

5th Sun Easter A... Jesus is the Way, the Truth, and the Life

Introduction...

What do we mean when we say that Jesus is the Way, the Truth and the Life?

Can Jesus tell us something about living in our 21st century?

Let's consider what it means for us that Jesus is the Way, the Truth and the Life.

Sing... Jesus we adore you / lay our hearts before you / how we love you.

I Self Sufficiency

We live in a culture which stresses self-sufficiency,
being captain of our ship,
being "in control"... or at least appearing so.

We have to "come across" as being "on top of things".

We have to have the rite answers,
and we're not supposed to say "I don't really know."

However, at times life is fragile and at times messy.

We can't always be in control.

Life's problems are complex and don't readily submit to quick fixes –
presently the Middle East certainly shows us how little we are in control, and
how a quick solution, an "answer", is not easily available.

Many of our own life's problems don't easily surrender to control and easy
answers...

a drug addicted family member,
a loved one who has lost his or her job,

death of a friend or loved one.

These kinds of experiences remind us that we can't always be in control, that we're not always the captain of the ship, and that we don't always have the right answer.

Our need to control a situation, give a rite answer, or be of top of things isn't bad...

parents and grandparents and indeed all of us need to have some control over life's situations, have to have some right answers and give wise advice if possible...

But we all need to realize that many times life is more fragile and much more complex and more messy than we like to admit.

Sing... Jesus we adore you / lay our hearts before you / how we love you.

III An Example

Several years ago I was celebrating a friend's son's wedding in New York. I met with the young couple, and out of curiosity I asked them why they wanted to get married in the Church –

why they wanted a Sacramental Marriage.

I was so touched by their reply.

They said that both of them wanted God to be a part of their marriage and the family which they would raise.

They wanted Jesus to be their Good Shepherd.

They realized that marriage is not always easy, and there would be challenges ahead.

There would be good and bad times,

successes and failures, ups and downs...

They wanted God to be a part of that mix.

They believed in Jesus' teachings, his compassion, his faithfulness to his Father – and they needed His help in their lives.

They admired Jesus and were committed to Him.

Each day they would ask God to bless their marriage, their relationship, their decisions and their family.

They knew that they had to do the "leg work", that they had to work at making their marriage a go... but they didn't want to do it alone.

They knew that both sides of their families could be helpful in supporting them,

and sometimes family relationships can be draining and not too helpful.

But whatever... they know that they could not do it by themselves, and that they wanted God and Jesus to be a part of their marriage.

They knew that God was on their side,

that Jesus walked with them and loved them and wanted to strengthen, nourish and help them in their marriage.

Jesus was their Way, their Truth and their Life.

Sing... Jesus we adore you / lay our hearts before you / how we love you.

III Jesus is the Way, the Truth, and the Life

I believe their desire to have God and Jesus in their marriage helps all of us to understand the significance of having Jesus as our Way, our Truth, and Our Life.

We disciples of Jesus realize that our lives come from God and go to God, and that Jesus walks with us each day of our lives, whether we realize it or not.

*We have to do our part – we have to develop our talents,
and try to live as good and virtuous people.
But ultimately we are God’s kids, and God loves us.
That’s what Jesus came to tell us,
and He even put His life on the line when others did not accept his way, his
truth and his life.*

We realize as Christians that while we have to try to do the right thing and
have some of the right answers,
and be on top of things as best as we can...

But we realize that our lives are fragile,
that we aren’t always in control,
that, as a matter of fact, at times we are downright sinful and hurtful,
at times we can be lazy, or lustful,
angry or prideful,
envious or greedy, or glutinous (the 7 capital sins).
None of us are perfect.

Thus we realize that we need God in our lives to forgive us, to heal us, to
strengthen us, to guide us –
and Jesus taught this, and even laid his life to save us from our own
sinfulness –
from leading lives that were contrary to His Way of living.

The temptations will be there.

So often our culture blesses some of these “vices”.

But Jesus’ way is different.

He calls us to live virtuous, other-centered lives,
where service is important,
and where a simple life style is enough.

Sing... Jesus we adore you / lay our lives before you / how we love you.

V Let's Pray

Let's pray...

Lord, come into our hearts right now,
come into our marriages,
come into our work lives,
come into our home lives,
and help us, walk with us, guide us, heal us and strengthen us. Be our Way,
our Truth, and our Life..

In this Eucharist feed us with your body and blood,
food and nourishment for our journey.

In those fragile and messy moments our lives let us know that you are our
Good Shepherd.

Sing... Jesus we adore you / lay our hearts before you / how we love you.