

Whenever I go on a long journey, I never set off without a sat nav because it's so much easier than trying to read a map.

And maybe you're the same.

You see instead of having to work out a route and then follow a complicated map, I just type an address in; the sat nav then connects to a satellite somewhere in space and works out the journey for me.

And if I take a wrong turn, it re calculates and puts me back on the right road.

In that reading Jesus tells the disciples that they're going a journey.

But he says before they set off; he's going ahead of them to prepare accommodation for when they eventually arrive.

So, at the end of chapter 13 Jesus tells the disciples he's about to leave them.

He says in verse 36: Where I am going you cannot follow me now, but you will follow me afterwards.

As a result, the disciples are understandably upset and confused, because they're not sure where he's going and why they can't go with him.

As a result, Jesus says:

Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God believe also in me.

You see he understands their anxiety and wants to reassure them that everything is going to work out.

In fact, the word troubled here means to have all their emotions stirred up because Jesus is leaving.

So, it's like a cake mixture of fear, doubt, and confusion, all being whisked up in a bowl.

So, listen to this:

This potent mix of emotions is motivated by Jesus's departure. How can he leave them and why can't they follow him?

Take those questions and add them to the fact that one disciple will betray Jesus and another will deny him, and you have a recipe for anxiety strong enough to paralyse the most mature disciple.

Well it's in this emotionally charged atmosphere that Jesus says let not your

hearts be troubled believe in God believe also in me.

Now of course Jesus isn't telling the disciples to believe in him for the first time, because they've already been following him for the past 3 years.

What he's saying is keep on believing me, keep trusting me, and keep relying on me even when you don't understand what's going on yet.

So, Psalm 116 says: I believed even when I was greatly afflicted.

Well you know in difficult times when our own emotions are stirred up, because anxiety or fear, I wonder where *we look* for peace and reassurance?

Maybe it's our families, how many likes we get on Facebook, a bottle of wine, or a healthy bank balance.

Well whatever it is Jesus reminds to look to him, and says believe in God, believe also in me.

You see it's in Christ that troubled hearts find peace.

You know at this precise moment scientists around the world are trying to develop a vaccine for the coronavirus.

Jesus says in times of stress and uncertainty, the antidote to the virus of anxiety and fear, is to believe in him.

And in verse 2 says the disciples can have confidence, because he's leaving to prepare a place for them to eventually be with him.

You see following his death and resurrection Jesus will go home to his Father in Heaven.

And because he died and rose again, his home becomes their home.

He says in my Father's house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go and prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and take you to myself, that where I am you may be also.

So, Jesus says don't worry; when everything's ready I'll come back and take you to your new and better home, where every stress, anxiety, and difficulty will be gone forever.

You see heaven isn't a figment of someone's imagination, Jesus says it's a real place, a different address, that has rooms for everyone who puts their trust in him.

Well in response Thomas says in verse 5:
Lord we don't know where you're going, so how can we know the way?

So, in response Jesus says look don't worry, Thomas, I've got a sat nav you can borrow, that'll point you in the right direction!

And if that doesn't work, just use a map!

Well Jesus doesn't say that does he.

No Jesus says Thomas if you want to know the way to heaven:

"I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one can come to the Father except through me."

Now if you've ever looked at Google maps, or been on a long journey, you'll know that different roads can lead to the same place.

Well in a similar way, there are lots of people who think there are different ways that lead to God.

So, for example some people think that being a good person is the way to heaven.

Other's think that religion's the road that leads to God.

Some people even think that going to church and saying our prayers will get us there.

But you know according to Jesus, there aren't lots of roads, or routes, or pathways that lead to God, there's only one way; and if we don't follow that way; we'll eventually reach a sign that says: ROAD CLOSED.

You see we can only reach our heavenly destination, by trusting Jesus.

It's not religion, going to church, or trying to be a better version of myself that makes me a Christian, it's trusting a person.

And in a culture that says you're free to believe anything or nothing Jesus corrects that kind of thinking by saying:

I am the way, the truth, and the life; "No one comes to the Father except through me."

William Barclay says:

[Jesus] doesn't just give good advice and directions. He takes us by the hand and leads us. He doesn't just tell us about the way; he is the Way.

Well then in verse 7 Jesus goes on to say:

If you had known me, you would have known my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him.

Well that's a very clear statement from Jesus isn't it about his divine nature.

And if Jesus is who he says he is, then there can only be one way to the Father?

And so, when people say there are lots of roads that lead to God what they're really saying is that Jesus isn't who he says he is.

Then in verse 8:

Philip says to him, Lord show us the father and that will be enough for us.

Jesus said to him, have I been with you so long, and you still do not know me Philip?

Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me?

That's an incredible thing to say isn't it, you see if we know Jesus, we know God.

But that's not everything is it.

The mystery of the Trinity is also seen here, because later on Jesus promises to send the Holy Spirit as a helper.

He then goes on to say: 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.

So, listen to this:

Sometimes people draw a distinction between what Jesus says and what the rest of the Bible says. But although Jesus didn't physically utter the words that make up the letters of Paul, or the Acts of the Apostles, or the books of Moses, if everything that Jesus says is what God says, then all the Bible, in this sense, are the words of Jesus.

So, the challenge is to read the Bible regularly because it's God's word that works as a spiritual sat nav as we travel through life, at work, at home, and at school.

We also see that the *works of Jesus*, are God's, you see only God can walk on water, heal the sick and raise the dead.

Then verse 12 says:

Truly truly I say to you whoever believes in me will also do the works that I do and greater works that these will you do, because I'm going to the Father.

Now that doesn't mean we'll be able to perform greater miracles than Jesus did, it means that by sending the Holy Spirit the church will be equipped to carry on his mission of evangelism.

So that through us more lives will be changed globally than Jesus reached in his earthly ministry.

And if Jesus says we're part of something greater than what he did, surely that should motivate us to tell people about him.

Then in Verse 14 Jesus says: If you ask me anything in my name, I will do it.

So, if you want a new Lamborghini or big house with an indoor swimming pool just pray.

Now unfortunately some Christians interpret the verse like that, forgetting what comes in verse 13:

Whatever you ask in my name, this I will do, that the Father may be glorified.

In other words, to ask in Jesus name isn't a magic formula to get what we want, it's to pray for things according to God's will.

So, listen to this:

If a lawyer represents you in court, they're meant to do things in your name. That means they're meant to do what you want, as a fair representation of who you are.

Similarly, to ask for something in Jesus name means to ask for things that Jesus wants to happen, and that reflect Jesus' desires and purposes.

You see that's why it's so important to read the Bible as well as pray, so that our prayers are biblically informed and shaped according to God's will.

Finally, as we travel through this life towards our heavenly home Jesus says: Do not let your hearts be troubled believe in God, believe also in me.