

# Father John's Gospel Reflection



## Gospel

### GOSPEL – SUNDAY, 14 MAY, 2017 – FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER (John 14:1-12)

#### ***I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life.***

Jesus said to his disciples:

'Do not let your hearts be troubled.  
Trust in God still, and trust in me.  
There are many rooms in my Father's house;  
if there were not, I should have told you.  
I am going to prepare a place for you,  
and after I have gone and prepared you a place,  
I shall return to take you with me;  
so that where I am you may be too.  
You know the way to the place where I am going.'

Thomas said, 'Lord, we do not know where you are going, so how can we know the way?' Jesus said:

'I am the Way, the Truth and the Life.  
No one can come to the Father except through me. If you know me, you know my Father too.  
From this moment you know him and have seen him.'

Philip said, 'Lord, let us see the Father and then we shall be satisfied.' 'Have I been with you all this time, Philip,' said Jesus to him 'and you still do not know me?'

'To have seen me is to have seen the Father, so how can you say, "Let us see the Father"?'  
Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me?  
The words I say to you I do not speak as from myself: it is the Father, living in me, who is doing this work.  
You must believe me when I say that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; believe it on the evidence of this work, if for no other reason.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

## Reflection

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What we have here is a gospel finally edited about 100ad. The audience is made up of converted Jews, and some Greek speaking gentiles, living in the melting-pot of Ephesus (they first heard of Jesus, through Paul's visit about 52ad). They all want to be reassured that in following Jesus they are on the right path. So, they keep hearing the words, "trust me" and keep on "trusting me."

Thomas and Philip represent those who continue to be troubled, they, like the first audience of this gospel are both puzzled about how to follow Jesus - they don't know where Jesus is going, or what the Father looks like. Sure, they remember water to wine, Lazarus to life, loaves of bread and fish to a banquet, miracles and healings. They seek further assurance!

So, there is a call to trust and to faith. This is difficult for us, for our heart-filled prayers have gone unanswered, there are times when trust has been shattered and we seem alone in our doubts.

Then comes the stunning reassurance (v12) "Amen, amen, I say to you." Ask in Jesus name, as one of his sheep, as people abiding in his presence, as he abides in the Father, "we will do greater works than these." Jesus promises his assistance, his support and his power.

Like Thomas, Philip and even Peter (John 13) there is room in this relationship for honest acknowledgment of our confusion, doubt, frustration, and concern, when our requests seem to go unheard. The message for us, as for the first readers of John, is to see the blessings before us: loyal and loving family and friends, human healing and reconciliation, the power of peace-making, delight, abundance, and joy.

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1. Like the first followers of Jesus, we too have moments of doubt and uncertainty about what it means to believe in Jesus.
2. Never give up in our desire for the experience of Jesus. He can unexpectedly come to us in the mundane moments of our lives.
3. There are times in our lives when trust and faith are tested. Let us persevere!

## Take home Message