



PASTOR'S

Perspective

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For He is still Lord and Master, still the source and the culmination of everything and thus since nothing begins or ends without Him, we really can be at ease.

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These twelve men had followed Jesus for a long time now. They had walked the dusty roads, they had no place to call home, they had left their families and occupations behind and time after time had placed themselves in harm's way. There were days when they weren't sure if they would eat and certainly there were times when they had to have questioned their decisions to follow after this man and phenomenon known as Jesus. Even in spite of all of this, they were still for the most part confident that their decision to follow Him had been the right one.

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But as of late it all seemed to be coming to the point of unraveling. It appears that Jesus is talking more and more about death and leaving them and even going back to His Father. The disciples had wanted to believe and for the most part their imaginations had been stretched to the point where they were just about fully convinced that He was **“THE ONE.”** But then Jesus started talking this death talk and suddenly the air that had inflated their hopes and dreams of this coming Kingdom slowly started to seep from their heightened expectations and it seemed as though everything was now going flat.

One day according to John 13 Jesus foretold of His betrayal by one of the disciples. Then He told of Peter's denial. It seemed that the work these men had engaged and the commitments they had made were now suspect even by Jesus. Why Jesus did this we can only project. We can't really know for sure. Maybe Jesus told of this to show His supernatural power. Maybe He told of this to give full flavor to the unfolding story of His passion which was about to take place. Still maybe yet, He told of this to show how fickle and unpredictable the human spirit is and how when it really comes down to the nuts and bolts of things we cannot make it on our own. But one thing we do know is that Jesus gave an assurance to His disciples even in the midst of this mystery which He began both to reveal and engage. His assurance is found in John 14 in

those opening lines. “Let not your heart be troubled. You believe in God believe also in me.” Then He concludes this comforting passage with the words, “I am the way, the truth, and the life: no one comes to the Father but by me.”

There it is! That's what Jesus was doing. He was getting His disciples ready to live without Him. He was telling them that even though He may not be physically with them they still had no reason to worry, because after all He was the way, the truth and the life and everything comes by and through Him anyhow. So for you and for me the same holds true. Since Jesus is not physically with us it does not matter. For He is still Lord and Master, still the source and the culmination of everything and thus since nothing begins or ends without Him, we really can be at ease. Since He is the way, the truth and the life, all of what you experience and must contend with is overarched by Jesus being in everything and over everything. What a comforting assurance. If you have lost your way, He is The Way! If you have no way out, He is your liberation. If you are wondering about life's certainty, He is the truth! If you are without a life and seeking solidarity, He is the The Life! “I am the Way, the Truth and the Life” Jesus blares out according to John. That's what He was to His first disciples. That's what He has been through the ages and that's what He is even now to you and me. He is the Way, the Truth and the Life. You can't get to the Father without going through Him. Learn of His way!