

Bermudian Church of the Brethren

WEDNESDAY'S WORD – a midweek thought from Pastor Larry M. Dentler
to share a word of inspiration ... encouragement ... challenge ... a smile ... in the middle of your week
January 23 in the year of our Lord 2019 - #773

Blind Trust

He was looking for a roadmap. He was looking for G.P.S. coordinates. After all ... Jesus had just said that *"you know the way to the place where I am going."* (John 14:4) Maybe none of the others, reclining around that Passover table in the Upper Room on that strange night, were going to say it ... but Thomas was! Maybe they were all willing to be left behind but not Thomas. So he blurted out his response to Jesus' words.

"Lord, we don't know where you are going, so how can we know the way?" (John 14:5)

They had argued on the way to the Upper Room. (see Luke 22:24) Thomas wasn't proud of that. Everyone knew that things were coming to a head. This week had made that very clear! From the grand parade into Jerusalem on Sunday with the exultant crowd waving palm branches and shouting, *"Hosanna!"* (see John 12:12-13) To Jesus' ugly scene in the Temple when He upset the money changers' tables and drove out the sacrifice sellers! (see Matthew 21:12) To His harsh condemnation of the Temple leaders on Tuesday. For Heaven's sake He called the leaders *"hypocrites," "blind guides," "whitewashed tombs," "brood of vipers,"* ...and then stormed out of the Temple with the words, *"your house is left desolate to you."* (see Matthew 23:13,16,23,27,29,33 and 38) Ichabod! The glory of the Lord has departed! Yep...things were coming to a head!

Tonight He began by washing their feet! (see John 13:5) It made the shamefulness of their arguing even more shameful! He broke and gave them the Passover unleavened bread and said, *"This is my Body given for you."* (Luke 22:19) After the meal He lifted the Cup of Redemption from the Passover table and said, *"This Cup is the New Covenant in my blood which is poured out for you."* (Luke 22:20) And then He told them, *"My children, I will be with you only a little longer."* (John 13:33)

You could have heard a pin drop on the floor of the Upper Room! Their hearts were pounding! Leaving them? No longer with them! What? Where?

And then He said it, *"You know the way to the place where I am going."* (John 14:4) That wasn't enough for Thomas! Tell me where you are going! I need a place! An address!

"Lord, we don't know where you are going, so how can we know the way?" (John 14:5)

And Jesus' answer? His famous answer. Those beloved words. *"I am the Way and the Truth and the Life. No one comes to the Father except through me."* (John 14:6)

I've loved these words and this passage for years. In nearly every funeral I've ever officiated in 47 years of ministry I've read John 14. But only recently did a devotional that Cathy & I were reading make this clear to me. Jesus DOES NOT give Thomas the answer he was seeking! His answer to the "way" is simply ... trust me! (see John 14:1)

A dear Sister from our congregation recently celebrated a “milestone” birthday. Her recent months and years have been filled with difficulties. She was all fired up for her new year. *“It’s going to be **MY** year!”* she boldly proclaimed. Get her life in order. Strengthen her spiritual walk. Then life happened! A chain of unfortunate events on the family farm. A lingering illness rearing its ugly head. An untimely and sad loss of a prized newborn farm animal. A day of puking. Embarrassed, she realized the folly of proclaiming *“It’s going to be **MY** year!”* And with an Upper Room like clarity she humbled herself to say, *“**MY** plan to be a better person cannot be carried out without God’s Word, the Holy Spirit’s guidance, and Jesus Christ in every area of my life.”*

The truth is that our Lord doesn’t always show us clearly every step before us. Often there are no G.P.S. coordinates given. No *Trip-Tik*. No roadmap. Often, even as we step into the fog of difficult times, He asks us to simply trust and keep our focus on Him. We want to know the way through this broken relationship. How am I to get through this mess at work? How am I to see my way through the ache of this loss? What is going to happen with this nagging health issue? And the Lord looks into our eyes and hearts with great love and says, *“Trust me ... I am the way!”* I’m praying for a great year for you and your family! And you know, I’m praying for a better year for my family too. But no matter what the “way” ahead holds I know I am loved with an a wonderful love, and I commit to simply keeping my eyes on Jesus and God’s Word. How about you?

Pastor Larry <><