

## KNOWING THE WAY

John 14:1-7

There is a quality about "doubting Thomas" that we admire. He was willing to risk putting into words what many of us would only dare to ponder. Thomas asked the question, while all the other disciples acted as if they knew the answer. They probably had their doubts, too, but Thomas had the courage to express his reservations and uncertainty, while the others simply pretended to understand Jesus, whom they had so often misunderstood.

When Jesus said, "You know the way to the place where I am going," Thomas stopped him: "Lord, we do not know where you are going." Jesus answered by offering a great statement concerning his identity: "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me" (John 14:4-6).

What do we know of *the way*? If you have ever had the experience of being lost and have asked directions, only to be given landmarks you couldn't locate and street names that seemed not to exist, you recognized that simply being told to travel in a particular direction would not suffice. To be told to go north, south, east, or west was not enough.

Lord, how can we know the way? Jesus didn't tell Thomas to go to Jerusalem or to Bethlehem or to Jericho, and you'll know the way. He wasn't talking about a particular direction in which to travel. *The way* is not simply a road or a town. It is not a geographical point.

Neither is *the way* simply a style of life. All of us appreciate a life well-lived, one that people point to and say, "Now that's how one ought to behave." To be wholesome, respectable, admired by the

community, and law abiding are all characteristics we may admire. They may make us good citizens of the community. But they may have absolutely nothing to do with *the way* of which Jesus was speaking.

You see, *the way* is nothing less than the person of Jesus Christ. To know *the way* is to know the Master. It is to see that the truth about God is revealed in Christ. Jesus is the way to God. He alone can lead people into the presence of God.

We can live our lives ever so well when we know the way we are going. Wrenny lived such a life. She/He knew the way because she/he knew the Lord all her/his life. Jesus' way was her/his way; her/his reason for being. ~~He~~/She passed on to ~~his~~/her family the principles of a faith so deeply ingrained in him/her throughout life; learned from parents as a child; complimented by an adoring spouse; reiterated in his/her experience as a Christian.

When our passion is for *the way*, Christ's way, surely our passion will ~~not~~ lead us to eternal life. Wrenny, through faith and commitment, has known a quality of eternal life in this life. Can there be any doubt that Wrenny knows it now in the kingdom of God?

Today, let us not weep too long for Wrenny. God has called home one of his truly faithful; one who has lived all of her/his life ready to go wherever God would call. Wrenny was well prepared, whether God would have her/him live in this life or the next life. Wrenny is one who has known *the way* because she/he has known the Master. May we, too, seek to live our own lives so as to give evidence that we have learned the answer to Thomas's question, "Lord, how can we know the way?" When Christ's way becomes our way, then we'll know *the way*.