

John 14: 1- 14, Acts 7: 55 – 60, 1 Peter 2: 2 – 10.

What is the hardest question that you have ever asked?

What is the question that you have ever asked, and you think that it was the hardest question?

If you have the chance to ask a question to God, what would be the question that you want to ask? Maybe some of you have more than just one question, but more.

I asked you because our story begins with the disciples who are asking Jesus the hard questions, and those questions are at the centre of our story.

In the gospel, we can see a number of people come to Jesus and ask questions. We have Nicodemus ask Jesus how a grown man can go back into his mother's womb and be born again. And also, the Samaritan woman wants to know where she can get the living water that never thirsts again.

Not only these two people, but there are more disciples and followers, and all ask questions to Jesus. Through questions, Jesus teaches more deeply the truth that he has to reveal.

A night before Jesus was crucified, Jesus and the disciples were in the upper room. Jesus washed their feet and shared a meal with them.

At that time, Judas went out to deny him. Jesus told Simon Peter that he was going to deny him.

There was a tension there, and it was a time of unease. They were not sure what would happen at that moment. The disciples were listening to what Jesus had to say to them.

Jesus said, "Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me." John 14:1.

In that uncertainty, everyone is denying him, and Jesus faced his crucifixion and death on the cross, while everyone is not sure and in uncertainty. Jesus offered them hope.

Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me.”

Jesus offers more than just hope; he offers a sense of direction here, for people who are in uncertainty, and for people who don't seem to know what to do and where to go when Jesus died.

Jesus offers a direction that can provide a sense of security in uncertainty.

“Believe in God and also believe in me.” John 14:1.

Here, we have Thomas who has many doubts, asks Jesus the hardest question of all time, “Lord, we don't know where you are going, so how can we know the way?” John14: 5.

Thomas's question “tell us where you are going” John 14:5 can be a fair question in life.

I don't know which way I should go? I don't know what to do in life, I don't know who I should follow? Who do I friend with, where do I find happiness? Where do I find meaningful life, abundant life, live life to the full?

Maybe, these are the questions that we ask every day. If not, then these questions are somehow in our back of our mind whatever we do as we think about life and death and between and beyond.

A sense of direction is what we are looking for when we are in uncertainty, when we don't know where we are going.

And Jesus gives direction.

Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me.”

What do we suppose to believe?

The Palmists say in 121: I lift up my eyes to the mountains, where does my help come from?

2 My help comes from the Lord, the Maker of heaven and earth.”

In Hebrew, the Apostle encourages us “to fix our eye upon Jesus who is the pioneer and perfecter of faith.” In Hebrew 12: 2.

Jesus is saying to us to fix our attention to him, in uncertainty, in fear, and when there is no sense of hope. So that you don't worry about the things that are not ours to worry about.

Most of the time, we worry about things that are not ours to worry about.

Our hearts are troubled with the things that do not belong to us.

"A survey of a broad population from a 2019 study indicates that 90% of our worries are not resolved simply by worrying about them."

Our passage gives a direction, and that direction is to believe in God and believe also in Jesus.

It means we fix our eyes on him, turn to him who is able to help us to give us a sense of direction and a sense of belief, so that we know what when we are uncertainty, in fear.

His sense of direction is this,

“I am the way, the truth, and the life.” John 14:6.

Jesus is saying to us that there is no one, absolutely no one, who has been through birth, suffering, pain, and life and death, and resurrection, except me.

Maybe Enoch, who ‘walked with God,’ and was taken by God, and Elijah, who ascended to heaven in a chariot, never experienced death. But Jesus, he had experienced it all. He knows the way. He went through the way, and he is the one who can journey with us in uncertainty, in fear.

He is the one who can help us to know and what to believe.

Then the question to us is what do we believe?

We believe that Jesus is the way, believe in God as the truth of life, and we believe that we will have a life in him, and through him we will have eternal life.

There is no other way, there is only one way, and that is Jesus' way.

That is how we got our identity as a Christian from the early church, the first Christians. Thousands of people in Jerusalem decided to follow Jesus on the way of the day of Pentecost.

Because they experienced and believed that he was the way. He was the resurrection and the life.

We see Stephen in our reading in Acts; the first follower of the way; the first follower of Christ who was killed for his testimony. And he is called as the first martyr, first follower of the way of Christ.

At his death, he saw Christ on the right side of God, so he knew where he was going, he knew where the Father was.

He believed it first, and his belief was proved later with his eyes.

He knew where the Christ went, and he knew where he was going.

He was the first follower of Christ.

We are here today because we believe in Jesus, who is the way.

We are here because of the evidence of his life among us. His life tells us that he is the way.

And we are here to follow his way of life.

We are here because we are committed to following his teaching, following his character, and following his life, death, and resurrection.

We are hoped to be resurrected, it is our belief, and we will follow his way of life, death, and resurrection.

That is why we are here. We are committed to following his way of life, his way to the Father.

There is no other way of salvation but through Him.

That is what we believe.

So Jesus gives a sense of direction, a sense of comfort, "Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me." John 14:1.

Jesus shared those words when the disciples were in uncertainty, in fear, and when they lost a sense of direction, when they lost their purpose in life.

Through his word, he reminds us that he guides and offers direction in transition time, and in uncertain times.

At this moment, He comes to us to remind us that he is the way to home.

He comes to us as a sense of direction in our indecision of our discipleship and our life journey.

He will come to us as a living hope as he came to his disciples of old.

We have lifelong questions about life. just like Thomas did ask Jesus a question, "Lord, we don't know where you are going, so how can we know the way?" John 14: 5.

Jesus assures us, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. " John 14: 5. for us for where we are going and where we are journeying. Believe in God, believe also in Him.

Amen.