Introduction: I praise God for Mapquest, although at times I wonder why they give me the directions they do. Why drive up to Florin when I can take Sheldon? Nevermind, I just answered my own question. Left to myself, I would be perpetually lost. It is the same for us spiritually. We need to be led and guided by Jesus. Let us ponder how He can do so this morning.

Trusting in Him

Jesus, in John 13, had just spent time with the disciples, predicting His impending betrayal by one of them and of His death. Jesus told them in 14:1, “Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God; trust also in me.” John is using the same word here for being troubled as what Jesus felt when sharing of His betrayal. Jesus then is sympathetic to how they are feeling. R. Kent Hughes describes the age we live in, as being a cardiac age, for we live in an age filled with anxiety. There are so many things to be anxious about: money, jobs, homes, children, safety, health, the future, the present, the state of the world, the war in Iraq, etc. Not only do we deal with real stresses, we also wrestle with our overly active imaginations. As Keats once said, “Imaginary grievances have always been my torment more than real ones.” I am daily confronted both with my need and with my failure to fully trust in Him, with both real and imagined stresses. How about you?

We can only trust Jesus by intentionally praying to and surrendering to Him. We must choose to be people of trust. Jesus calls us to trust in God, and significantly, to also trust in Him. Jesus does not just redirect us to God, Jesus calls us to seek Him, to set our sights and fix our eyes on Him (Hebrews 12:2). The Greek tense here is that of continuous action, to keep on trusting. We must continuously trust Him by remembering who He is, and what He has done for us. We can only overcome our propensity to being troubled by reorienting all of who we are around the cross of Christ. We must learn to let go and to welcome Him into all of our hearts.

Jesus also reassures us that He will not abandon us. Jesus told them in 14:3, “I am going there to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am.” Jesus is promising us that our relationship with Him is secure. Jesus loves us and will not forget or forsake us. Paul Tournie, A Swiss counselor, wrote a book, A Place For You, where he quotes one client, who said, “Basically, I am always looking for a place-for somewhere to be.” As believers, we know that Jesus offers us this place in Himself.

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This morning, Jesus is asking us, do you trust me? Will you trust me? Will you let go of your burdens, stresses and worries? Will you let me take those heavy loads off of your back and submit to my yoke, which is always easy and light (Matthew 11:28-30)? What are you troubled about this morning? How can you let it go?

I Am the Way, the Truth, the Life

Thomas asked Jesus where He was going. Jesus answered him, stating in 14:6, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.” Jesus is interweaving here the importance of following Him and of seeking His will, guidance and direction. Thomas A Kempis describes this verse well, suggesting Jesus is saying, “Follow thou me, I am the way and the truth and the life. Without the way there is no going; without the truth there is no knowing; without the life there is no living. I am the way which thou must follow; the truth which thou must believe; the life for which thou must hope. I am the inviolable way; the infallible truth; the never ending life. I am the straightest way; the sovereign truth; life true, life blessed, life uncreated. If thou remain in my way thou shalt know the truth, and the truth shall make thee free, and thou shalt lay hold on eternal life.” If we want to know God, if we want to know the truth, if we want to know how to really be alive, we must follow Jesus.

Peter reinforces the importance of Jesus in Acts 4:12, saying, “Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to people by which we must be saved.” Jesus is our only hope. This particular I am saying is perhaps the most controversial, because of it's scandal of particularity. In his book, Is Jesus the Only Savior?, James Edwards addresses this particularity. Edwards says on pages 238-9, "Particularity is the presupposition of universality...The particularity of the Incarnation is not just good news, it is the best news. It means that God can now be known as never before...The God who sent the Son into the world to die for the sins of the world now sends believers in the Son into the world. They bear the good news that the God who is the world's only creator is also its only redeemer in Jesus Christ."

Seeing and Doing

As we embrace Jesus as the way, the truth and the life, we must respond in faith, in seeing and in doing. Jesus tells us in 14:9, 12, “Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father...I tell you the truth, anyone who has faith in me will do what I have been doing. They will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father.” The Greek word here for seeing is orao, or to see with understanding. Jesus does not subscribe to our cultural view of seeing in order to believe. Jesus also tells us this amazing good news; that if
we believe in Him, we will share with Him in His work; that we will even surpass what He has done. Some say this passage was limited to the first generation of the church. That is simply exegetically impossible. It says anyone who believes. We must believe in Christ, we must come before His throne in prayer, we must be obedient, we must pray according to His will and in order that He be glorified, and we must be empowered by His Holy Spirit. The same Holy Spirit that filled and empowered Jesus will now fill and empower us. Jesus will show us how to see, to do and to pray for the will of God and His kingdom to come in our midst as we follow Him and as we allow Him to be our way, truth and life.