

I am the way and the truth and the life. You may think of many things you need but what you truly need can all be summed up, **I am the way and the truth and the life.**

The way. A US soldier in WW2, a prisoner of the Japanese, escaped out into the jungle; he came across a native villager who agreed to be his guide, guide him out of the jungle, to keep him safe from the enemy, so he can ultimately get back home. And so they went through the thick jungle, cutting their way inch by inch through the terrain. After hours, the soldier became increasingly frustrated, fatigued in the dense jungle, now exhausted, disoriented - he cried out- do you know the way? The guide calmly said, there is no way. I am the way. With us too, there is no way out of the jungle of this world, only eternal death remains here. Jesus says **I am the way.**

And the truth. In disagreements in our marriages, us men think sometimes if my wife would only listen to me, we'd both be right. We should long for what is right, what is good, what is true.

A man stood in front of Jesus once and asked, What is truth? That is still a question of our age. You know what the truth is? My heart and your heart are desperately wicked. You know what the truth is? Only God can change that and transform it. Makes things new.

Absolutely, objective truth. Outside of the individual. To know for sure. Absolute truth. when you stop at a stop light and you get a sensation, you see the car next to you moving, what do you do? You press your brake harder to be sure you aren't moving. And if the car you see is still moving, what you do, find a fixed object, a tree, a sign to measure yourself to it to know if you're stopped. But what if all the trees and signs and stop lights are moving, that is what post-modernism is doing to this world. No absolute. objective truth. Someone else's truth is just as valid as anybody else's truth and no one is wrong. When Jesus came he didn't just say here is truth, but I AM the truth. In the flesh, In His person. He is the point of reference for all truth.

5000 years ago on a mountain and man by the name of Abraham took his son up to a mountain to sacrifice and as a test of faith and as the axe is about to fall on the son. Remember what God said. stop! I myself will provide. 2000 years ago God kept that promise. He took His own Son up the mount and this time the axe did not stop. No other God, no other way of salvation. Truth -amid lies and false things- we cling to the historical truth of who Jesus is, what He has done, and how we get the goods. The history.

Of love the only love this world has ever known. What does love mean? Love mean where you are loved for your own sake, in spite of yourself. When your worth is given to you. You are given a sacred relationship to your mother, and unto God. The love of a mother God gave you and whether your mother was the greatest ever or you sadly had a great failure as a mother, you have love in spite of yourself. God loved for you is very unique. Love that by grace He has prepared a place for you. Even here and now, to live in this place, in this country, love of a family, love to be in this family, love poured out from this Chancel in Word and Sacrament you can hardly fathom. God has poured out His blessing upon us as no other people in the history of this world. Don't let the goodness of God lead you to reject Him, discard Him, lose track of Him. It so easily happens. That His love, His absolute truth is neglected. Repent.

You have an eternal way of measuring absolute truth, of measuring love. **I am the way and the truth and the life.** God has given you, your life immeasurable worth. In spite of yourself. Life is beyond the grave.

You know, you always think you are going to manage it your own way in life. It doesn't ever work that way. You are surrounded by so many things and people who seem alive, but it is an illusion and no life at all. today is the day set aside in our country to honor and celebrate mothers. what Hallmark says, what you see on TV, what you dream, this is a day of all smiles and love and togetherness. That is the way things ought to be. The fourth commandment perfectly kept, and not just for one day but everyday. But if you are a mother or ever had a mother - you know the way things *are* is often quite different than that. Being a mother is not all smiles and love and togetherness. Being a mother is tough, often means suffering. Often means disappointment, heart ache, failure, guilt, worry, pain, and tears. This is no easy life

But the only life here worth living, the only life with meaning, without end, is an intimacy He has joined you to Himself, the immeasurable worth He gives your life. It is yours. Praying in His name and receiving all hardship, all detours, all misfortune, all joys, all blessings with asking in His Name, which is to say, Your will Lord -not my will, Thy will be done. And it will be well you. **Let not your hearts be troubled.** When people say don't worry, sometimes you worry more, it doesn't fix it or make it better. Even when I tell you not to worry, it may only help a little. But when the creator of the universe says to you, **let not your hearts be troubled.** It's more than mere

words. His power and authority. These words give you all you need, the way, the love, the truth- the only thing in this world that matters. **Let not your hearts be troubled.** That changes everything for you. It is so. You are His. In His truth, in His way, in His life.