

The HOLY FROG

Honour Others, Lower Yourself and Fully Rely On God. Blog

This is the Way!

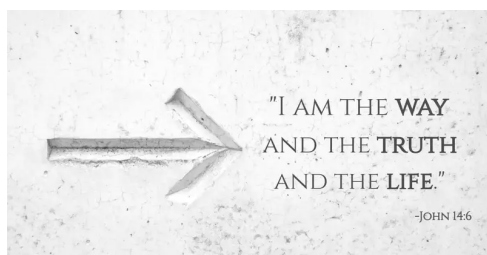
We would have made it to our destination but for one thing...The driver!

In a moment of unparalleled stupidity, rather than stay on the well marked route to Malham Cove, he decided to take a short cut across the hills.

"**This is the way**" he insisted and despite having a map and a guidebook to the Yorkshire Dales, he nearly ruined family outing; two small boys, my wife and me... the driver!



Having turned off the main road **our route was blocked** by a gate. There are lots of gated roads in Yorkshire, so we drove on through. Within a few hundred metres the road became a lane. My wife was thinking turn round! I was thinking adventure! On we went. The incline got steeper, the lane became a track; the boys were unsettled and my wife was anxious. I was determined to keep going: '**This is the way**'! Dry stone walls closed in, sheep leapt over the walls and the car shook as it moved along the now rutted track. It was obvious we were going the wrong way. Everyone was telling me to turn round; my wife, my kids (the sheep no doubt) and even my inner voice but, I ignored them all and drove stubbornly onwards and upwards. Recklessly, **we ploughed on**, coming to a sudden stop....in a field! We could go no further. Only then, after large helpings of humble pie, did I admit, '**This is not the way**', completed a U-turn and headed back down to the main road.

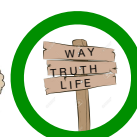


During the last night before his crucifixion, at the Passover meal, having washed the disciple's feet, predicted his betrayal by Judas and his denial by Peter, **Jesus told the disciples he would soon be going away** (John 13) Naturally, the disciples wanted to go too but, on this occasion, Jesus told them they could not travel with him, just yet. This was not just an earthly journey he was talking about - the spiritual impact

would be immense. The way ahead was to end in death but **in truth by giving up his life, he opened the way back to God the Father.**

"I go to prepare a place for you. I will come back and take you to be with me so that you also may be where I am. You know the way to the place where I am going.' Thomas said to him, 'Lord, we don't know where you are going, so how can we know the way?' **Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you know me, you will know my Father as well. (John 14:4-6)**

'**I AM THE WAY**' Jesus states here. Not 'a way' notice but 'the way'! Quite a claim. There is no other way **to restore our relationship with the Father** than to **invite Jesus into our life** and live according to God's laws and guidance, **through the presence of Holy Spirit**. This is how Jesus lived. This is how we can live. This, records John, is why Jesus said he came to earth, so that we might have life and live it to the full (John 10:10). As with my choice of route to Malham Cove, even with good intentions, to ignore the obvious signs around us and stubbornly continue on own way would be reckless:



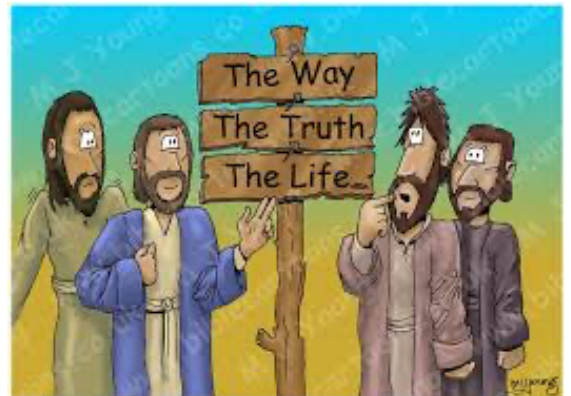


No matter how much we are determined to 'keep on going' and be good, moral or kind, like sheep that have gone astray, we end up in trouble and need rescuing. There are no short cuts. **Our actions will not get us to God. The truth is, that He came to us!** Jesus offers us hope in the mess of life, even if we have caused the mess ourselves! All we need to do is turn to him. Could it really be true that he will then lead us, watch over us and guide us in a more meaningful, purposeful and lasting way than we could ever find on our own? **This is the message of the Bible** seen throughout the story of God and the Israelites and echoed in the Psalms of David in his most desperate times: *I waited patiently for the Lord; he turned to me and heard my cry. He lifted me out of the slimy pit, out of the mud and mire; he set my feet on a rock and gave me a firm place to stand.* (Psalm 40:1-2)

At Easter we celebrate this truth that **we are offered a rescue from our own folly**, through Jesus' death, resurrection and ultimate return. All we need to do is say sorry for our actions, ask his forgiveness, turn round and follow him.

SO HOW do we follow Him today? The same way the disciples did and many people since then. They heard the words of Jesus and believed them. They took His words and obeyed them. They confessed their sins (going their own way) to Jesus as their Lord and God. They believed that **JESUS died to take the punishment of their sins and rose from the dead to give them new life and a relationship with God that starts now and continues forever!** This Easter, I encourage you to make some time to consider the 'I AM' statements of Jesus in more depth and decide for yourself what your response

might be. Is Jesus telling the truth about life when he says **"This is the Way"**



Chaplain's Challenge:

1. **Create** a picture based on "The Way" or "The Pit".
2. **List** 5 things that are difficult to believe but are actually true! Share them with your class.
3. **True or False?** "TRUTH REMAINS THE SAME WHETHER ANYONE BELIEVES IN IT OR NOT."
4. **Think** of an example that might explain your answer.
5. **Reflect** - How do Jesus' words from John 10 affect you? (See the verses below and John 10:10)
6. **Use** the prayer opposite for yourself, our school and community.

REFLECT: "My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one will snatch them out of my hand. My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all; no one can snatch them out of my Father's hand. I and the Father are one." John 10:27-30

An Easter Prayer:

Jesus, I thank you for giving your life to make a way back to God for me. Thank you that you love me even though I mess up.

I am sorry for the times I have gone my own way and turned away from you. I want to follow you and live life to the full.

Please come into my life and through your Holy Spirit, teach me to live as you did, in obedience to the Father and in service to others.

I ask this in your name Jesus.
Thank you.

(Tell someone if you prayed this)

Join in our worship by sending your responses, photos, poems & stories of faith in action to

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