

Where Are You Going?

Promise: baptism joins us to the benefits of Jesus' death and resurrection

Pastor Timothy A. Duesenberg

Acts 6:1-9; 7:2a, 51-60; Psalm 146; 1 Peter 2:2-10; [John 14:1-14](#)
(Fifth Sunday of Easter, 5/10/20)

Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me." — v 6

Lead In – Where are you going? This seems to be a very good question for us to be asking each other. Where are you headed in your life? What destination do you seek? What are you living for? All good questions! But in the context of our Gospel Lesson, the question is being addressed to Jesus by Peter...

I. Where Jesus Is Going They Cannot Follow NOW

- Departure immediately refers to His death...
- Jesus spoke of His hour having come... Jn 13:1
- Jesus speaks of disciples fleeing and denying...

II. In the Light of the Disciples' Miserable Failure

- More concern for them than for Himself...
- On preparing many dwellings... When and how?
- Temporal dwelling until the return of Christ...

III. Following Does Involve Death and the Tomb

- Ready to follow, but not ready for how...
- In dying with Him we are connected to...
- Already, not yet, connected to resurrected life...

Parting Shot – So the question, "Where are you going?", was first addressed to Jesus! But when we understand where He has gone, the question is now appropriately asked of us. "Where are you going?" To what end? On what path? And following who or what? Jesus said the way to the Father in the celestial kingdom of a new heaven and earth is by way of Him – being joined to His death in Baptism, and then living in ongoing repentance – contrition over sin and faith in the promise of forgiveness...

Jn 13:36-38 ³⁶Simon Peter said to him, "Lord, where are you going?" Jesus answered him, "Where I am going you cannot follow me now, but you will follow afterward." ³⁷Peter said to him, "Lord, why can I not follow you now? I will lay down my life for you." ³⁸Jesus answered, "Will you lay down your life for me? Truly, truly, I say to you, the rooster will not crow till you have denied me three times.

Mk 8:31 ³¹And he began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders and the chief priests and the scribes and be killed, and after three days rise again.

Mk 10:38-39 ³⁸Jesus said to them, "You do not know what you are asking. Are you able to drink the cup that I drink, or to be baptized with the baptism with which I am baptized?" ³⁹And they said to him, "We are able." And Jesus said to them, "The cup that I drink you will drink, and with the baptism with which I am baptized, you will be baptized,

Mk 14:31 ³¹But [Peter] said emphatically, "If I must die with you, I will not deny you." And they all said the same.

Jesus prepares a dwelling for us by going to the cross and tomb where He atones for sins, thus defeating sin, death, and the devil!

John 14:1-14 ESV

I Am the Way, and the Truth, and the Life

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

⁸Philip said to him, "Lord, show us the Father, and it is enough for us." ⁹Jesus said to him, "Have I been with you so long, and you still do not know me, Philip? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'? ¹⁰Do 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 authority, but the Father who dwells in me does his works. ¹¹Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me, or else believe on account of the works themselves.

¹²"Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever believes in me will also do the works that I do; and greater works than these will he do, because I am going to the Father. ¹³Whatever you ask in my name, this I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. ¹⁴If you ask me anything in my name, I will do it.

Ph 3:20 ²⁰But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ,

Ro 6:4-5 ⁴We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life. ⁵For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his.

In baptism God forgives sins, delivers from death and the devil, and gives everlasting salvation...

Ac 4:12 ¹²And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.

It means our sinful self, with all its deeds and desires should be drowned through daily repentance...

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