



A practical, provable, everyday miracle...

Tucked away in John 14:1 Jesus said, "Let not your hearts be troubled." As a disciple of Jesus, therefore, there is no need for me to be flustered, anxious, discouraged or depressed. Like my wife's tea cup says, I can "Keep calm and carry on."

Well, I'm not one of life's "keep calmers." It'll take a miracle every day for that to happen. But that's exactly what Jesus promises in John 14:6 when he tells Thomas, "I am the way and the truth and the life."

Jesus has just explained in verses 2 and 3 that he's "going to prepare a place" for his disciples in his Father's house. And after he's done that, he'll "come back and take you to be with me so that you also may be where I am." And then in verse 4 he says, "You know the way to the place where I am going."

And that's when Thomas pipes up and says, "Lord, we don't know where you're going, so how can we know the way?" And how many times have I felt that too, when I haven't got a clue where Jesus is taking me, or taking the church? My heart gets easily troubled when that happens.

So, I'm glad Thomas expressed his frustration, because Jesus comes up with his amazing answer in verse 6, that he is "the way." In context he means "the way" to where he is with the Father, or "the way" to the place in his Father's house where he resides. And Jesus is now opening up that way to Thomas and the other disciples, so they can be with him where he is to experience life with the Father as he, Jesus, is living it.

No wonder Jesus said, "Let not your hearts be troubled," because he is now providing his disciples with a way right into the dimension where he and his Father are. As a disciple of Jesus, then, does that mean I can enter that world too? And enter it every day, as well, because I need that. But how do I know I'm entering it?

Well, that takes us to Jesus saying he's also "the truth." In context, the truth he's talking about is having the power to lift his disciples into the world he's living in, because that's the power the Father has given him. As Jesus himself said in verse 10, it's "the Father, living in me, who is doing his work," the proof of which was "the miracles" he was doing (verse 11).

So, Jesus could make such a promise to his disciples, that they could experience life as he's living it, because the Father had given him the power to make it happen. It was an undeniable "truth," because his disciples could see the power Jesus had in the miracles he was doing. But Jesus then drops the bombshell that his disciples could experience that power too, because not only could they "do what I (Jesus) have been doing," but "even greater things," verse 12.

What a promise, that Jesus' disciples could experience the power of the Father doing miracles in them too. And not only what Jesus himself had been doing, they'd also be doing "even greater things," meaning millions of people through the ages would witness these miracles in Jesus' disciples, the fruit of those miracles being the disciples' untroubled hearts in a world full of troubles. And it's when that untroubled heart happens to me, that's how I know I'm entering the world Jesus is living in, as well.

It's meant to be an undeniable "truth" proving Jesus really is "the way" to being with him where he is. The only question remaining for me, then, is how does Jesus make it possible and real in my life?

And that takes us to Jesus saying he's "the life," as well. In context, Jesus is saying he'll do "whatever you (his disciples) ask in my name, so that the Son may bring glory to the Father," verse 13.

All it takes for the miracle of entering Jesus' world and experiencing life as he's living it to come to "life" and reality in me, then, is asking Jesus for it. And why ask Jesus? Because this is what he's dedicated his "life" to, in making his Father's love and plan for humanity come alive to "bring glory" to his Father. And how that love and plan of the Father come alive is in the everyday lives of Jesus' disciples, as Jesus fills us with his "life" and the dimension he lives in, the fruit of which is the miracle we experience of an untroubled heart in a trouble filled world.

Jesus does not promise his disciples a trouble-free life, but what he does promise is the practical, provable, everyday miracle of a trouble-free heart in this life - for simply trusting that he's "the way and the truth and the life." We can, therefore, according to my wife's tea cup, "Keep calm and carry on."

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