THE WAY / Colin Marshall

WARM UP One of my favourite memories is of tramping through dense bush for several days following a compass bearing rather than any paths. As long as we had that compass we knew the way, even though we had no idea what obstacles lay ahead. It didn't matter if we hit deep ravines or high ridges, or even bush so dense we almost couldn't see our hands in front of our faces, as long as we could see that compass we were ok. What joy at the end of the journey to find we were right



on target!

READ | John 14:4-15

BACKGROUND

The term "the Way" had deep significance for the Jewish people as they were the followers of "God's Way". The early Christians were first called followers of the Way (as we see in Acts 9:2 when Saul set out to persecute them). This new way was the Way of Jesus Christ, a radical re-interpretation of the heart and spirit of the Scriptures as lived out and taught by Jesus of Nazareth. This was not coincidental. Jesus' famous statement in John 14:6 was unequivocal, "I am the way, the truth and the life, no man comes to the Father but by Me." Jesus identified Himself with the most critical aspect of discipleship - how to live, integrity and the life that comes from it. In each case the Way was about how to live day by day. As we have in Jesus a very clear example and role model to follow, we need to really know Him in order to be able to follow Him.

QUESTIONS |

1 You are happy to accept Jesus as Saviour but to what degree do you accept Him as Lord (the One who you are to follow)?

2 In John 14:8 Phillip asked for what he already had. Can we share examples of where we see this in our own lives?

3 What happens when you follow your own way instead of God's leading?

4 How do you get support to stay on the right path?

CONSIDER THIS

Jesus' comment in Matthew 7:13-14 is an understandably unpopular one. It speaks of there being a wide and a narrow way – one leading to destruction and the other to life. Many follow the ease of the first and few the difficulties of the latter.

On a more positive note, each person who takes a stand in solid, dedicated and consistent commitment to following Jesus' Way with integrity, provides what the world is desperately seeking. Have you ever considered that it might not be that the world loves to pull Christians down, but rather is so looking for true followers of the Way that they are furious when they find hypocrisy instead? Your quiet, dedicated and consistent following of the Way should shout your faith to those who are searching for the path.

MY RESPONSE AS A PROMISE KEEPER |

What do I need to apply from what I have learned from this study?



WRAP UP

Following Jesus' Way is a lifelong journey. Jesus provides an unprecedented compass for us to follow that will be there for us through every twist and turn, up and down of life's journey. There is none better and there is only one Way to life in all its fullness.

IT'S TIME FOR PRAYER