

Theme: Jesus reveals his true identity and calling. He challenges us to re-evaluate every attachment to the things of this world, living for eternity in the way, the truth and the life.

Background: Jesus explains his departure and return through a series of conversations, speaking in turn to Peter, Thomas, Philip, and Judas (not Iscariot)

Introduction: Decision making when you are really upset, fearful, confused? Not a great idea.

I. Jesus Is Going Away

- A. Causing fear and confusion
 - 1. A necessary conversation
 - Jesus addresses their fears
 - 2. I must leave you
 - For their benefit (14:3)
- B. To the cross – that for which he had come into the world
- C. To the Father
 - To secure *life* for us – eternal life
 - To his place of glory (17:5)

II. Peter – Where Are You Going?

- A. Where you can't follow
 - 1. Everyone's question
 - 2. Where you can't follow
 - a. To a far country?
 - b. To the authorities?

NOTE: Peter recognizes, death is a possibility
 - B. But you will follow
 - 1. Not now (36)
 - 2. Afterward?
 - C. Peter's confidence (37)
 - 1. Full of irony!
 - a. Jesus *must* lay down his life – for Peter!
 - b. Peter *will* lay down his life for Jesus – but not now (21:18,19)

APPLICATION: It is something every follower of Jesus must do (Luke 9:23,24)
 - 2. Peter's coming denial
 - We know it now, even if he doesn't
 - 3. Learning humility
 - a. A perfect prediction
 - b. A bold assertion – “They all said the same.” (Mark 14:31)

NOTE: Doesn't understand the unique nature of Christ and his work – not yet.
 - c. Acknowledging human weakness! Which is, for us all, the very seed of our failure, downfall.
- APPLICATION: Bold assertions or faithful action?

III. Thomas – How Can We Know the Way?

A. A place for us

1. Great comfort is offered
2. In the Father's house
3. A "room" for us!
 - Not a separate "mansion"

APPLICATION: How attached are we to our earthly dwellings and surroundings?
How attractive is a room in the Father's house?

B. With Jesus

1. He is coming back
2. Specifically for us (3)

C. Jesus **IS** the way

1. To the Father
 - a. Thomas' dilemma – The way to "where?" (5)
 - 1) Where are you going?
 - 2) How can we know the way?
 - b. To the Father! (6)
2. The Way – not the path!
 - It's a person!
 - And **only** this personAPPLICATION: The world around us finds this offensive.
3. The Truth!
 - The true revelation of God
 - To know the *way*, to behold the *truth*, is to have....
4. The Life
 - Life is *in* the way
 - He brings us to the Lord of life (17:3)

IV. Show Us The Father – Philip chimes into the conversation/discussion.

A. What no human can see (Exodus 33:20)

B. What all must see to live

- Jesus is more than a teacher or guide
- He is the *telos* (end) of life
- Jesus did not just come on a divine mission – He **is** the divine on a mission

V. Believe!...

A. In Jesus! (14:1)

- The way to the dwelling of God

B. That the Father is in the Son; the Son is *in* the Father (14:11)

C. In the Name of all power and authority!