



The St J's Group

John 14:1-6 - 'I am the way'

Passage, Talk Notes and Questions

Please feel free to take these talk notes home with you and you may wish to find some time during this week to consider the questions below.

1. Talk Passage – John 14:1-6

[1] "Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God; trust also in me. [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. [3] 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. [4] You know the way to the place where I am going." [5] Thomas said to him, "Lord, we don't know where you are going, so how can we know the way?" [6] Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."

2. Talk Notes

2.1. Introduction and Context

- Thomas says to Jesus: "Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?" (John 14:5)
- Thomas is confused. How can Jesus be talking about leaving when he has just arrived in Jerusalem to such acclaim? After all the talk around all the campfires in Jerusalem is that he is the One. The long awaited Messiah.
- This so called 'Last Supper' has certainly been a strange meal indeed:
 - Firstly Jesus, the chief guest, has washed the disciples feet: *he poured water into a basin and began to wash his disciples' feet, drying them with the towel that was wrapped around him.* (John 13:5)
 - Secondly Jesus claims that one of them is going to betray Him: "I tell you the truth, one of you is going to betray me." (John 13:21)
 - And lastly Jesus talks about leaving them: "My children, I will be with you only a little longer." (John 13:33)
- Thomas and his fellow disciples were concerned about their immediate future whereas Jesus was concerned about their eternal destiny. What about us? How certain are we about our eternal destiny? How certain are we about where we are going and how we are going to get there?

2.2. Heaven

- '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.' (John 14:2) Having come from heaven Jesus knows what heaven is like. He knows the way from heaven and therefore the way back. He is the 'way'.
- How many of us have experienced that feeling of going somewhere new and having to rely on the 'sat nav' for directions?.
- How different our feelings are when guided by someone who has been to the destination before us and knows the way.
- The Bible uses a lot of different words to describe heaven. Paradise being one of them, but here in John's gospel Heaven is referred to as, "My Father's house," and that is another way of saying, "It is home."
- Home is a place where we can be ourselves.
 - Home is where we can take off our coats and kick off our shoes.
 - Home is where we can say what we really think.
 - Home is where we're often accepted and loved.
 - We're not just a guest. We are a resident. We live there. That is home.
- Jesus promises His disciples then and us today that he is going ahead of us, those of us who love him and are in relationship with him, to prepare a place for us: 'And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also' (John 14:3)

- Jesus is saying in these lovely words, "I'm going to take you to My Father's house, and it will be your home, too. You'll be a part of the family. You'll be home where you belong."
- Who would not want that. And yet in today's multicultural, multi-faith society many people are offended by what Jesus claims here in the Bible. Some think that heaven or living in eternity with God is nothing more than a big fairy tale. Others are offended by the idea that there is only one way to heaven, believing that a loving God would enable multiple ways to heaven.
- Jesus makes one of the boldest claims in the Bible when he says: "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. (John 14:6)
- He not only knows the way but also claims to be the way: 'No one comes to the Father except through me' (John 14:6)

2.3. The Cross

- Jesus knows that the only way that his disciples and us today can look forward to being in "His Father's house," is by starting at the Cross.
- Jesus knows that within 24 hours of this 'Last Supper' He was going to be dead – hung on a cross to die.
- But His death was going to give spiritual life to all. That is why Jesus claims that He is the 'life'. As the Lamb of God, Jesus took away the sin of the world: *'the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!'* (John 1:29). As the Good Shepherd, he laid down His life for the sheep: "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. (John 10:11). The lamb dies, the world lives. The shepherd dies, the sheep live. Jesus is the only person that can bring spiritual life to us all. He does so by dying on a cross.
- Jesus would also argue that we are built for relationship with God. If we are not in relationship we are spiritually dead. If we are in relationship we are spiritually alive. Jesus makes that life possible: 'My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one will snatch them out of my hand.' (John 10:27-8)

2.4 Jesus

- Jesus also knew that the journey, that both his disciples then and we are on today, was not going to be easy: 'Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God, trust also in me.' (John 14:1) Jesus knows that there will be dangers ahead.
- But Jesus lands one more bombshell on his disciples at that 'Last Supper'. He encourages them to not only 'trust in God' but also to 'trust in Him'.
- Every first-century Jew knew it was his duty to trust God; but for a mere man to exhort others to trust him in the same way as they trusted God was a claim to deity. Jesus was in effect telling the disciples that he was 'God with human flesh on.' He is the truth, the genuine article.
- So when it comes to heaven and the way to get there Jesus was saying, to his disciples then and us today, that we can 100% trust Him, he is the 'truth'.

2.5 Conclusion

- So as we consider our eternal destiny and the way to heaven. Where will we put our trust? In ourselves, in our fellow human beings or in Jesus who claims to be 'the way, the truth and the life'?

3. Questions to consider at home

- 1) Why was the 'Last Supper' such a strange meal?
- 2) Why was Thomas confused?
- 3) Do you think heaven exists? If so, how would you describe heaven to a close friend?
- 4) Why does Jesus tell his disciples that he is the way, the truth and the life?
- 5) 'No one comes to the Father except through me' (John 14:6) Why is this claim so offensive to some?
- 6) 'The Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!' (John 1:29) How does Jesus do this?
- 7) 'Trust also in me.' (John 14:1) Why was this claim so explosive?



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