

Asking Questions

It takes courage to stick your neck out and say ‘I don’t understand. Please explain.’ We fear others may think us stupid. But they may well be just as mystified, but don’t have the courage to ask. But Jesus didn’t slap Thomas down as a nuisance or as an idiot. Instead, He used Thomas’ question as an opportunity for Him to deepen our understanding of Himself.

Let’s look at today’s Gospel. Jesus has just said that He is going ahead to prepare a place for us. And He tells the disciples that they already know the way. But the ever practical Thomas says they don’t know where Jesus is going. So how can they possibly know the way to get there? This question provides Jesus with the opportunity to reveal the profound truth about Himself.

So Jesus answers, ‘I am the way, the truth and the life’. Elsewhere in this Gospel He tells us He has come to show us the way to the Father. He now tells us that He Himself is that way. In other words, following Jesus is the way to the Father. As the Word of God incarnate, Jesus is the Truth, embodying God’s self-revelation. The Truth which is Jesus does not simply touch our minds and hearts. It gives us a share in God’s own life and happiness. The truth which is Jesus, is alive and active. It sets us free from slavery to sin, ignorance, and error.

We should be grateful to Thomas for asking questions. This should reassure us that it’s good to have an inquiring, questioning mind.

