Our scripture this morning comes from John 14:6. While you’re finding that, many years ago, a pastor was riding down the road, hurrying to get to church. He’d allowed time to get away and was late. Coming down a hill, his horse stumbled and threw him to the ground. Lying in the dirt, breath knocked out and body hurting, he called out, “May all the angels in heaven get me back up on my horse!” With the strength of a much younger man, he rose to his feet and leaped onto the horse’s back, overshot, and fell off the other side. Once again on the ground, he called out, “May just half of the angels in heaven help this time!”

**John 14:6 Jesus said to him, “I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.**

Two weeks ago, we defined a disciple as a follower of a master, seeking to become as much like the him as possible, reflecting the master’s teachings and very life. Last week, I posed a question: If a being came from another planet and I was the only “disciple” of Jesus he found, who might he say the Master is? I hope that was an uncomfortable question! Would Jesus be a drinking, cussing, run people off the road, criticizing, gossiping, karma believing, differences hating Master? Demanding His own way and loving only those who were pretty much like Him? The truth of the matter is that a being doesn’t have to come from another planet. Our neighbor across the street is asking: Who is Jesus? And he’s watching our front door for the answer.

In our scripture this morning, Jesus says I am the way. He doesn’t say I know the way. Jesus isn’t standing over a map and tracing a blue line showing us the way – take a right, then a left… He says I am the way. He is our blueprint… He is our hupogrammos. Jesus tells us to pattern our life like His and we will come to the Father.

Who is the Master? Man, that’s a question that takes more than a lifetime to answer. Who is this Master we serve? Not what’s His name… but who is He? John 1:1 says In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word **was** God. John 1:14 says And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth. Jesus, the very Word of God, having dwelt with God from the beginning, became flesh to dwell here on Earth. This is the same Jesus who in John 14:6 says I am the way, the truth, and the life. It makes complete sense that the way to God is God made flesh – Jesus Christ! In Luke 19:10, it says - for the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost. Sounds like the Great Commission… As we seek to reflect Jesus, we too must seek the lost.

Jesus loved… even those who hated Him. Matthew 5:44 But I say to you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you. Did He live this? Absolutely! John 13:2-5 And supper being ended, the devil having already put it into the heart of Judas Iscariot, Simon’s son, to betray Him, Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into His hands, and that He had come from God and was going to God, rose from supper and laid aside His garments, took a towel and girded Himself. After that, He poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples’ feet, and to wipe them with the towel with which He was girded. Guess who was still there… Judas. Jesus knew, yet He washed his feet. He knew, yet He ate with him, dipping bread in the same bowl.

Jesus served… even those who rejected Him. Mark 10:45 For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many. Did He live this? Absolutely. Mark 14:35-36 He went a little farther, and fell on the ground, and prayed that if it were possible, the hour might pass from Him. And He said, “Abba, Father, all things are possible for You. Take this cup away from Me; nevertheless, not what I will, but what You will.” He knew, yet He went to the garden. He knew, yet He submitted to God’s Will. He knew, yet He died for the whoevers, as John 3:16 tells us For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

Jesus forgave… even those who cheered His death. Matthew 18:21-22 Then Peter came to Him and said, “Lord, how often shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? Up to seven times?” Jesus said to him, “I do not say to you, up to seven times, but up to seventy times seven. Did He live this? Absolutely. Luke 23:33-34 And when they had come to the place called Calvary, there they crucified Him, and the criminals, one on the right hand and the other on the left. Then Jesus said, “Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they do.” He knew, yet He forgave. Don’t let it be lost on us that He forgave at the beginning… not as an afterthought.

Jesus loved. Jesus served. Jesus forgave. He didn’t tell us the way. He lived so we know the way. He loved even His betrayers. He served even as the mob sought His life. He forgave even while the hate spewed from those around Him. His goals were not nicer houses, bigger cars, or being the top of society. His goals were to love, serve, and forgive. Luke 6:40 reminds us A disciple is not above his teacher, but everyone who is perfectly trained will be like his teacher. He loved us while we were yet sinners. In submission, can we do any less for all we encounter?