

“You know the way to the place where I am going.”

Thomas said to him, “Lord, we don’t know where you are going,
so how can we know the way?”

JOHN 14.4-5

John 14: Jesus’ “Father” Theology

The Hard-to-See Way

John 14.4-5

“Do not let your hearts be troubled.

You believe in God; believe also in me. *← Christological identification*

My Father's house has many rooms;
if that were not so, would I have told you that 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.”

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

Jesus answered, “I am the way and the truth and the life.

v. 17 “know me, know the Father”

No one comes to the Father except through me.

*The Father's
Exclusive
Authorized Representative*

“Do not let your hearts be troubled.

You know the way to the place where I am going.”

*Thomas said to him, “Lord, we don’t know where you are going,
so how can we know the way?”*

Jesus answered, “I am the way . . .”

- ❖ Troubling issues and circumstances—
 - ▶ “You know the way I am going”
- ❖ Like Thomas, we need to see, we need to understand and have it make sense—no unanswered “why’s”.
- ❖ Thus, “we don’t know”— we can’t make sense of what is happening.
- ❖ Instead of looking at the trouble, we need to look at Jesus and his way of going.

The Hard-to-See Way

“You know the way to the place where I am going.”

Jesus took the Twelve aside and told them, “We are going up to Jerusalem, and everything that is written by the prophets about the Son of Man will be fulfilled. He will be delivered over to the Gentiles. They will mock him, insult him and spit on him; they will flog him and kill him. On the third day he will rise again.”

LUKE 18.31-33

- ❖ Prior to telling his disciples this evening that he was going home to prepare a place for them to be with him, Jesus had told them while on the trip to Jerusalem what was going to happen there; but—

The disciples did not understand any of this. Its meaning was hidden from them, and they did not know what he was talking about. (LUKE 18.34)

- ❖ On this last evening, they had, yet again, argued over which of them was considered to be the most important (Luke 22.24). When Jesus told them what would happen later that night, they couldn't see it and wouldn't accept it—

“This very night you will all fall away on account of me, for it is written: “ ‘ I will strike the shepherd, and the sheep of the flock will be scattered.’

But after I have risen, I will go ahead of you into Galilee.”

Peter replied, “Even if all fall away on account of you, I never will.” “Truly I tell you,” Jesus answered, “this very night, before the rooster crows, you will disown me three times.” But Peter declared, “Even if I have to die with you, I will never disown you.” And all the other disciples said the same.

MATTHEW 26.31-35

- ❖ After his resurrection and weeks spent with Jesus as he taught his disciples about the kingdom of God (Acts 1.3), their spiritual insight and expectations remained parochially-oriented and self-beneficial:

“Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?” (ACTS 1.6)

A One-Dimensional Perspective

Thomas said to him, “Lord, we don’t know where you are going, so how can we know the way?”

“Are you still so dull?” Jesus asked them.

MATTHEW 15.16

- ❖ Jesus had clearly stated his way and where he was going, but the reality was that the disciples had certain expectations for their future(s) with Jesus and the way of the cross did not factor into their plans.
- ❖ The disciples were focused on a *realized present*; Jesus was focused on a *finalized future*. The disciples saw their expectations for a better here-and-now as God’s plan for them, personally and nationally, while the plan of the Father was that the disciples would gain a home in heaven—and that required them to follow the way of Jesus.

- ❖ Like the disciples, we have a one-dimensional depth of perspective. We lack spiritual perception and we fail to discern what is happening in the spiritual realm. We have blind-spots and cannot see the weaknesses and vulnerabilities of faith and trust within our hearts. On this same evening, Jesus said to Peter—

“Simon, Simon, Satan has asked to sift all of you as wheat. But I have prayed for you, Simon, that your faith may not fail. And when you have turned back, strengthen your brothers.”

Peter's response:

“Lord, I am ready to go with you to prison and to death.”

But Peter failed to see in himself what Jesus saw—

“I tell you, Peter, before the rooster crows today, you will deny three times that you know me.”

- ❖ Many years later, Peter would write with a much different perspective about the *way*, the *working* and the *outcome* of faith—a perspective that mirrored that of Jesus and was focused on achieving the true goal of faith: an eternal future.

Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ!

In His great mercy He has given us new birth into a living hope
through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,
and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade.

This inheritance is kept in heaven for you,
who through faith are shielded by God's power
until the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time.

In all this you greatly rejoice,
though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials.

These have come so that the proven genuineness of your faith—
of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire—
may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed.

Though you have not seen him, you love him;
and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him
and are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy,
for you are receiving the end result of your faith, the salvation of your souls. (1 PETER 1:3-9)

The Way of Jesus

Jesus answered, “I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.”

Jesus went out as usual to the Mount of Olives, and his disciples followed him. On reaching the place, he said to them, “Pray that you will not fall into temptation.” He withdrew about a stone’s throw beyond them, knelt down and prayed, “Father, if you are willing, take this cup from me; yet not my will, but yours be done.”

LUKE 22.39-42

- ❖ What did Jesus understand that his followers need to perceive and emulate?
 - (1) My way is not the Father’s way (cf. John 6.38).
 - *The “safe” way is neither secure nor sanctifying.*
 - (2) The way of Jesus is always eschatologically focused (cf. Hebrews 12.2).
 - (3) Through surrender we discover the blessing of the Father’s will, and gain a resilient and victorious faith (cf. 1 Peter 1.5, 7, 9; 5.9).