

## Reflection John 14:1-14

This morning, gospel reading John,

It seems to me that the passage is just like when a husband is going on a long journey and is leaving his wife behind.

It would be a terrible thing if a husband just got up and left on a long journey without saying a word to his family.

Even if the trip is a good one, and for a good purpose, he'd be a fool to leave without a word.

The husband would need to prepare his wife for his departure.

The purpose of the trip would need to be communicated.

The wife would need to agree that the journey is worthwhile and good for them.

The husband would need to help her get ready, so that she could carry on while her husband is away.

Where will she get the money that she needs?

How will she care for the children?

How will she communicate with her husband while he is gone?

How will the marriage relationship continue and be maintained?

How will she be kept safe?

She has many questions to ask her husband.

You can picture a husband and wife sitting together on a couch discussing these things.

John chapter 14 is not much different.

What we have here is to address a farewell. Jesus is preparing his disciples for his departure from this world.

He has made it clear that he would have to go away for a time, and he is here comforting his disciples, explaining to them how they will get on in this world without him.

Jesus said, "where I am going, you cannot come"

Peter asked, “Where are you going?”

Jesus said, “You know the place I am going”

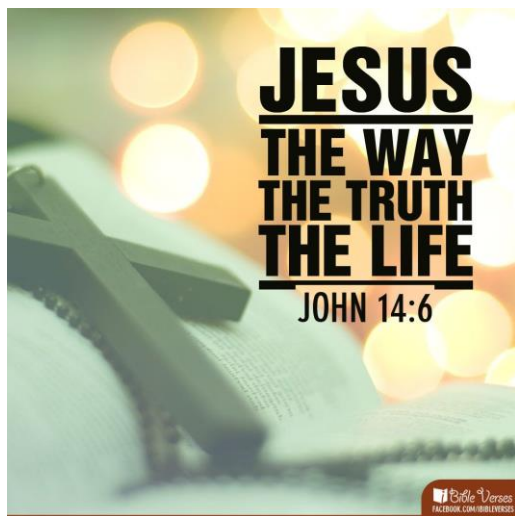
Thomas asked, “Lord, we don’t know where you are going, how can we know the way?” “How do we get there?”

Jesus said, “I am the way, the truth and the life. If you know me, you know the father also”

And Philip asked, “Lord, show us the Father”

So, all of these questions and the general feel of the passage, are all about going away. But actually, this conversation has an underlying meaning which is about abiding, dwelling, remaining in the love of God.

Although they cannot follow, they can still love each other just as Jesus loved them. Jesus says, “I’m going, but you remain. But you don’t remain in grief with troubled hearts. Remain by living in and living out, the love that you have experienced with me.”



So today, we may reflect on this passage, “I am the way, the truth and the life, and the spiritual teachings Jesus gives us and think about what it means to us today.

When Jesus says, “**I am the way**”, it doesn’t mean He is a path or a road or a journey. We need to look at the other definition of “way”. He is the example, He is the demonstration, Jesus’ life and His ministry, words and

actions display how to be God’s people.

In the Gospel, Jesus says to His Disciples to “follow me”.

And this means when Jesus was walking around Palestine, that may have had a physical definition.

But for us now, it can only mean, look at the behaviours, the actions, the teachings, the love on display, follow that example that way.

Jesus is the way we are meant to live. So, follow, remain, abide, live with that example.

And when Jesus says, **“I am the truth”**, it demonstrates that God loves the world and people, and God desires us to be in relationship with us.

Jesus embraces the people He interacted with, He is willing to eat with them, to bless people and forgive, and be patient and comforts people with his love.

Jesus shows the love of God, the truth that God loves which shines above all the brokenness, the hate and anger or selfishness.

Jesus, the man, who has the image of God, is the truth to follow, to remain with, to live out to the world.

And when Jesus says, **“I am the life”**, that’s not just a claim about some future eternal life. But it’s about Jesus being the one who came that we might have life and have it abundantly.

This passage from John is used a lot in the funeral services, as there’s comfort in the words of Jesus in my father’s house, there are many dwelling places.

But the idea of a place with God should not be limited to an eternal life.

Life we live with God here and now, we are abiding in the love of God, remaining in the example of Jesus that brings us the abundant life.

So Jesus tells his disciples, as he is leaving them and won’t be with them physically; but he wants to say to them, “Do not let your hearts to be troubled. Trust God and Trust in me.” And He encourages them to abide with him and

each other as they live, and he promises the coming of Holy Spirit which we will talk about next week.

We're in very difficult situations at the moment, with a virus that threatens our lives, changes our life patterns, makes distances between people, it breaks down our economy, causing isolation, and some people struggle mentally during time.

Even today, on the Mother's Day, we can't gather together as a family, and missing the Mother's Day lunch with mum.

The government said there will be 3 steps for easing the lockdown restrictions. We hope and anticipate that we can go back to our normal life soon. But we don't know when we can, and there is no guarantee.

In this time of uncertainty, we're comforted by these words in the scripture, and we'll find a way to our future life with God.

We are called in scripture, in this message to abide in God, to remain, to live with God, to have life in abundance even if the situation doesn't look abundant.

We look for the ways of love and compassion, the truth of God's care, and the life that calls us to be with God in all the good times and bad times of living.

So, do not let your heart to be troubled.

God is with us.

Jesus is our example for living.

And the love that flow from the cross and opened the tomb, calls us to life.

Amen.