connect question: Describe a time when you felt that you were lost, not knowing where you were. How did you find your way to your destination or back to familiar territory?

Introduction: Sometimes in life it's good to have a “guide”...someone who can help you get to where you want to go. I once took a mission trip on a medical boat down a large tributary of the Amazon River in Bolivia and found it necessary to stay close to the veteran missionary that led our team. Between the language barriers, cultural expectations, local government regulations, I had no clue what was expected, needed, or what direction to go.

One day, we took a two-hour excursion from the medical boat to go fishing. At one point during this trip, my missionary friend suddenly told me I was breaking international laws and got the fearful response he was fishing for. “What had I done”, I wanted to know. He told me that in our brief trip up a smaller river, we had crossed over the border of Bolivia into Brazil...a country for which I had no visa. I had no idea of where I was or how to get back to where I would be legally safe. I needed a guide.....Even one who was greatly amused at my discomfort.

The disciples were somewhat confused in John 13, when Jesus told them that He would be going away and they could not follow Him. A very concerned Peter wanted to know, “Lord, where are you going”?

This becomes the question for all of us - Where are we going and how do we get there? In this world there are many ways presented and paths purported to be the right one? Fortunately, Jesus takes up Peter's question, and gives us the clear instructions on the “right way”!

Read John 14:1-11

John 14:1 “Don't let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God, and trust also in me.

John 14:2 There is more than enough room in my Father's home. If this were not so, would I have told you that I am going to prepare a place for you?

John 14:3 When everything is ready, I will come and get you, so that you will always be with me where I am.

John 14:4 And you know the way to where I am going.”

John 14:5 “No, we don't know, Lord,” Thomas said. “We have no idea where you are going, so how can we know the way?”

John 14:6 Jesus told him, “I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one can come to the Father except through me.

John 14:7 If you had really known me, you would know who my Father is. From now on, you do know him and have seen him!”

John 14:8 Philip said, “Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied.”

John 14:9 Jesus replied, “Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and yet you still don't know who I am? Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father! So why are you asking me to show him to you?

John 14:10 Don't you believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words I speak are not my own, but my Father who lives in me does his work through me.

John 14:11 Just believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me. Or at least believe because of the work you have seen me do.

Discussion:

Why did Jesus insist that His followers must trust God as well as put their trust in Him?

To Peter's question (John 13:36), Jesus responded with verses 2-4. In your own words answer the following questions:

1. Where is Jesus going?
2. How would you describe this place?
3. Why does Jesus need to go to this place?
4. What about you?

Despite the Lord's assurance that they knew the way to this place, the disciples were not so sure: *"No, we don't know, Lord,"* Thomas said. *"We have no idea where you are going, so how can we know the way?"* John 14:5

Jesus states that the Way is a Person. "I am...!" Discuss what He means with the following declarations:

I am the way

I am the truth

I am the life

No one can come to the Father, except through Me

Why is this way not easily chosen by unbelievers?

How do we respond to those who see another way to heaven?