

Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ.

¹ “Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. ² In my Father’s house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? ³ And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. ⁴ And you know the way to the place where I am going. ⁵ Thomas said to him, “Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?” ⁶ Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. ⁷ If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him.”



⁸ Philip said to him, “Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied.” ⁹ Jesus said to him, “Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, ‘Show us the Father’? ¹⁰ Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own; but the Father who dwells in me does his works. ¹¹ Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; but if you do not, then believe me because of the works themselves. ¹² Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father. ¹³ I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. ¹⁴ If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it. [NRSV John 14:1-14]

This is the Gospel of the Lord,

praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.

Jesus says to the disciples I’m going to the Father place where many can dwell there too. And where I am you can come too. And Thomas said How do we know where you are going and How can we know the way. Jesus said if you know me you will know the way because I am the way the truth and the life.

If we know Jesus, we will know the way. This isn’t fancy speech, this is Jesus speaking plainly. Except the disciples still don’t get it.

We can get so clever at times until we come to realise that we have yet let ourselves down again.

Don’t worry Jesus I have google maps on my I phone I will find the way. Then when we check out google maps there is no place on there called ‘the Father’s Place’. Jesus says it plainly, to know this place you have to get to know Jesus.

So we gear down and take a new turn, OK Jesus I will go to church, and I will be a pastoral assistant and do other good things and I will volunteer at the OP Shop. Surely this is being a Christian. And Jesus says you wont get to the Father that way even if you do all that.

So exasperated just like Philip you say well show us the Father.

Jesus is trying to spell it out, and he is having trouble getting through some thick skulls. You see first we have to let Jesus be who he is in our lives.

We need to keep that perpetual prayer within our souls; Jesus, please help me see who you are. We try so hard to be nice people, to where our Sunday best because we think that in doing that Jesus will give us the thumbs up and say your OK. What he wants, is for us to invite him into our house even though we have forgotten to do the spring cleaning. To get to know Jesus we need to let him get to know us. He waits for our invitation. So here is the

matrix of wonder, we let Jesus in to get to know him and then we then discover that Jesus knows us all along; and we discover that in knowing Jesus he and the Father are one and we come to know the Father as well. He in the Father and the Father is in Him and they both know us intimately. This is a living a revelation in perpetual motion that builds up what we call faith.

Now I must admit, that all that sounds so far out there.

I have seen people under their own steam searching for spiritual meaning, meditating, doing yoga, going to church, reading books on the meaning of life, and it is all about seeking peace and tranquillity in life, it's all good, but; just what if God has a way; without all our elbow grease; without the no stop effort to make peace happen for ourselves; a way of 'bringing' to us what His place of spiritual tranquillity really is.

Or is this a too far-fetched idea;

No, no, you may say, I have to do something surely.

OK I give in, my advice then is to just believe and then ask God to do the work.

And keep a watchful eye out for something like God inside of you working his way.

Can God truly make himself real in our lives and will Jesus enter into the mess of our lives and begin to unravel the tangles until what He uncovers is peace, and because of that peace, a presence of Joy is unburied and it rises to the surface. Then with this Peace and Joy we realise that God thinks we are special and that Jesus agrees with Him too. This is what finding the Father's place is all about and where Jesus says we can belong there too. God in us and us in him. God can actually take the hard slog of faith out of the equation, the fact is, it was us that invented the hard slog in the first place; the rules and all things we invented to say we have reached tranquillity, whatever that means. Yet somehow it becomes a never ending chore.

Can you believe that God never made getting to know him to be difficult.

That's why Jesus said,

Hay stop running off looking at other things, I am the way, I am the truth and if you can grasp that then you will realise that I am the life.

Deacon Pete.