

I AM the Way, the Truth and the Life

- If you knew that you were going to die in 24 hours - what would you DO?
- WHO would you talk to and what would you SAY?

So what does Jesus do in the hours before He knows that He is going to be arrested and die? Jesus takes this opportunity to wash His disciples feet, share a meal with them and takes this last opportunity to tell them what is coming, what to expect, how to live, how challenging the next period will be and how to get through it. He also tells them that they are not alone - the Spirit will be sent to them.

Read John 14: 5-12; 15-27

Unsurprisingly, his last message mentions LOVE countless times ... Jesus spoke about love BUT His instructions were more about the disciples loving the Father and loving each other. His love for them, and us, was going to be radically demonstrated over the next few days.

Romans 5: 7 Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous person, though for a good person someone might possibly dare to die. **8** But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: **While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.**

- *Who are you willing to die for?*
- *How much suffering do you think that you could endure for someone?*

Paul mentioned over his last 2 sermons that HOPE is found on both sides of the grave: On the other side of the grave: hope of being with Jesus in the place which He has prepared for us - in Heaven with the Father.

This side, before death: That Jesus wants good for us, that He will change us to be more like Him and the Spirit will be in us enabling and teaching us.

Jesus' statement "I AM the Way, the Truth and the Life" has three separate concepts, yet they are intrinsically linked and intertwined. It also clearly demonstrates His oneness with the Father and the Spirit ... we find the Trinity all represented in this passage.

1. If you are looking for the Way to the father - Jesus says: I AM THE WAY!

As we approach Advent and remember Jesus' birth it is easy to forget that Jesus was born with the purpose of dying - and to be resurrected and to return to the Father. He was to make the way for the forgiveness of sins - our eternal hope of salvation.

Jesus also had other purposes - to give us hope this side of the grave: he was to show us the way to live. He made disciples, demonstrated the Father's works and character. He was God on earth (Immanuel). Jesus' life is an example to us and comes with a call to obey ... with consequences.

- *What is the example and the consequences in John 13:14 ; John 13:34 & John 14:12?*

2. If you are looking for the Truth - Jesus says: I AM THE TRUTH

Jesus taught and was an example to us in all ways. John 14:15-16 gave the disciples an instruction with another consequence: *"If you love me, keep my commands. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another advocate to help you and be with you forever— (17) the Spirit of truth (26) will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you. (16:13) But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all the truth. He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come."*

We hear so much of your truth and my truth - but we only need to concentrate on the truth of Jesus, revealed in the Spirit ... the fruits of the spirit will always be truth ... love, joy, peace

- *In today's world, how relevant is the truth that Jesus taught His disciples to us?*

3. If you are looking for life - Jesus says: I AM THE LIFE

John 14:19 "Before long, the world will not see me anymore, but you will see me. **Because I live, you also will live.**" Our hope of eternal glory, but also a fruitful life on earth.

When we talked about "I AM the good shepherd" Jesus said in John 10:10: "The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that **they may have life, and have it to the full.**"

And this life is lived by following the example and ways Jesus taught, the truth that He taught and that the Spirit will remind us of ... so these are all intertwined and work as one, just as God the Father, Son and Spirit are one.

Jesus is the Way, the Truth and the Life - but how did His life impact His listeners, mainly His disciples? How did they respond to Jesus' life and teachings?

We know some of these from the Bible and others are legend or tradition, but the most probable ways in which these men died are in the box on the right.

- Which death seems the most harsh to you?
- Could you imagine dying in this way for anyone you love?

1. Matthew was killed by a sword wound.
2. Mark was dragged by Horses through the streets until he was dead.
3. Luke was hanged in Greece.
4. John survived being boiled in huge basin of boiling oil, was then sentenced to the mines on the prison Island of Patmos. He was later freed and died as an old man, the only apostle to die peacefully
5. Peter was crucified upside down on an x-shaped cross.
6. James was thrown over a hundred feet down from the southeast pinnacle of the Temple. when he survived the fall, his enemies beat James to death with a fuller's club.
7. James the Son of Zebedee was beheaded at Jerusalem.
8. Bartholomew (known as Nathaniel) was flayed to death by a whip.
9. Andrew was crucified on an x-shaped cross in Patras, Greece. He continued to preach to his tormentors for two days until he died.
10. Thomas was stabbed with a spear in India.
11. Jude was killed with arrows.
12. Matthias, the apostle chosen to replace Judas Iscariot, was stoned and beheaded.
13. Paul was tortured and then beheaded.

The disciples were actively living for Jesus and they died being obedient to Him - they were different - and visibly so - they stood up for Jesus, obeyed Him, lived as He had taught them and paid the ultimate and costly price.

Romans 5: 7 *Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous person, though for a good person someone might possibly dare to die.* The disciples loved Jesus that much - enough to die.

- *How much do we love God - the Way, the Truth and the Life?*
- *How obedient are we prepared to be?*
- *Are we willing to be obedient to the truth - not as we see it, but as God sees it?*
- *Are we willing to ask the Spirit to reveal truth to us - the uncomfortable truth of ourselves - Psalm 139 "search me oh God and know me ... see if there is any offensive way in me and lead me in the way everlasting?"*

Philip's statement in John 14:8 "Lord, show us the Father and that will be enough for us." Jesus wanted so much more for his disciples, for his followers than just ENOUGH - John 10:10: "I have come that **they may have life, and have it to the full.**"

- *Do we want the life that God has planned for us - that Jesus died for, that the Spirit is waiting to show us? Do we love Him enough to be obedient?*
- John 14: 15** Jesus: "Anyone who loves me will obey my teaching. My Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them..."