

John 14:1-14 – “I am the way, the truth and the life”

Jesus spoke these words on the night he was betrayed by Judas. They are very well known words. But have we really understood what they mean? Do we know just what Jesus revealed about who he is? Have we responded rightly? This saying had three parts. For each, we want to know - “Why do we need this? Why is Jesus the one we need? What should we do?”

1. Jesus is the way

Who needs to find the way? A person who is lost, and shut out. Without Jesus, we are people who are spiritually lost and shut out from God's presence. If we try to enter State House, the security guards will prevent us. When Adam and Eve sinned, an angel with a flaming sword prevented them from entering the Garden again (Genesis 3:24). God is a fully, gloriously, awesomely holy being who hates every trace of sin and evil. We are barred from his presence forever, unless our sin can be taken away. People everywhere are spiritually lost. If any “prophet” comes, and tells them anything, then people will start following him. People worship idols, spirits, ancestors, animals, trees – because they do not know what to do! Jesus is the way, because he dealt with the problem of sin. He took the full punishment for the sin of all his people, on the cross. God was satisfied. The door has been opened, and we can be welcomed! Jesus can take us to heaven, because he is the Son of God who came down from heaven. We then must go to Jesus alone, and go to God through him alone – he is the way, there is no other.

2. Jesus is the truth

Who needs the truth? People who are ignorant, in the dark. We send small children to nursery and then primary and secondary schools, because they know almost nothing and need to be taught everything. By ourselves, we can never know the truth of God. What is the Trinity? How does the Holy Spirit work? What is heaven like? Who goes to hell? All these things must be taught us – we cannot find them using our own wisdom. Jesus himself is the truth, because the good news is all about him. He is the only Saviour, who took away our sins. He is the Lord of glory and the beloved Son of the Father. All truth comes to us through him. We need to listen to him, and believe in him.

3. Jesus is the life

Who needs life? Those who are dead. Without Christ, we are spiritually dead. This is easy to prove. What do people desire most? What do their lives show us? Is it God? Are they seeking him and loving him with all their hearts? No... why not? Because they are dead. But Jesus is the source and giver of all life. The world was made through him, and for him. He himself has risen from the dead. He gives spiritual life to all his people, by his Holy Spirit who lives inside them. Just as he called Lazarus out of his grave (John 11), he can call us out of our spiritual graves and make us live with him. So go to him, and seek him – only!