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Prayer Meeting Address. September 20. 1983.

Lesson. John 14. vv.1-6. & John 20. vv.19-22.

This is an unfathomed truth full of glory, beauty, wonder, astonishment, considering the character of Jehovah; just, holy, true, infinitely pure. "None is holy as the Lord." - and the human race sunk in the ruins of the fall, foul in themselves, yet the proviso that some- only God knows the number - are loved by Him with an everlasting love. The unfathomed truth and glory is that for them there is a way to God, the holy God, the Father, and consequently a way to bliss. Are we in it? Here the Lord Jesus answers Thomas and all His people: Thomas, afflicted with fears and doubts. He says, "Look, I am the way, the truth, and the life. I am the way." While it is true that He is the way by the holy gospel and the precious, heavenly doctrine that He taught; and it is true He is the way by His blessed example - one divine Exemplar - but the fulness of the word is that He Himself, the eternal Son of God incarnate is the way by His incarnation, His suffering Suretyship, by His vicarious obedience to the moral law, by His sacrificial death, drinking the curse of God due to sin, exhausting the vengeance of God, by His rich atoning blood, precious righteousness, glorious victory; all faith pleads for your acceptance; <sup>by</sup> His peerless Name, lovely form, sweet Person He is the way to God, to bliss. Cennick saw four remarkable things, and hymn 144 is exquisite for precious truth. It says, and we have proved it,

"The more I strove against its power,  
I sinned and stumbled but the more."

You remember those days; you have a taste of them now. It is so with all the people of God. It is a struggle against sin.

"The more I strove against its power,  
I sinned and stumbled but the more:  
Till late I heard

Does Christ speak? Then faith is the ear that heareth. If you have this ear you will hear Him.

"Till late I heard my Saviour say,  
what? depart? go away? No.

"Come hither, soul I am the Way."

This is the glorious gospel I preach to you.

"Come hither, soul, I am the Way."

Sinner, what a Saviour for the penitent!

Number 2. "Lo! glad I come." There is movement, approach, getting near, arriving. Have you arrived? "Lo! glad I come." Do you remember when Christ was first revealed to you? You have found the way now. You could not find it without divine revelation.

"and Thou, blest Lamb,  
Shalt take me to Thee as I am."

not polished, refined, no attempt at moral reformation.

"Shalt take me to Thee as I am,"

a poor, guilty, wretched sinner: just as I am. You cannot alter yourself. You cannot change your spots or any thing. "Just as I am." Some have said, "If you love me you will have to take me as I am." Jesus does. What have you to bring? Nothing but sin. Look at the amazing degree of faith. "I am the Way."

"Nothing but sin I Thee can give;  
Nothing but love shall I receive."

It will break your heart, make your eyes a sluice. It is what Jesus does. "I am the Way." This is the gospel we delight to proclaim. You will not always be <sup>in</sup> the Slough of Despond but a happy season is coming. Jesus taking your sin away and giving you immortal love.

Number 3. "Then will I tell - Have you? What has happened to some of you miracles of grace? Why are you silent?"

"Then will I tell to sinners round,  
What a dear Saviour I have found;  
I'll point to Thy redeeming blood,  
And say, 'Behold the way to God'."

The precious blood flowed, the fountain of purgation was opened. The blood flowed from His riven side.

"And say, 'Behold the way to God',"

There is a fourth point, and it is something that delights me because it is unique in the exposition of the word. Obviously Cennick saw the Saviour, he knew progressive revelation and the Lord was with him. When he saw Christ he followed Him, and presently He ascended to Heaven. Now he saw the track of Christ, all the way to Heaven. "I am the way." What about it? Do you see His track to Heaven. "I am the way." If you see His track by faith you will follow. "His track I see," no ambiguity, no uncertainty. I have a fixation.

"I'll pursue the narrow way till Him I view," till I am with Him." I am the Way." Immediately you see Christ and love flows into your soul you see the way to Heaven, to the Father. This way was revealed to the ancients. Father Israel saw a ladder set up on the earth, the top of it reached to Heaven. He saw the sacred humanity, the incarnation of the Son of God. "and behold a ladder set up on the earth, and the top of it reached to heaven: and behold the angels of God ascending and descending on it." He saw right into Heaven. And the Lord stood above it, and He favoured him with a bunch of grapes from Eshcol. "I am the Way." Have you seen this? Are you in the way? You will be supremely happy to feel you are on your way to Glory, and presently you will see Him whom your soul loveth face to face. You will not always be in the shadows. "I am the Way." The text is the sum and substance, the centre and circumference. It embodies the whole truth of God, the glorious gospel of our blessed Lord. O this precious truth, and the truths He preached. He is the true and living Vine, the true foundation. Blessed are the poor, the meek, the peace makers, the mourners. See this glorious gospel. "Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness ' sake: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven." This is the gospel from His precious lips. As many kinds, many poor sinners, all called of God. heard His Name, the sweet melody of the gospel, some came to Him, spoke to Him. "Lord, if thou wilt, thou canst make me clean." Some came silently, with many tears; washed His feet with their tears. Some were carried by others and let down before Him. "Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you." This is the gospel. "I am the way, the truth, and the life."

A brief word on that which wells up in my spirit. If you are in union with Him by faith, vitally, eternally, all the holy virtue of His pure body flows into your soul. Virtue in the gospel is life. Life flows into your soul and you know it, you feel it. You feel an uprising, an upsurge, an animating power, the wonder of it. Union with Him, life, from the precious root or stock. All the fruit bearing rods in the true Vine receive sap, and you will know you are a gracious person, full of

the unction of the Spirit. Your heart melts with repentance, love and praise. Then, following His resurrection when the disciples were gathered, the doors being shut for fear of the Jews, the dear, risen, triumphant, glorious Saviour said to them, "Peace be unto you." Do you enjoy peace? You do if you know the Lord's presence. As a special resurrection, exaltation gift of the dear Redeemer He gave them a blessing. What He did was to breathe on them, into them, and as He did so they breathed in the Holy Ghost. They had the Holy Ghost before, but this was a larger measure. As He breathes in - He is the life - so you breathe in the Holy Ghost. As the disciples breathed in, their impure, defiled, sinful selves were made pure and holy. Those who were weak became amazingly strong; those who were timorous became valiant and courageous. Those who were so troubled as Thomas, with doubts and fears became confident with the confidence of faith. What the Lord did for Thomas was, He delivered him by the power of the Holy Ghost; delivered him from a life-time of the shadow of doubts and fears. God's people will always know the affliction of doubts and fears, but they do not want to live in them and not come out of them. It seems as if some live in doubts and fears. They are always doubting and fearing. There is never a word of sweet confidence from their lips: they are always in the depths. You need the Holy Ghost to be breathed into your souls and you will be delivered from this grievous affliction, blessed with living faith, a larger degree of blessed confidence. "For I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day." Blessed be God.