

## **KEEP THE DOORS OPEN.**

**Text: John 14:1-14.**

**Theme:** Keep the doors open.

**Grace, peace, and mercy from God the Father, and the Lord Jesus Christ.**

As we continue on in the same vein of our theme of Fellowship/Discipleship for this year, this week's lesson brings us to being shown the WAY by Christ. In today's gospel reading, verse six tells us that Jesus emphatically states that: he is the WAY, the truth and the life, and that no one can come to the Father, except through him.

Jesus is stating a simple truism; unless people acknowledge that Jesus IS being the beloved Son of the Father, then there is no other WAY, there is no other life that anyone can enter into God's kingdom, but through him.

As we are aware, the Father and the Son, and the Holy Spirit, are all one, yet three, and are in unison together, and it is by them complimenting each other's identity that they operate as one. People need to acknowledge and accept this truth. The only way to come into God's kingdom is through his Son Jesus, and Jesus is making this statement known to all people that this is the only way anyone can enter into the Father's kingdom.

Jesus is the only way, and today we are talking about keeping the door of Jesus open into God's kingdom, so that we don't lose our WAY in this life. By the way; What is your quality of life like at the moment? Are you having a dry spell or are things going along just fine? Is keeping Jesus as the way, an easy thing to do for you or not? I'd like to ask how many have lost their way and strayed off course, in their Christian life along their journey of living for Christ? Remember he is always there to help get us right again.

As mentioned before; Christ is the way, the truth and the life. And the Devil himself is doing the best he can so that as many Christians as possible can be derailed and led astray, driven off course and off track in this life. And if the way that Christians live is not Christ-centered, then Satan is certainly doing his job magnificently. Of course we can add to his interference our own self will and nature that wants to ensnare us in our chosen paths as well.

The opening verse [v 1] of the gospel lesson tells us not to let our hearts be troubled; but to trust in God and to trust in Christ. And if we do that, then we need to be definitely looking upwards toward heaven. Our own human nature continually has our vision aimed at earth/eye-level. We look at what is around us, what our neighbours, friends and others are having and doing, but Jesus is telling us to look beyond and above that, to look

for a deeper meaningful, truthful, fuller way of trusting in him: and not in ourselves [ego, poi moi, number one].

Many are the things that make us look at ourselves for lasting meaning in our lives, in the times we live in. Watch the television and the adverts are craving and wanting to smother you with what will make you happy, successful and comfortable in your life.

And if you start flirting with their ideas that they aiming at you, your mind can start to wander away from the reality of living for Christ.

What happens when we want to trust in ourselves? When we start believing in our own goodness and that I should be number one, not denying myself anything?

What sort of you beaut future can we plan for ourselves? We are good at planning things but do they work out in the end? The best of our plans and dreams can only end

up as nightmares if we leave God out of the equation! The builders of the Tower of Babel wanted to make a magnificent building that reached from earth into the heavens; but what happened; God confused their languages so that they couldn't co-operate together.

Then again you may be successful in attaining your ambition and achieving success, satisfaction and fulfillment of what you have done and achieved for yourself, but true satisfaction will elude you, if you want God in it as well.

There will always be that something missing, that will nag at us because we know that we have left out the most important element of all: of Jesus being in our lives to make it fulfilling. Lucifer [Satan] had it all, but he wanted to be the number one Supreme Being, but his pride gave him a crashing fall, and he has come tumbling down from his high horse.

Also, remember how Jesus told the parable of the man who stored up his riches, and how he thought about a life of leisure and of how he could now sit back and eat, drink and be merry. "You fool!" Jesus said, 'tonight your soul is required, and the things you have prepared whose will they be. So is he who lays up his treasure for himself, and is not rich towards God [Luke 12: 16-21] RSV.'

Jesus is telling us to put our riches and treasures in ourselves, because he is the only true way to having life in all its abundance and fullness. He is the door to lasting happiness.

In verse 12 Jesus states this, 'I tell you the truth, anyone who has faith in me will do what I have been doing. He will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father.' I guess the challenge for all Christ's followers and believers is to carry on the will of the Father, that Jesus had come to do.

Something like of what Pastor Tim has began at the beginning of the year; with his themes of Fellowship and Discipleship. So far we have had listening to Jesus; caring for others; sharing and a few other themes, which we [Pastor time and I] hope will be taken to heart and to task from our preaching and promptings and that you; who receive these messages may be able to share what God has put on your heart, with what you have heard, and share that with others in our community, so that God's word continues on.

So that not only should we be hearers of the Word and keep the messages to ourselves, but that the Word may also be enacted and put into practice as well. That's the main gist of having this series of themes that we're doing, so that as a loving community of God, we are able to be doers of the Word.

So that we become faithful participants in doing God's will in our own small way. And that there would be no reason whatsoever, why any one of us, wouldn't be able to do our own little bit for our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

Jesus has stated further along in verse 12 that; 'anyone who has faith in me, will be doing what I am doing!' And there we have it; what could be more plain and simple than the meaning that Jesus is stating here. Jesus has put the challenge out there for all of us to take up. Not only to take up his challenge, but he takes it a step further by adding that, whoever is wanting to do his will, will do even greater because he is going to the Father.

And when Jesus is in the Father's presence, then he will be making your petitions known to the Father for you. Which means that when we pray before doing his work, He will be right there hearing our prayers and supplication for strength and protection against the Evil

One and his demons as we seek to do the will of the Father.

But if we decide in our hearts that we like to hear more than do action, then the question we all need to ask ourselves is this: 'What sort of life would we be living if we aren't acknowledging Jesus as our Saviour? Remember that Jesus went all the way to death on the cross for the whole world. He did not shirk or um and arh but he went all the way in giving his life for all, without hesitation so that all could inherit eternal life. That is the free gift that anyone can obtain IF they want it.

Jesus became the WAY for entry into God's kingdom. He is the WAY not because it puffs him up and raises his profile. He became that door so that as you approach God's kingdom you don't remain a stranger, but that you will know him and have a personal relationship with him. So that God will know that you are part of the kingdom

and have Jesus as your brother who makes you part of God's family.

It is likened to the same principle as when we do Confession and Absolution and ask for forgiveness of our sins. And as we are praying we know that Jesus is interceding to the Father for us, God looks at our hearts and sees Jesus living there and then he will automatically grant us forgiveness of our sins because Christ is in our lives. You no longer remain a stranger, but become part of God's family.

This then begs the question: 'What doors would be open for us to enter into if that door doesn't lead the way to Christ and into God's kingdom?' Straight and wide is the way that leads to destruction, so let us avoid taking that way at all costs and tell or do whatever it takes to make those who think the way they live is fine, but leads to an awful end. Narrow is the road that leads to salvation so

let's ensure we don't stray off the path, but help in God's work and kingdom.

Is there any other way that we can come into God's kingdom? The answer has to be no, because Jesus tells us that he is the way, the truth and the life, and that no one comes to the Father except by him. So it is our duty to tell all those who think they can come into God's kingdom by different means, that we have some news to tell them.

Christ is the only WAY. He showed that way, to all whom he came into contact with, especially in the way he was born, lived, spoke, taught, preached, healed, loved, cared and died. He also rose again and is seated at the right hand side of the Father, interceding for all those who want to come into the Father's kingdom.

Finally, what Jesus has done for us by showing and by being the way into glory. He is willing that all who hear

his Word can also enact his word with all whom they come into contact with. It doesn't have to be big and showy, but that we do what he did so that others can come into God's kingdom. Amen.

**The peace of god, which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus. Amen.**