***‘Way, truth and Life’ John 14: 1 to 14***

Surely, one of the most famous statements of Jesus . But what is its significance for us particularly on this special occasion when a new king is crowned. This is a significant moment in our nation – we have been blessed for 70 years with a Queen who served so faithfully. Now people are wondering how different will the reign of King Charles be. Many have concerns about the future of our nation with so much change and unrest around us.

John 14 is exactly in that kind of context. Jesus is concerned about the future – he has clearly perceived that his disciples are ‘troubled’. Certainties of his presence are going to disappear and his followers are going to have to live in a different world just like we are going to have to get used to.

1. As you look at the future what are the issues that you find troubling?

This is not the first time we have encountered Jesus’ troubled feelings. We see them in John 11:33 when faced with Lazarus’ tomb, in 12:27 when he contemplated the cross and in 13:21 when he reflected on the betrayal of Judas. Jesus’ confidence in the greater power and purposes of God made it possible to confront each of these crises. Now the disciples must face the same feelings.

1. How do you deal with either crisis or uncertainty?

Jesus’ answer is ‘trust’ – ‘trust in God, trust also in me’ (v1). Clearly, he thinks that trusting in him is enough. Are there times when we need more than that?

Does trusting in God feel too distant?

One of the reasons to trust him is that Jesus’ departure is purposeful. When he leaves, he will be working on their behalf, preparing a place for them. (The word ‘mansions’ used in the AV, was a 17th century word for modest houses so don’t get excited about heavenly palatial residences). God’s ‘house’ refers to the heavenly dwelling where God lives (Heb 12:22, Rev 21:9 to 22:5) so Jesus’ point is that this is a place of intimacy with Jesus – the loss of which clearly troubles his disciples.

1. Is the promise of a place in heaven enough to keep us going through difficult times?

A place to go is one thing – but how do we get there is the next question. But Jesus says he will come back (See John 13:36 to 37 and 14:3)

There has been much debate about when that coming will happen (At Easter, the coming of the Spirit, at our death) – but most would agree this a reference to Jesus’ second coming.

Do you take the second coming seriously? – is it something you think about often? – does it motivate you to keep going? – do you long for it?

When Jesus affirms that they know where he is going (14:4), Thomas wants some clarification (not the first time). This reflects the disciples’ inability to comprehend that the cross will be the way Jesus will return to the Father. Even if they understood, they would have had trouble accepting. Their version of a Jewish Messiah was getting rid of the Romans.

Of the three terms, way, truth and life, the heavy emphasis is on the first. Access to the Father’s presence will only be through Jesus and no other. This is because Jesus ***is the truth*** – the one who reveals God and that means we will have ***LIFE*** eternally.

1. This is a very absolute statement. Do modern people find it too much to swallow? How do these claims of Jesus go down in a multi-faith world? How do we deal with what some people call an arrogant view that Jesus is the only way to a relationship with the one true God?

Jesus’ statement closely identifies him with his Father. Only the Father can lead us to himself and the Father is genuinely present in Jesus. It’s an echo of John 1:14 where it says ‘the word became flesh and dwelt among us’. In other words, Jesus Christ is God in complete human form and this means that he has the capacity to accomplish divine tasks. So, we shouldn’t be surprised about the miracles of Jesus and about all he said and did.

1. Philip clearly doesn’t get it when he says ‘show us the Father’. Jesus then gives his followers a complete statement about his identity. He is one with the Father – if you see Jesus, you see the Father. (v 10 and 11).

Is it hard to believe that as we read about Jesus and ‘see’ him, we are seeing the very person who created the heavens and the earth?

Do we limit Jesus when we use terms like Jesus is my ‘friend’ or even my ‘mate’.

Have we overdone the humanity of Jesus at the expense of him being the eternal God?