## I Am The Way

Father Luke Sidaros 21 May 2017

"In the Name the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, One God. Amen.

The holy gospel showed the pure apostles' simplicity, and recorded exactly what they were thinking.

When our Lord told them He was returning to the Father to prepare a place for them and bring them there...when He said, "where I am, there you may be also,"<sup>1</sup> they asked Him, 'Where are You going, and how can we know the way?<sup>2</sup> We do not know where are you going; if we know where you are going we will know the way. Show us the way.'

Our Lord Jesus's response to the disciples was so simple; and the same is made to us.

What is the ultimate goal of life? It is the eternal kingdom. What is the way to the kingdom of Jesus? Do you think there are hundreds of ways? He said there is only one way, and that He is the way.

When the Lord Jesus said, "I am the way,"<sup>3</sup> it is now certain; there aren't many ways. There is only one way when He says, "I am the way."

It is natural that there are so many ways of living, as Isaiah the prophet said, "All we like sheep have gone astray; We have turned, every one, to his own way."<sup>4</sup> Everyone had a preferred way of living. Everyone went their own way. But still, there is only one way to God's kingdom.

When the Apostles asked Him, 'Are you going to show us this way?' He said, 'I am this way.'

If Jesus says, "Come to Me, all you who labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest,"<sup>5</sup> then it would be pitiful if we tried to find something else to comfort us.

When He says, "I will give you rest," then there is no one in the whole world or in existence who could give us rest.

When He says, "I am the way", then there is no other way that takes us to heaven—to His kingdom—except the Lord Jesus Himself.

In our daily life, we have our own way of eating, drinking, walking, and dealing with people. So, what does it mean when He says, "I am the way"? That would be the way we should follow in eating, drinking, sleeping, selling, buying, in going out and coming in. So, He is the way of life we live. If we live in any other way, we will not reach the kingdom. When He says, "I am the way," that means it's a way of life.

For example, if I like to take revenge when someone does me wrong, then I have taken a different way. When the grace of God is in me, I do good to those who do me wrong. This is the way of life.

There are an unlimited number of ways; everyone is attracted to one. Some people will say, 'You need to be tough when dealing with others so they don't take advantage of you.' Others will say, 'If you don't stand up for your rights, your rights will be taken away.' One way of thinking is, 'I am

- 1. John 14:3
- 2. John 14:4
- 3. John 14:6
- 4. Isaiah 53:6
- 5. Matthew 11:28

teaching my children to have a tough personality,' and so on. So, how should we live? There are so many ways of living.

But there is only one way which, if we follow it, we reach God's kingdom—that is to live through Christ, with Christ, in Christ. To think like Christ; to talk like Christ. This is why Jesus said, "I am the way" to heaven.

We must ask ourselves every day, 'How I am walking or behaving in this world?' When we pray, we ask ourselves, 'How am I going? Where is this way leading?' Sometimes we will behave with dual or more personalities. We may choose one when we are with some people, and another with others. A person may use deceit to achieve a certain goal in life. So many ways, but where are they going to take us?

In the past, the Lord said to the people of Israel, "I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing; therefore choose life, that both you and your descendants may live."<sup>6</sup>

Think again; how are you living? Which way are you going? How are you dealing with people? Do we deal through Christ who is in us? Christ, whom I am taking in holy communion?

To talk Jesus's way, let our speech always be gracious. Never bad, or lying, or devious.

Christ does not change or have any shadow of turning; this is Christ Who is in me. If I smile to someone's face, but my heart is different, then how am I living as a person? Jesus, who is my way, said, "I am the light of the world", even if darkness is all around. If we are living in the light, our hearts, our thoughts, our life, our whole existence will dwell in the light. There is nothing that does not dwell in the light.

"I am the way." 'I am going to prepare a place for you.' Where is your place? My place is with Jesus in heaven. As Jesus said, "And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also. And where I go you know, and the way you know."<sup>7</sup>

In the Acts of the apostles, we read about a man called Saul, who was walking in a way; he was persecuting, torturing, and killing Christians. On his way to Damascus, he saw a light brighter than the sun, and became blind. "Then the Lord said, "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting...So he, trembling and astonished, said, "Lord, what do You want me to do?""

The Lord sent him to Ananias, who laid his hands on him and said, "...the Lord Jesus, who appeared to you on the road as you came, has sent me that you may receive your sight."<sup>8</sup> The way Saul was going was the wrong way. He asked Jesus about the way; the Lord Jesus showed him the way; it was a different way to the one he'd followed before.

This is why we ought to ask ourselves every day, 'Am I going the right way; where is it leading me? If this way is taking me to a very bad place, what am I going to do? I ought to change the way.'

Keep your direction clear; if you are seeking a destination, there is only one way to go, otherwise you will not arrive.

Define your goal in your heart. Say, 'With the grace of God, I must go to heaven, reach heaven. Why should I stray?' There are many incorrect ways, so many; it's so easy to lose the way and go another.

When the prodigal son returned after going astray, his father said his son was dead, and is now alive. He went astray, meaning he went the wrong way.

- 7. John 14:3-4
- 8. Acts 9:1-18

<sup>6.</sup> Deuteronomy 30:19

Take hold of what you've got; live according to what is inside you. As Jesus said,"...the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things."<sup>9</sup> As is also written in the Psalms, 'I'll guide you in the way to take. I'll tell you; I will advise you; my eyes are on you."<sup>10</sup>

Listen to the good voice inside you. Sometimes we'll have evil inside us; but follow the good voice inside you. Follow Him. The Holy Spirit reminds us about every one of Jesus's commandments. Follow Him.

We have the goodness of the Holy Spirit, which dwells in us, and the grace of Jesus, Whom we take in holy communion. Follow Him; don't go and follow anyone else. In the world, there are unlimited ideas and philosophies—a lot of ways that lead to death.

In Proverbs, it is said, "There is a way that seems right to a man, But its end is the way of death."<sup>11</sup> A lot of ways appear good to us, but they are not. Jesus said, "I am the way;" the only way to life is living in Him. "...in Him we live and move and have our being."<sup>12</sup>

How are you living, and with what mindset? With what philosophy? As someone said, "If I live in Jesus, I've found my way."

I know a person who was a senior counsellor to the king of a rich Arab country. The king called him privately and asked him, "Why you do not become a Muslim?" The senior counsellor courteously replied saying, "Your Highness, I've found my way." When the king heard these words, he was silent and politely dismissed the senior counsellor.

Can you say this—"I've found my way"? I know the way; I know the way I am following, and I am guaranteed that Jesus's words are great assurance; I will never be in doubt.

Live in Christ to reach heaven; live in Christ so the kingdom of heaven will be in you forever—in you every day, every hour and minute; the kingdom will never be far from you. Don't ever stray from the way because everyone that has left the way has gone astray. To our Lord be the glory forever. Amen."

12. Acts 17:28

<sup>9.</sup> John 14:26

<sup>10.</sup> Psalm 32:8

<sup>11.</sup> Proverbs 14:12