

Who knows the way to live life?

Actually, lots of people do. You can read their books from the local store about living life with Financial Success Assured, or with a Zen Balance, or with a Positive Attitude, or with Power Based Confidence. Then there are all sorts of clubs, political parties and religious organisations which will relieve you of having to think for yourself.

All of these are very attractive.

I think Thomas was looking for one of these when he said, "How can we know the way?"

And Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life."

I feel sorry for Thomas because this answer doesn't make a lot of sense straight off. It's a bit like in Star Wars when "Trust the Force, Luke" is the advice given to our young hero. He really was looking for clearer instructions about how to fly a space-craft.

The right answer to "How do I find the way to live my life?" many of you already know.

You just do what seems to be right and you try to follow the plan you have made. But the plan often gets disturbed by unforeseen events, and life swings to one side or another, speeds up or stops, and sometimes it feels like you just crashed. So you get up in the morning and try to figure out what to do today.

You may have planned to follow a career, or to be a family, or to achieve certain goals. These may happen or not, no one can be sure.

I had a friend, who now lives in Holland, who wanted to be a priest in a hip-hop-happening church in Ontario. All his plans went in other directions. His plan to serve God was all about external appearances, about places, about activities. He found himself in a most unlikely church. There he found God in the way that congregation exchanged the peace, how they organized bake sales, and how they served tea and sandwiches to people at funeral lunches. Slowly he began to understand that it wasn't about what you achieved. It wasn't about how things looked on the outside. It was about noticing that God was inside what was already there. It was about working with God in the midst of the ordinary every-day life he was living.

None of us, I suspect, will go down in history for having had exemplary lives. I think this is OK.

But I think, in the Kingdom of Heaven, some of us are becoming saints.

Holiness is found in how you get through the day.

True holiness is found in how you live each moment. How you deal with each person who is in front of you in the "right now" of each moment.

Saintliness is about how you try to be Christ-like in the apparently unimportant events and interactions.

Suddenly Jesus' reply begins to make sense

Jesus said, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."

The only way to God is the Way of Life Jesus lived. You need to read the Gospels over and over again until you know it.

The only way to know what is true is to ask if it sounds like something Jesus would say, or reflects how he lived, loved, cared, prayed, reached out, died.

The only sort of life that will bring you close to the father is the sort of life he lived. So you need to think about "What Would Jesus Do?" in all the small moments of your life, so that your life can have the same feel, or quality as his.

You are not called to save the world or get crucified. But you are called to be Christ-like in the midst of the modest life that has been set before you.

Jesus said that if you want to be great, you must be last, and the willing servant of all. So put yourself, your demands for what must be, and your plans for yourself and others all to one side, and follow the way, the truth and the life you see in Jesus.

Then, in one of the many rooms, one designed especially for you to be at home in, in his father's house, there will be a great welcome waiting for you at life's end.