

John 13:36 - 38 (KJV)

Q.1 - **36Simon Peter said unto him, Lord, whither goest thou?**

JESUS ANSWERED HIM, **WHITHER I GO, THOU CANST NOT FOLLOW ME NOW; BUT THOU SHALT FOLLOW ME AFTERWARDS.**

37PETER SAID UNTO HIM, LORD, WHY CANNOT I FOLLOW THEE NOW? I WILL LAY DOWN MY LIFE FOR THY SAKE.

38JESUS ANSWERED HIM, WILT THOU LAY DOWN THY LIFE FOR MY SAKE? VERILY, VERILY, I SAY UNTO THEE, THE COCK SHALL NOT CROW, TILL THOU HAST DENIED ME THRICE.

JOHN 14:1 - 21 (KJV)

1LET NOT YOUR HEART BE TROUBLED: YE BELIEVE IN GOD, BELIEVE ALSO IN ME.

2IN 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.

3AND IF I GO AND PREPARE A PLACE FOR YOU, I WILL COME AGAIN, AND RECEIVE YOU UNTO MYSELF; THAT WHERE I AM, THERE YE MAY BE ALSO.

4AND WHITHER I GO YE KNOW, AND THE WAY YE KNOW.

He Never Stops Loving Us

- *Jesus knew exactly what was going to happen to both Judas and Peter, but he did not change the situation, nor did he stop loving them.*
- *In the same way, Jesus knows exactly what we will do to hurt him. Yet he still loves us unconditionally and will forgive you whenever you ask.*
- *Judas couldn't understand this, and his life ended tragically.*
- *Peter understood, and despite his shortcomings, his life ended triumphantly because he never let go of his faith in the one who loved him.*

The Greek word for "rooms" (monai) could be better translated "abodes" because it shares the same root as the Greek word for "abide" (meno). It simply means "a dwelling place."

The word mansions in the KJV is misleading because it connotes spacious, luxurious houses. Jesus' words imply no value judgment between "rooms." The "prepared place" is with Christ.

Q. 2 - **5Thomas saith unto him, Lord, we know not whither thou goest; and how can we know the way?**

6JESUS SAITH UNTO HIM, I AM THE WAY, THE TRUTH, AND THE LIFE: NO MAN COMETH UNTO THE FATHER, BUT BY ME.

7IF YE HAD KNOWN ME, YE SHOULD HAVE KNOWN MY FATHER ALSO: AND FROM HENCEFORTH YE KNOW HIM, AND HAVE SEEN HIM.

- *Clearly, the disciples didn't think they knew what Jesus said they knew. Thomas expressed the obvious by asking, "**Lord, we don't know where you are going, so how can we know the way?**"*
- *Like us, the disciples tended to think first in terms of this world—time and space. So going must mean physically moving from one place to another. Thomas was almost giving Jesus a choice: "Tell us where you are going or give us the directions—either one of those, and we can figure out the other."*

*To which Jesus replied: "**I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.**"*

- *Jesus' response shows that the destination is not a physical place but a person (the Father)*
- *The way to that destination is another person (the Son).*
- *Jesus is the Way to the Father; Jesus is the Truth (or reality) of all God's promises; and Jesus is the Life as he joins his divine life to ours, both now and eternally. Jesus is the way that leads to the truth and life.*

The Way, the Truth, the Life

Jesus provides for us as much as we need to know and can know about God. “No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father’s heart, who has made him known” (1:18 NRSV).

1. He is the **WAY**: John 1:18; 8:36; 10:9; Colossians 1:15.

Jesus is both God and man, knowing intimately our experience and our needs. He is our path, bridge, transport—not just an example or road sign. He is our guide with dependable directions and powerful protection. Our personal relationship with Christ links us to God. Our response should be to follow his guidance, trusting his ability to do for us what we cannot do for ourselves.

2. He is the **TRUTH**: John 1:14, 17; 5:19; 8:29.

Jesus is our source of intimate knowledge of the Father. His answers, teaching, and commands were right. No shadow of dishonesty, falsehood, or lying was in his life. He is the reality of all God promised. Our response should be to believe in him and put into practice what he taught.

