

Walking In The Way Of Jesus

A study to consider the impact of Easter

Everyone standing for the reading of John 14

8:30-Jay Miller

10:30-Ian Dunavant

John 14:1-31 NKJV

“Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me. ² In My Father’s house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. ³ And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also. ⁴ And where I go you know, and the way you know.”

⁵ Thomas said to Him, “Lord, we do not know where You are going, and how can we know the way?”

⁶ Jesus said to him, “I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.

⁷ “If you had known Me, you would have known My Father also; and from now on you know Him and have seen Him.”

⁸ Philip said to Him, “Lord, show us the Father, and it is sufficient for us.”

⁹ Jesus said to him, “Have I been with you so long, and yet you have not known Me, Philip? He who has seen Me has seen the Father; so how can you say, ‘Show us the Father’? ¹⁰ Do you not believe that I am in the Father, and the Father in Me? The words that I speak to you I do not speak on My own authority; but the Father who dwells in Me does the works. ¹¹ Believe Me that I am in the Father and the Father in Me, or else believe Me for the sake of the works themselves.

¹² “Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do he will do also; and greater works than these he will do, because I go to My Father. ¹³ And whatever you ask in My name, that I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. ¹⁴ If you ask anything in My name, I will do it.

¹⁵ “If you love Me, keep My commandments. ¹⁶ And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever—¹⁷ the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you. ¹⁸ I will not leave you orphans; I will come to you.

¹⁹ “A little while longer and the world will see Me no more, but you will see Me. Because I live, you will live also. ²⁰ At that day you will know that I am in My Father, and you in Me, and I in you. ²¹ He who has My commandments and keeps them, it is he who loves Me. And he who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and manifest Myself to him.”

²² Judas (not Iscariot) said to Him, “Lord, how is it that You will manifest Yourself to us, and not to the world?”

²³ Jesus answered and said to him, “If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our home with him. ²⁴ He who does not love Me does not keep My words; and the word which you hear is not Mine but the Father’s who sent Me.

²⁵ “These things I have spoken to you while being present with you. ²⁶ But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you. ²⁷ Peace I leave with you, My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid. ²⁸ You have heard Me say to you, ‘I am going away and coming back to you.’ If you loved Me, you would rejoice because I said, ‘I am going to the Father,’ for My Father is greater than I.

²⁹ “And now I have told you before it comes, that when it does come to pass, you may believe. ³⁰ I will no longer talk much with you, for the ruler of this world is coming, and he has nothing in Me. ³¹ But that the world may know that I love the Father, and as the Father gave Me commandment, so I do. Arise, let us go from here.

It is important for us to consider the use of the phrase, “the way” during the days of Jesus’ ministry as well as the days of the early church as recorded in the book of Acts.

It was a phrase that was built around following and discipleship. It had everything to do with lifestyle not just intellectual attainment.

Jesus was referred to as rabbi or teacher. It was customary in Hebrew culture for men to follow a rabbi for periods of time to learn the wisdom of his teachings as well as how it applied to daily living or lifestyle. View the rabbi through the lens of a wise sage that was devoted to instructing younger followers or apprentices. There were typically multiple rabbis that would have disciples following them and learning from their perspective on Torah. Disciples were the followers or apprentices of the teachers.

Discipleship was part of the Hebrew culture.

Disciples often studied under several sages. Brad Young comments:

Because a disciple should have broad knowledge, he would usually study with one rabbi for a number of years and then go study under another sage. The master teacher was a mentor whose purpose was to raise up disciples who would not only memorize his teachings but also live out the teachings in practical ways...The disciple walks with God by living out in practice the teaching of his rabbi. (Ed Vasicek, Sharper Iron)

Paul stated in his trial before Felix recorded in Acts 24:14 ESV *But this I confess to you, that according to **the Way**, which they call a sect, I worship the God of our fathers, believing everything laid down by the Law and written in the Prophets,*

Just about every single version of the Bible that I have reviewed regarding this verse uses “the Way” as a description of followers of Jesus.

“The Way” Acts 9:2, 19:9 & 23, 22:4, 24:14 & 22

Hebrews 10:19-20 NIV ¹⁹ *Therefore, brothers and sisters, since we have confidence to enter the Most Holy Place by the blood of Jesus, ²⁰ **by a new and living way** opened for us through the curtain, that is, his body,*

According to David Bivin, Jewish men were encouraged to invest a part of their lives following a sage. They would usually travel with him intermittently. The ancient rabbis held secular vocations and did not draw a salary, unlike their modern counterparts. A married man could not leave home to follow a rabbi for more than thirty days without his wife's permission. Amazingly, a disciple was expected to honor his rabbi above his own parents. (Ed Vasicek, Sharper Iron)

Use illustration of bringing men together to walk life together, young and old.

Marketplace interaction. Mountainside conversations.

Family interaction and meals in homes. +

Following became a lifestyle and discipleship was the way of learning and mimicking.

Jesus always dealt with people as individuals but sometimes he addressed them about individual issues in front of the group.

People were individuals but they were also learning collective life together.

(Share these with the group as they are invited to share a meal at the table. Context of verses.)

Overview: a few of the many study applications to consider from John 14:

- Confusion and the struggle to understand Jesus' teachings
- Believing and learning to ask the Father in Jesus name
- Spirit of Truth impacts aloneness and/or rejection
- Dealing with difficult transitions in life
- Godly love explanation of honor and obedience
- Addressing burdens, fears, and anxieties
- Relationship and role of the Holy Spirit

John 14:6 NASB 1995 *Jesus said to him, "I am **the way**, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me.*

Have you believed in Jesus as your way then committed to follow His teachings and lifestyle?