

Bible Study for the week of Sunday, 10th May

This week we explore one of the most famous phrases in scripture.

Before you start take a moment to reflect what instantly comes to your mind when you hear it:

“I am the way, and the truth, and the life.”

Does one of the 3 words seem more important for you than another?

What image do they stir in your mind?

Can you draw something, anything from a symbol, to a masterpiece, to a squiggle, which conveys something of what this verse means to you?

Only then, I suggest, turn to considering the whole bible passage, with the verse placed back in the context of the Last Supper of Jesus with the disciples. Later there are also 2 quotes from commentaries and a picture and comment which to me seemed a different way of approaching this verse.

Having pondered these, reflect on whether your understanding has changed or deepened in any way. Draw again, in response, if you find that helpful.

(Do be brave and show us photos of your images, when you feedback. Don't let Van Gogh put you off!)

Some tips for reading a bible passage:

- ❖ *Read the scripture passage aloud slowly, letting yourself hear the words.*
- ❖ *Pause and see if some word or phrase stood out or something touched your heart. If so, savour the insight, feeling, or understanding.*
- ❖ *Go back and read the passage again, seeing if a fuller meaning emerges. Pause again and note what happened. If you want to talk with God in response to this, do so.*
- ❖ *Seek to listen to what God may be saying to you or simply rest in God's presence.*

John 14:1-14. Jesus the Way to the Father

14 “Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. ²In my Father's house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? ³And 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. ⁴And you know the way to the place where I am going.” ⁵Thomas said to him, “Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?” ⁶Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. ⁷If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him.”

⁸ Philip said to him, "Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied." ⁹ Jesus said to him, "Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'?" ¹⁰ Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own; but the Father who dwells in me does his works. ¹¹ Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; but if you do not, then believe me because of the works themselves. ¹² Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father. ¹³ I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. ¹⁴ If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it.

I am the way, and the truth, and the life.

Thomas was too literal in his questioning (v.5). He did not expect the *way* to be identified with Jesus. Jesus is the way because he is also the truth and the life. That is to say the second and third words throw light on the first.

New Bible Commentary

This verse describes who Jesus ought to be for the faithful disciples: a leader on the way which leads to eternal life, with the Father, because Jesus himself has revealed the truth that he has learned from him.

Oxford Bible Commentary



The First Steps - Vincent Van Gogh

The Lesson - Sister Wendy Beckett

The tree exuberates in blossom, the cabbages are thick on the ground. The parents concentrate on the work of love: teaching their child to walk. Love is essentially active, intent upon the needs of the other...both parents are conscious of nothing but the needs of their child. The parents' work is bringing the child to maturity. The child seems to like its lesson, but that is not the point. Love must be able to say No as well as Yes, and even to seem unloving if, in the end, that is for the other's betterment.

