

Message for Easter 5A - 10 May 2020

The way, truth, life - John 14.1-14.

Jesus said; 'I am the way, and the truth, and the life, no one comes to the Father except through me.' John 14.6

These words are often heard at funerals and are usually thought of as meaning something like: "don't be sad when I'm gone."

But it is much more accurate to translate these words as this; "Don't panic. Don't drop your bundle. Remain calm and determined when the heat is on, when it looks like the opposition has the upper hand and you are losing the battle."

"Hold your nerve. When it looks like everything is falling apart and going against you, when there isn't enough money and nobody is listening to you, hold your nerve."

Jesus is saying: "I am the way and you will not get lost if you follow me. I am the honest truth, and those who follow my way, though it not be easy, will not be disappointed, they will eventually arrive at a better place."

"Hold your nerve, I am the truth, and those who abide in me will find the truth setting them free."

"Hold your nerve. I am the life, and my life can never be held captive by the grip of death. When it looks like the powers of death are always at work in politics, in our lives and the lives of people we love, hold your nerve. No matter how complete death's victory may appear, I will rise up again and with me all the victims of death will be raised to new life. And I will come again and take you to myself. The power of death will be broken forever, and all of God's people will be free."

"Hold your nerve, I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No matter what they do to you, they cannot tear you out of the Father's hands. They cannot separate you from the love of God.

You are the temple of the Holy Spirit, and you are therefore part of my Father's house, which is built from the living stones of those who hold together with me on the way. They have tried by force and deceit to destroy the royal priesthood and holy nation into which you have been called, but they cannot demolish my Father's house.

They cannot lock you from the life of the Father, because it is me, not them, who decides who comes to the Father. You come to the Father on my say-so, not theirs. So hold your nerve. Hang in there, tough it

out, be strong and resilient. This is the way to which you have been called. This is the way to persevere in. This is the way of life for you. Hold your nerve."

For it is by living this way that we are raised to life by Christ in God. We simply give witness to the one way in which we have found life and truth, and urge others to follow this way and hold their nerve and hang in there. For to those who keep going, Christ has said, "I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, in the love and life of God, there you may be also."

Jesus is the way—let us follow Him.

Jesus is the truth—let us build our confidence on His promises.

Jesus is the life—let us remain in Him, abide in Him, the source of all life, until He receives us into our eternal home above.

Love will find a way. Love is the truth. Love will conquer death. Amen.

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John 10:28-29 – "I give them eternal life, and they will never perish. No one will snatch them out of my hand. What my Father has given me is greater than all else, and no one can snatch it out of the Father's hand."

Isaiah 41.10 – "do not fear, for I am with you, do not be afraid, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my victorious right hand."

James 4.8 – "Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded."

Isaiah 49.15 – "Can a woman forget her nursing child, or show no compassion for the child of her womb? Even these may forget, yet I will not forget you."