3. He is the **LIFE**: John 1:4; 3:15; 5:26; 10:10; 11:25.

Jesus gives us life both now and eternally. His life provides the surest model for our own. He promises to join his life to ours. There is no other source of life beside him. Our response should be to receive that life and allow it to work itself out in our daily experience.

Apologetics 101:

- ✓ Jesus’ exclusive claim is unmistakable. It forces an unconditional response. Jesus invites people to accept or reject him, making it clear that partial acceptance is rejection.
- ✓ His self-description invalidates alternative plans of salvation. Some would say that a single way is entirely too restrictive. But that attitude fails to see the desperate state of the human condition. That there is a way at all is evidence of God’s grace and love.
- ✓ The state of human rebellion can be seen in this:
We are like people drowning at sea who are graciously thrown a life-saving rope. But we respond by insisting that we deserve a choice of several ropes along with the option of swimming to safety, if we so choose.

Q. 3 - 8Philip saith unto him, Lord, show us the Father, and it sufficeth us.

⁹JESUS SAITH UNTO HIM, **HAVE I BEEN SO LONG TIME WITH YOU, AND YET HAST THOU NOT KNOWN ME, PHILIP? HE THAT HATH SEEN ME HATH SEEN THE FATHER; AND HOW SAYEST THOU THEN, SHOW US THE FATHER?**

¹⁰**BELIEVEST THOU NOT THAT I AM IN THE FATHER, AND THE FATHER IN ME? THE WORDS THAT I SPEAK UNTO YOU I SPEAK NOT OF MYSELF: BUT THE FATHER THAT DWELLETH IN ME, HE DOETH THE WORKS.**

¹¹**BELIEVE ME THAT I AM IN THE FATHER, AND THE FATHER IN ME: OR ELSE BELIEVE ME FOR THE VERY WORKS’ SAKE.**

What does it mean to “know the Father”?

Answer:

The word know is used 141 times in John’s Gospel, but it does not always carry the same meaning. In fact, there are four different “levels” of knowing according to John.

1. The lowest level is simply knowing a fact.
2. The next level is to understand the truth behind that fact. However, you can know the fact and know the truth behind it and still be lost in your sins.

3. *The third level introduces relationship; “to know” means “to believe in a person and become related to him or her.” This is the way “know” is used in John 17:3. In fact, in Scripture, “to know” is used of the most intimate relationship between man and wife (Gen. 4:1).*
4. *The fourth use of “know” means “to have a deeper relationship with a person, a deeper communion.” It was this level Paul was referring to when he wrote, “That I may know Him” (Phil. 3:10). Jesus will describe this deeper relationship in John 14:19-23, so we will save any further comment until we deal with that section.*

Monday Morning Moment:

“You can’t follow the path, if you don’t know the destination!”

JOHN 14:6 (NLT) ⁶JESUS TOLD HIM, **“I AM THE WAY, THE TRUTH, AND THE LIFE. NO ONE CAN COME TO THE FATHER EXCEPT THROUGH ME.**

Homework Q & A: *(Please use scripture where appropriate to support your answers.) Note: There could be more than one correct answer.*

Questions from two weeks ago:

1. Please read (or re-read) John 13 and write your own definitions for the following 4 words:

HUMILITY: JESUS AND THE FATHER (JOHN 13:1-5)

HOLINESS: JESUS AND PETER (JOHN 13:6-11)

HAPPINESS: JESUS AND THE DISCIPLES (JOHN 13:12-17)

HYPOCRISY: JESUS AND JUDAS (JOHN 13:18-35)

2. What lesson can you take away from John 13 and begin applying it to your life today?
3. Why is taking communion (The Lord’s Supper) a very serious ordinance of the church? What are the benefits of receiving the elements? What are the risks?
4. What does the Cross of Jesus mean to you today, right now?

Questions for Sunday, April 27, 2014:

1. For whom are the promises in verse 12 intended?
2. Who has ever done anything “greater” than Christ did, verse 12?
3. What does it mean to ask “in the name of” Christ, verse 13?