

## A Story of Two Journeys

In the spring of 1927, a shy young man climbed into a small plane in New York. The plane taxied down the runway and then lifted into the air. Thirty hours later the young man landed his plane in Paris. As he taxied to a stop, thousands of people surged forward from all directions, almost crushing the young man and his plane. Charles Lindbergh became the first person to fly nonstop across the Atlantic Ocean. Days later President Coolidge had the famous pilot and his famous plane, the Spirit of St. Louis, put aboard a ship, the U.S. Memphis, and brought home to a hero's welcome in New York.

Writing about the adventure later, Lindbergh recalled two exciting episodes. One occurred as he neared Europe. Spotting a fishing boat in the ocean, he flew low over it, shouting at the very top of his voice, asking directions. But the fishermen couldn't understand him. So he continued on in the direction he thought was right. Fortunately, it was.

The second episode occurred a few days after the history-making crossing. Lindbergh had flown to England for something and was returning to France. But the visibility was bad, and he was having a hard time navigating using only ground landmarks. Suddenly, he spotted a plane ahead of him. Assuming it was on its way to Paris; he caught up with it and followed it. Fortunately, the plane was on its way to Paris, and he arrived safely at his destination. As we reflect on the adventurous trip of Charles Lindbergh, we find that we have a lot in common with him.

We too are on a journey. We are journeying through life on our way to our Father in heaven. Like Lindbergh, we feel we know the way and can reach our destination. But like Lindbergh, we sometimes lose our way temporarily. We become lost and need help. When this happened to Lindbergh, he turned to a boat full of fishermen, but they couldn't help him. Fortunately, he managed without them. He was lucky. He also sought help by following another plane, which he hoped was going to Paris. Fortunately, it was, and he made it back safely.

It's right here that our situation becomes different from Lindbergh's. When he became lost and needed help, he had no one he could turn to. He had to rely on his own ingenuity and a certain amount of luck. In our situation, however, we have sure guidance that we can rely on at every moment in our journey. And that sure guidance is none other than Jesus Christ. He has made the journey before us and knows the way. And he can guide us on every step of our journey to the Father. This explains Jesus' words in today's gospel, when he says, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me." Jesus is our guide on our journey through life to the Father. Apart from him there is no other sure guide. Moreover, we know that he will never let us down. "Whoever follows me," Jesus said, "will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life." John 8:12

This brings us to a second point about Jesus. He is not only the "way" to the Father but also the "truth" about the Father. In this day and age, when there is so much confusion about God, it's a great gift to be able to turn to Jesus and learn the truth: that God isn't an uncaring force, but a loving, merciful

Father.

This brings us to the third and final point about Jesus. Not only is he the "way" to the Father and the "truth" about the Father; he also contains within himself the very "life" of the Father. Our journey is not just a journey in this life. It is a journey into another life. It is a journey into eternal life. We could never make that journey if we did not receive from Jesus Christ the seed of eternal life in baptism. Through baptism, Jesus makes it possible for us to die to our own life of sin and to rise to a new life with him.

This brings each one of us in this church today. What can we do to thank Jesus who is the way, the truth, and the life for all he has done for us? First of all, we can follow Jesus, who is the way to the Father, even when we don't feel like it. Jesus said, "If anyone wishes to come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me." Luke 9:23  
Second, we can grow in our knowledge of Jesus, who is the truth about the Father. Jesus said, "Whoever has seen me has seen the Father ... I am in the Father and the Father is in me." John 14:9-10

Finally, we can receive Jesus, who is the life of the Father, into our beings. Jesus said, "Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him on the last day." John 6:54

In brief, Jesus is the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through him.

If you let the Father show you the way of the journey, you will know that....

YOU ARE LOVED,

Deacon Dan