

## Jesus is the disciple's way to the father.

### Question 1 The source of comfort and peace.

The disciples have been told by Jesus they are not going with him. (Jn 13:36). They must have been aware that he was likely to be executed soon. Peter had said that he would lay down his life for Jesus. (Jn 13:37).

- a) Under those circumstances, how would YOU feel about being told to not let your heart be troubled?
- b) What would bring you comfort in the face of a friend's impending death?
  - a. Knowing that you would see them later in heaven?
  - b. Knowing that they were in heaven?
  - c. ??

Note Jesus' reaction to the death of his friend Lazarus (John 11:35-38)

Jesus is not addressing our appropriate response to all deaths. Rather he is addressing specifically the appropriate response to his going where the disciples cannot yet come. Fundamentally Jesus is saying that he is not leaving them for long. Should the disciples have considered that this was a good reason for not being troubled?

Would you trade 3 years following Jesus on earth for having the Paraclete with you now?

- c) What promise was meant to stop the disciples having troubled hearts? (Jn 14:2) What does this promise mean? Is it a promise to be welcomed by Jesus into heaven at the last judgement or when we die? (Jn 14:23) What is the Father's house? (John 2:16-22; 1:14)
- d) At the end of the chapter Jesus promises peace (14:27). How does the world give peace? How does Jesus give peace? What does it have to do with the instruction to "let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid"? (John 14:1 and 14:27) Do you have the peace Jesus promised?

### Question 2

Jesus has been sent by the Father to do his works. (Jn 14:10-11) They show that he and the Father are one. What does Jesus say about the works of those who believe in him because he goes [back] to the Father? (Jn 14:12)?

- a) Does this mean that Christians do greater things than Jesus did? Why is this made possible by Jesus' return to the Father? What does Jesus' return to the Father change for those who believed and believe in him?
  - a. In term of God's presence with believers. (Jn 14:16; Jn 14:18; Jn 14:25)
  - b. In terms of the characteristics of believers. (Jn 15:15; 14:21; 14:23). How are love and obedience linked? Are they the cause of God making his dwelling with us or the effect?
- b) Prayer is the way the great things are accomplished (14:13-14).
  - a. What does asking "in my name" mean? (see the references to the characteristics of believers above (Question 2 a) b. and note that the Father sends the Holy Spirit in Jesus' name. Jn 14:26). In what way does the phrase mean representing Jesus? Do we have carte blanche to

ask for anything on the basis of this promise? (Jn 14:14) If we ask in Jesus' name does that limit what we can ask for?

- b. What is the purpose of Jesus' answering our prayers (Jn 14:13)? If the Father is to be glorified "in the Son" how is that achieved by the answering of our prayers? Does that help to explain how believers will do the works Jesus does and even greater works (Jn 14:12). Do Jesus' works stop with his death and resurrection?
- c. Do you see yourself as doing the works Jesus did?

### Question 3

None of the disciples understood who Jesus was and is.

- a) Thomas didn't understand that Jesus was the way to the Father (Jn 14:5)? How can a person be "the way" and not just show the way? (Jn 14:6) What is Jesus the way to? How can Jesus **be** the truth not just reveal the truth? (note Jesus description of the Holy Spirit as the Spirit of truth who will be in you 14:17) What is the life Jesus is talking about (cf. Jn 17:3)? When is this life realised in individuals?

Do the ideas of "truth" and "life" explain how Jesus can be the way?

- b) Philip just wanted Jesus to show the disciples the Father (Jn 14:9). Can you identify with this request? Why does knowing Jesus mean that we know the Father (Jn 14:10;11).
- c) Judas wonders "*But, Lord, why do you intend to show yourself to us and not to the world?*" (Jn 14:22) ie why don't you make yourself obvious to everybody – even your enemies. What is Jesus' answer? (Jn 14:23,24) Does Jesus manifest himself with facts or with relationship?
- d) If you had the chance, what would you ask Jesus in order to be confident that he was from the Father and that you were dwelling in his Father's house.