

WEEK 4 – I AM THE WAY, THE TRUTH, AND THE LIFE

MONDAY – True North



John 14: 6. *Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me".*

Stephen Covey, author of *'The Seven Habits of Highly Effective People'* used the phrase "True North" when describing how we, as business people should conduct ourselves. It's about our integrity as we build our relationships with others. He uses the compass as an illustration.

Those who know the bush are aware, that, unguided, you can easily walk in circles, so it's essential to keep checking lest you get lost. We didn't use compass bearings when we hiked, but we made sure we looked out for the painted 'footprints' along the path.

Interestingly, at Vredefort Dome near Potchefstroom, the compass doesn't tell you where true or magnetic North is because the earth's crust was impacted by a huge meteor thousands of years ago. The compass needle darts all over the place!

We need to ground ourselves in Jesus so that our 'needle' is steady. Plotting our life path as a Christian isn't about compass bearings or painted markers but all about following Jesus.

A well-known hymn: *"When we walk with the Lord in the light of His word, what a glory He sheds on our way. While we do His good will, He abides with us still, and with all who will trust and obey. Trust and obey for there's no other way to be happy in Jesus, but to trust and obey".*

1 John 1: 7 *But if we walk in the light, as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, His Son, purifies us from all sin.*

Jesus IS our way and our truth and so He IS our life. Let us walk in His way with our compass set towards Him.



Prayer: Lord, show me how I can truly walk with You in the light of Your word. Holy Spirit, I am waiting for Your guidance as I grow in my Christian walk. AMEN

TUESDAY – Finding the way



Matthew 2: 1 & 2 *After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east arrived in Jerusalem, asking, “Where is the One who has been born King of the Jews? We saw His star in the east and have come to worship Him.”*

Centuries ago, travellers found their way from one place to the next by following a star. The Magi came from the east and travelled a great distance to find Jesus. They had received a revelation and ‘knew’ the way to go. Today we would have given up! Sailors followed the stars. Which of us today would be able to locate a particular star (say, the Southern Cross) and use it as our guide on the journey? How do birds find their way on their migration journeys? Compass bearings were the references for travellers so that they would know the direction to follow.

Nowadays, we have sophisticated equipment like GPS which we access via our cell phones and onboard navigation systems. It is easy to follow the voice prompt and travel across town and even across the country.

Jesus said, “I am the way, the truth and the life. Nobody can come to the Father, but by me”. What did he mean?

Reflection:

What is the advantage of following Jesus?

Do you first want to know “What’s in it for me?”

We have freedom of choice. We are exposed to so many choices every day. Jesus gave us the freedom of choice to follow Him or not. To use Him as our navigation system. So what is your decision?

Peace I leave with you; My peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not be afraid. (John 14: 27)



Prayer: Teach us, Jesus to follow You as we go through our daily lives. Help us to know what truly following You means; that I may know Your peace. AMEN

WEDNESDAY – “Come, follow me”



John 14: 6 *Jesus said, “I am the way, the truth and the life.”*
“Come, follow Me”

Jesus asked many people to follow Him. Many did so. Many turned away. It's not much different today. Many hear the call, and often, in an emotional moment, make a commitment. They might wear a wrist band reading “WWJD” and feel that they are now Christians. Some years ago, it was a popular thing to have the symbol of a fish on one's car. Today, many wear a gold cross.

Reflection:

Do you believe that Jesus is the **way**, the **truth** and the **life** and that He calls you to follow Him? And if you do, what is it going to take to set your compass to His true north?

He asks us to **follow**. Here, in this country, it is far too easy to claim

the name ‘Christian’ without acting like Him. We have to count the cost, just as the rich young ruler did (Matthew 19: 16-22) because the discipline of being a disciple means a **radical change** of direction, of purpose and belief system. Radically different from the world. The rich young man could not commit to that. By his reckoning, he had too much to lose.

When we have made the commitment, that's when **God's work** of sanctification starts to take place. It takes a lifetime!

We must follow Him willingly, loyally, obediently and fully. That is what Jesus asks and expects. It is wholeheartedly believing that He is truly THE WAY AND THE LIFE.



Prayer: Lord God, when I let Jesus' words sink in and affect my whole being, I begin to understand what it cost You to offer the sacrifice of Your only begotten Son. I have been bought with a price by the One who is The Way, The Truth and The Life. Thank you for continuing the work of sanctification that is in process. I am Yours! AMEN

THURSDAY – We are “People of The Way”

Jesus said, “I am the way, the truth and the light. Come, follow me”.

In the first century, those who heard Jesus’ call and followed Him, became known as “People of The Way”. That’s because they behaved like Jesus, and even spoke like Him. Is this true today?

God knows us, as individuals, and calls us by name.



Isaiah 43: 1 But now, this is what the LORD says —
*He who created you, Jacob, He who formed you, Israel: “Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have summoned you by name; **you are mine.**”*

We declared “I am Yours”. When Jesus calls us to follow Him, and

we commit our lives to Him, He knows that we will falter. He knows that we need help. He does not give up on us:

“Fear not, for I have redeemed you”. “You are mine”

Reflection:

Do you know who Christ is calling you to become?

Matthew 5: 13 *“You are the salt of the earth”*. Not maybe, nor ‘you might be’, but ‘**you are!**’

Matthew 5: 14-16 *“You are the light of the world”*. Not possibly you may become, ‘not maybe’, but ‘**you are!**’

What a challenge! What responsibility!

In Wesley’s Covenant Prayer:



Prayer:

I am no longer my own, but thine. Put me to what thou wilt, rank me with whom thou wilt. Put me to doing, put me to suffering. Let me be employed for thee or laid aside for thee, exalted for thee or brought low for thee. Let me be full, let me be empty. Let me have all things, let me have nothing. I freely and heartily yield all things to thy pleasure and disposal. And now, O glorious and blessed God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, thou art mine, and I am thine. So be it. And the covenant which I have made on earth, let it be ratified in heaven. AMEN

FRIDAY – Following Jesus



John 12: 26 *Whoever serves Me must follow Me; and where I am, My servant also will be. My Father will honour the one who serves Me.*

Jesus looks for signs of life:

- Our spiritual commitment to Him.
- Our love for God and others.
- Whether we have a desire to obey God's Word.
- Our sensitivity to and decreasing practice of sin.
- Whether we have the ability to discern truth.
- If we are rejecting the world system that rebels against God.
- If we're serving God in holiness.
- Whether we are persevering in our faith.

Jesus expects us to count the cost of following Him.

Jesus expects us to prioritize Him. Jesus expects us to take up our cross.

It sounds so full of gloom, but when we simply trust the promises of our Lord so that our faith grows day by day, the blessings of this life will overflow. The peace will calm our spirits and we will know without a doubt that Jesus is the Way, the Truth and the Life.



Prayer: (St Ignatius of Loyola)

Teach us, good Lord, to serve You as You deserve, to give and not to count the cost, to fight and not to heed the wounds, to toil and not to seek for rest, to labour and not to ask for any reward, save that of knowing that we do Your will. AMEN