

Today is Leprosy Sunday and we remember all those who are affected and infected with Leprosy. We are grateful to The Leprosy Mission (TLM) for being with us this morning and sharing the need to engage in the eradication of this disease which is still prevalent in our country. Today is also celebrated as Mother's Day around the world and we thank God for all our mothers who show us something of the heart of God with their sacrificial love. We pray for God's blessings on all the mothers as they continue to sacrificially give of themselves for the sake of others.

Today, the theme for our meditation is, "Jesus is the Way, the Truth and the Life." I would like us to briefly look at these three claims that Jesus makes about himself. Firstly, he says, "I am the Way". What is Jesus the 'Way' to? Jesus is the way to the Father and the way to eternal life. The context is when Jesus is preparing his disciples for his own departure to the Father. So he tells them that their hearts should not be troubled and they should trust in him. He reassures them that in his Father's house there are many mansions and that he was going to prepare a place for them. Jesus gives direction to a lost world. He is the one who leads people to his Father's house. He is the way to God because he has gone through the paths of suffering, dying a horrific death on the cross and then rising on the third day. Faith in Jesus is necessary to get on to this way and obedience to carry on walking in it. People in this world are constantly seeking direction in their lives. Their lives don't seem to have any purpose. Even though they have all the wealth they want, they are still groping in the dark. The question for each one of us this morning is whether we have found the way to God and to eternal life?

Secondly, Jesus claims that he is the 'Truth'. He is the reality in a confused world as he reveals God to us. In this context Phillip wants Jesus to show them the Father which would remove all their doubts and fears. This expresses the deepest yearning of the human race and all religions – that is to meet with God personally. In a world of relativism there is something known as truth. Jesus is the truth of God. He reveals God to us. Only through Jesus can we understand who God is. The character of God is the same as the character of Jesus. We know that God is a loving Father and a compassionate and caring God, one who heals, one who cares for the poor and the oppressed and one who can forgive sins through what Jesus did and revealed for us.

If we are followers of Jesus then truth should be important to us. We live in a world where truth is a casualty. Right from the Fall where Satan questions the integrity of God by saying, "Did God really say that you should not eat from the fruit of the garden?" till today, the lack of truth and integrity are rampant and are the very fingerprints of Satan. Wherever we see lies and half-truths we see Satan at work. As followers of Jesus we are called to be men and women of integrity.

Thirdly, Jesus promises us that he is the 'Life'. He is the 'Life' in a world of sin, death and decay. Jesus offers us life and life abundantly in the context of death. There may be situations of death in our own lives like guilt or addiction or some kind of demon possession which cripples us and we are as good as dead. Many of us think of ourselves as nice people because we don't rob banks, or murder or rape or commit other such heinous crimes. But when we look at our lives in contrast to the life of Jesus than we realise how much we are fallen short of God's standards. C. S. Lewis wrote: "For the first time I examined myself with a seriously practical purpose. And there I found what appalled me: a zoo of lusts, a bedlam of ambitions, a nursery of fears, a harem of fondled hatreds. My name is Legion." It is in this kind of a condition that Jesus offers us life. Through the cross all these things that we are appalled of has been forgiven and we are given a fresh start. Every time we come to the Lord's Supper we are reminded of this new life that God has given us in Jesus.

As we come to the Lord's Supper this morning may we remember that Jesus is the Way to God; he is the Truth of God who reveals God to us and is the Life giver who gives us new life and abundant life.